

# **NEWPORT COUNTY AFC SUPPORTERS TRUST**

## **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE TRUST BOARD 2017**



### **PERSONAL STATEMENT FORM FOR CANDIDATES**

Please answer the following prompt questions to present yourself to the voting members of the Trust. Each answer should not exceed 100 words. Please remember to provide a portrait photograph of yourself. The photo should be recent, of you alone and not a group photograph, and one in which you are easily recognisable.

#### **Describe your personal history with, and passion for, Newport County AFC.**

I watched my first County match (in fact, my first live football match) at Somerton Park during the 1976/77 season. I won't pretend to have been a die-hard fan ever since because moving out of the area, building a career and bringing up a family all took priority but I rekindled my passion for County when two of my sons (both now grown-up) played for the Academy. I've been a season ticket holder for the last six years and bought community shares to help with the Trust's takeover of the club. My middle son was one of the first group of full-time Academy scholars (along with current first team squad member Tom Owen Evans) following the Club's promotion to the Football League.

#### **What is your vision for Newport County AFC?**

Simply, to see us firmly established as a Football League club with the ability to punch above our weight and not to be perceived as continual relegation-dodgers. To achieve this, we need a period of stability on and off the field. The Board needs to be united in public no matter its disagreements in private. The Club must be run as a business, living within its means while investing when it is right and prudent to do so. The Trust ownership model can work, but private investment is also needed. Succession planning is important, particularly if our current management team continues to be successful. We need to communicate better with our fan base and potential commercial partners. Transparency, within the bounds of sensible business practice, should be at the heart of our operations.

#### **What skills and experience would you bring to the Club if elected?**


I had a 32-year career as a regional newspaper journalist, 27 years of which was spent in a variety of editorial and management roles at the South Wales Argus. I was the Editor of the Argus until the end of last year and I now run a media and management consultancy. I manage the Newport Now Business Improvement District, and sit on the boards of Newport Live, Newport City Homes and Kaleidoscope (a drugs charity) as a volunteer director/trustee. I have

a Masters degree in Business Administration and I specialise in communications and change management. I have high-level contacts with most key organisations in Newport and the surrounding area.

**What roles might you play in the Club and what difference could you make?**

I would intend to play a key role in improving the Club's communications across a variety of audiences and platforms. This aspect of the Club's operations has improved this season but still has some way to go. Fans, businesses, schools, the council, the media all need to be involved and interested in the Club's future direction. I believe in transparency within the bounds of sensible business practice and I would pledge to publish Board minutes within 14 days of a Board meeting but with elements of commercial confidentiality redacted. I have experience of being a voluntary non-executive director with different organisations. Most importantly, I am not a member of any clique or faction. I don't seek election to the Board to boost my ego, or to lead a revolution, or to usurp current Board members. I'm simply a Newport County AFC fan who wants to use his skills, experience and contacts to help the Club move forward.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'U' followed by a horizontal line and the name 'U. WARR' written in a cursive script.