

Phillip Burden

Trust Board Election Manifesto

I'm 60 years old. I was born down the A38 but moved to Exeter as a child. I went to my first Exeter City game in 1976 standing first on the old big bank, then the cowshed and I'm a Big Bank season ticket holder. I was a work party regular and am still a member of the post match clean-up crew. I was the volunteer Trust Secretary from 2018 to 2022. Outside of football I've travelled extensively in the last 20 years.

I trained as a Chemical Engineer and then worked for 13 years for the MoD in Berkshire. In 1999 I left for an Engineering Consultancy where I worked at Devonport on the nuclear submarine programme until 2017. Following travels I worked part time as a home delivery driver for Morrisons for 3 years. I am currently retired.

I am currently a volunteer driver for Freedom Wheels, a local charity that provides transport for elderly and disabled people. I've also driven for CCT supporting their ability counts tournaments.

Why Stand for Election ?

Whilst Trust Secretary I gained a strong understanding of what is required of a Trustee. I think that if you are an advocate of Fan Ownership with the time and skills applicable to the role then standing for election is a natural consequence.

I believe that we at Exeter City are no ordinary football club and we should strive to demonstrate fan ownership can work in a world where football clubs are sustained by benefactors. I don't underestimate the issues of balancing financial sustainability with success on the pitch.

What Do I Want To Do ?

We need to maintain and grow trust membership and communicate better with supporters whether trust members or not. This isn't easy as supporters have varied reasons for membership, some are strong advocates of fan ownership whilst others are primarily interested in priority status.

Oversight of the club board and continued sustainability of the club for future generations of supporters are priorities. I believe my experience gives me an understanding of what is required in the governance of a supporter owner club.

I'd like to see the Annual Supporters Report revitalised and issued to supporters annually.

I'm currently co-ordinating a group of volunteer Trust Members reviewing and updating Trust Policies. If elected I would continue this work as a Trustee.