



## Plymouth Argyle Supporters' Society Limited (Argyle Fans' Trust)

### Society Board Election 2012: Candidate Statements

The following is the full list of candidates and the members who proposed them.

<b>CANDIDATE NAME</b>	<b>PROPOSER 1</b>	<b>PROPOSER 2</b>
<b>BLIGHT, Richard</b>	<b>Warren Bowden</b>	<b>John Demellweek</b>
<b>BOWDEN, Warren</b>	<b>Marc Cole</b>	<b>Gary McGuire</b>
<b>CARN, Laura</b>	<b>Margaret Carn</b>	<b>Trevor Carn</b>
<b>CHOWN, Tim</b>	<b>Ian Newell</b>	<b>Zandra Godfrey</b>
<b>DEMELLWEEK, John</b>	<b>Richard Blight</b>	<b>Shaun Demellweek</b>
<b>MOORE, Andy</b>	<b>Warren Bowden</b>	<b>Marc Cole</b>
<b>NICHOLSON, Gareth</b>	<b>Peter Roberts</b>	<b>Mark Roberts</b>
<b>SHILLABEER, Edmund</b>	<b>Jill Flay</b>	<b>Peter Ryan</b>

Voters can ask questions of candidates (singly, or a number, or all) by sending an email to [secretary@argylefanstrust.com](mailto:secretary@argylefanstrust.com) between Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. Candidates will be asked to reply up to Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. All questions and answers will be posted on the Election 2012 pages of [www.argylefanstrust.com](http://www.argylefanstrust.com).

Voters will have an opportunity to meet candidates in person at the Trust gazebo (sited outside the Devonport End) prior to kick-off in the home match against Crawley Town on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

Argyle Fans' Trust is the trading name of Plymouth Argyle Supporters' Society Ltd. FSA No. 31149R

Registered address: c/o Mark Holt & Co, Marine Building, Victoria Wharf, Coxside, PLYMOUTH PL4 0RF



## **Richard Blight**

I'm Richard Blight, a 49 year old gas engineer living in Ashburton. I've been an Argyle fan ever since I can remember.

I joined the ISC of the Argyle Fans' Trust last January, taking over responsibility for the Trust membership and have looked after it ever since.

I believe the role of the Trust should now be to provide a voice for the ordinary fan, help the club where it can and to criticise when necessary. The Trust needs a strategy for its development including its finances for any future share opportunities and contingency planning.

The Trust has engaged well with fans on the internet but to the detriment of fans without internet access or the time to spend hours on internet websites. The Trust needs to engage more with this largely silent part of the fan base.

The Trust needs to be more accessible for fans by welcoming their involvement in sub committees and working groups.

I feel the Trust should join with other trusts to campaign for better financial controls over football and to do something about the inherent unfairness of parachute payments. The introduction of safe standing areas in grounds is another important issue.

I want the Trust to ensure that in any future development of the ground, the views of the ordinary fan are listened to and not just the corporate fan.

The Trust needs to help rebuild our club to the level where the fans can once again be proud of Argyle.

## **Warren Bowden**

I am a 47 year old married father of two young boys living in Plymouth. I have been a season ticket holder for 17 years and Trust Chair since October.

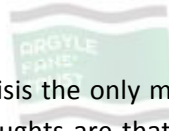
It has been 12 months since the formation of the Trust, a 12 months that saw the Trust play an instrumental part in saving our club.

The Trust's work is far from over and dialogue with James Brent has begun. The Trust must be at the forefront of supporter representation. To enable this, membership growth and fundraising should now become a priority as I believe the future vision should be to hold a stake in the club.

Mistakes from the recent past must never be allowed to happen again and the Trust will keep a watchful eye on any owner of our club, calling them to account when required.

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Circumstances dictated that during the crisis the only members who the Trust reached out to were internet users. This must change. My thoughts are that the Trust would have a regular newsletter and would take to the road, reaching out to Cornwall and Devon with the possibility of taking the gazebo to away games.

It is not possible to consult with members on every issue. However, I would like to see more member interaction on key issues as the Trust is a membership-driven organisation and is there for its members to have a say and a chance to shape the future of our great club.

## **Laura Carn**

My name is Laura Carn. I'm 26 years old and have been an Argyle supporter all my life. I have experienced many highs in my time as an Argyle supporter, including Wembley and the promotions in 2002 and 2004, but as we went through our low time the club's survival was always the most important issue to me. I feel the Trust had an important role in this.

Argyle is very important, not just to me, but the city as well. I believe the Trust still has a role to play as the independent voice of the supporters and I would be proud to sit on the board and be part of the fans' voice.

## **Tim Chown**

As an existing Trust board member, I am standing for re-election. I believe in the principle of a strong supporters' voice for the benefit of the club, the fans and the community.

I joined the board while the club was in administration. With a battle on our hands I got stuck into whatever tasks needed doing, including leafleting, bucket collections and helping with Fans Reunited. Since the rescue deal was completed I have taken a more direct role in new Trust campaigns and activities, e.g. the matchday gazebo, the Foodbank collection, defending local radio cuts, supporting Argyle Ladies, and the Trust website.

