

Alex Folkes

I was elected to the Board last year after six months as a co-opted member. Before that, I was a volunteer for the club, helping write Yellow and Blue; as club photographer; and as the chair of the Elections Steering Group.

In my time as a Board member, I've taken the lead on the International Weekend, with plans in place to make this season's event even better than last year working closely with WiSH and the old players' association.

I also arranged the Disabled Supporters Forum held in conjunction with the Club to listen to fans with additional needs and make sure we are a welcoming and accessible Trust and Club for all. I've been part of the push to reach out to all sections of our fan base, both generally and to different sectors, to listen and learn from them. We can't control what happens on the pitch, but ensuring fans have a good experience at our stadium will hopefully keep them coming back.

A lot of the day to day work of the Board is necessarily behind the scenes. Much as we would like to, a lot of the details have to be confidential for HR or commercial reasons. But, in my role as Chair of the Communications and Membership working group, I hope you have noticed that we are improving and I know that we need to improve still further.

I'm committed to being a point of contact between fans and the Board, regularly hosting at the kiosk on match days. This is an invaluable opportunity to pass on both praise and ideas for improvement to the Trust and the Club.

The key tasks for the Board in the coming months and year are threefold:

- Getting the finances right. We are committed to fan ownership and need to ensure that we are sustainable amid the arms race of club spending at all levels. The investment by John Green and partners is a great first step, but we need to consider the potential to sell more shares (whilst retaining a Trust majority) and to keep spending under control;
- Making sure the women's team is stable and sustainable. The work done by the Women's Board has been huge. Our responsibility is to make sure they have firm foundations moving forward;
- Make Plough Lane is as full as possible every day - for men's first team matches, women's games and external hires. DonsTix has helped, but we still need to do more to make sure every seat is filled at matches and that those who cannot attend are incentivised to pass on or re-sell their tickets.

Other things I have done as part of the Board:

- Supported the new floodlights to make our matches better for fans and make the stadium a more attractive option for external hires;
- Approved an increased men's first team budget to help us be competitive in League One;
- Interviewed for two new members of the Board to replace those who resigned or couldn't take up their seats;

Our Board has seen a lot of churn over the last few months and years. I believe that we have finally achieved some stability and are moving in the right direction. Not everything is right yet and I am committed to continuing to listen to fans and learn from them.

Please use one of your votes in this election to support me to continue my work to keep our club moving forward.

If you have any questions, please contact me: alexfolkes@gmail.com