



Stephen Ord

My nomination towards this role is because I believe that Newcastle United Football Club and by extension it's supporters trust, is a civic institution. It is a part of who we are as Newcastle fans, Newcastle people and the wider football community. The world of football as we know it has changed, even from the times of Keegan the player and Keegan the manager.

I am not a Johnny come lately. I first went to watch NUFC in August/September 1989 aged 5. I've seen a lot of players come and go but even then there was a disconnect between the paying public and the club ownership, we were a means to an end. We filled the stands, whilst they filled their pockets. I've sat in the East Stand for long periods since, from Jim Smiths near miss team, Bobby's European dreams and McClaren's doomed lot. Being a Newcastle fan isn't boring.

Why do I want to be involved in the Trust? To me the East Stand is the poor relation of the rest of the ground, a 1980s relic that barely passes muster in this decade where football has significantly moved on. I want to speak to the club about junior tickets. My son and his mates are 8/9, where or what is the future route to their role in supporting the Toon?

I want to be able to discuss the opportunities around community work, in my role as a teacher I've seen the role that NUFC can play in the community first hand. Assisting the ability of the club to have that link with supporters more widely would be fantastic.

A final reason is that this club has moved on from the ownership of he who must not be named, returned itself as a vital local institution. We need to be able to explain to all aspects of the club, in a considered and sensible manner what we think would make the biggest difference to our experience as a supporter.

Finally we have shown what we as a fanbase can do, from flags to atmosphere to boats down the Thames. The supporters need a voice that explains to the club what we think about our team, our stadium, our tickets, our club and what needs to be improved. Whilst also being able to deal with the issues that being a fan of this great football club might cause. How many times in a row has Everton away been on a week night?

Selecting someone you don't know for the supporters trust can be a difficult thing but it is my view that this is the best vehicle to make changes in the fan experience that improves alongside the on the pitch experience. We are a Champions League club on the pitch, let's make sure we as long suffering supporters get that same experience off it.