I believe the Trust should be independent from the club. It must be able to hold the club accountable, ensuring recent problems are never repeated. Should the club create its own fan-oriented oversight group, the Trust should participate. As an interim board we kept future options open for the incoming elected board whilst demonstrating how the Trust can help build community links.

As a lecturer in Web and Internet Science at the University of Southampton I can help expand the Trust's online activities. This would help keep the 30% of Trust members outside Devon and Cornwall – of whom I'm one – better connected. However, we must not forget that reaching offline fans via other channels is equally important, as is ensuring the board represents all our members' views.

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I would be very proud to help the Trust ensure the club's future is a bright one.

## **John Demellweek**

My name is John Demellweek; I'm 54 and an Incorporated Engineer working for an international insurance company which is overseen by the FSA, the same body that oversees the Trust. With your help I would like this opportunity to help shape and proactively move the Trust forward.

I've been an Argyle fan for over 40 years and season ticket holder for more than 20 years.

My first introduction to the Trust was helping the Membership Secretary, I also ran a quiz for the Trust (money to the staff emergency fund) and I have now moved on to become one of the Trust's membership team.

If elected my main aims would be to:

- Promote the Trust and encourage new membership to make the Trust stronger.
- Encourage supporters to become more active in the Trust.
- Obtain members' views on what they want from the Trust.
- Set out and publish a strategic plan of objectives for both the short and long term.
- Maintain the Trust's independence.
- Ensure the Trust is open and accountable.
- Continue to provide a voice for all the membership.
- Provide better communication with all members (not relying on mainly internet communication), as large groups of members are being overlooked.
- Generate a list of volunteers who can help with the day to day running and/or specific projects.
- Engage with other Trusts.
- Help/support other clubs going into or in administration.

Other areas I feel strongly about are the reintroduction of standing areas, abolition of parachute payments and fairer distribution of TV finances.



## **Andy Moore**

I have been an Argyle fan for 36 years with my first game being the Johnny Hore testimonial against Liverpool as a young lad in the old Barn Park end. I have seen some bad times, some awful times and thankfully some very good times during my time supporting the Greens. I have brought my 13 year old son up in the right way and he has been a season ticket holder for 9 years with “green blood” like me.

Away from Home Park I have been married for 17 years with 2 children and I am an operations manager for an international rail consultancy with an office in Plymouth. I have previously been the chair of the PTFA at a local primary school and am currently vice chair of governors at the same school. I have recently taken on the role as a judge in “You’re Hired – Plymouth” which is an Apprentice-like competition trying to find Plymouth’s most employable 17 year old.

I believe that the Trust is at a turning point in its short history; hopefully the troubles of the past 12 months or so are behind us and we can look forward to the Trust playing its part in shaping the future of our great club rather than trying to save it. I believe that the skills that I have learnt in my job and voluntary work that I have undertaken will be of great benefit to the new aims of the Trust.

Green Army!

## **Gareth Nicholson**

I think I have the skills and experience needed to take the work of the Trust forward over the next year. I work at a senior level dealing on a daily basis with the media, MPs and senior officials in central and local government. I have a strong track record in developing strategic plans and am a good communicator at a variety of levels.

In my view, our Trust should look to build a strong relationship with James Brent but should not shy away from taking different views where necessary.

Issues like developing a proper relationship (more than a talking shop) between the club and the fans, taking an objective view of development plans for Home Park, and making sure that any investment or potential new Board members are right for the club will be important for the Trust in the next year. Just as important will be leading activity to tie the club closer to the community, standing up for the rights of all Argyle fans at away grounds, and joining with our colleagues across football to campaign on issues like football governance, treatment of away fans and ticket pricing.

I will look to talk to Trust members as often as possible and be guided by the membership while taking an active role in leading our Trust as it grows.



## Edmund Shillabeer

"Edbanger" seeks your vote!

When my mother put me on her shoulders to see some of the action of my first Argyle game in 1947, my dad was the announcer and my Uncle Donald was a son of Robert Jack. I was hooked and have supported the Greens ever since, so when I sang "Argyle til I die" at St James' Park (both of them!) I meant it, Janner that I am!

Having joined the AFT at the initial Stoke Social Club meeting - plaudits to all the instigators - I was flattered to be accepted onto the Interim Steering Committee. If elected to the Trust Board I will do all I can to promote and improve our 125 year old Argyle (older than Chelsea!).

As a season ticket holder, Vice Presidents' Club member, supporter of the Green Taverners and PASALB, I feel qualified to encourage the continued co-operation of ALL supporters groups to promote Argyle as a community club (PAFITDC teams, Argyle Ladies, etc).

I would like to see more supporters groups like PASALB and branches elsewhere grow, PASOTI increase its considerable sponsorships input and more Plymouth businesses up their stakes in Argyle's future success.

As ex-AFT Chair Chris Webb is now Club President, I incline against having a Trust member on the Argyle Board, but I would like to see observer/non-voting representation at appropriate board meetings as an official channel of dialogue between fans and club.