

2016 BWFCST Board Election – Candidate Statement

Candidate's Name: Daniel Salvatore Izza

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My first Wanderer's match was at Burnden Park in 1976 against Luton Town. I have had a season ticket every year since 1993 and at the Reebok/Macron stadium since 1997.

As a qualified Solicitor since 1993, I have done football-related work since 1993. I am a commercial Solicitor specialising in Dispute Resolution, Insolvency and Sports Law. My work has included acting for many British/European players playing at the very highest level of football. I have acted for Premier League and Serie A clubs and at all levels of the football league. I have acted for numerous Wanderers players but despite all of this experience, I have not had the opportunity to act for BWFC. Whilst this was a source of exasperation to me, I believe it is now an advantage as I have a lot of knowledge of the club but am not bound to any of the decisions made at the club.

My view of the Trust is that it exists to ensure the supporters have a tangible contribution to the running of the club. The fans are the only true constant at a football club and their allegiance is the long term key to its success. The role of BWFCST is not yet clear given the uncertainty of recent months. Trusts have been created with a variety of purposes, ranging from those Trusts designed to be powerful pressure groups advancing the interests of fans and to those Trusts who have full ownership of the club and as such, run the club on a day-to-day basis.

In recent years, the business of football has often seen football clubs traded outside of the fan's control. The fans have become marginalised and of little consequence to the owners of any club. Many football fans have become very cynical of the business of football and are resigned to having limited input into the running of their club. I believe that the supporter's trust concept encourages accountability and the scope for real involvement of the fans in running their club without giving in to the will of an individual or group of investors.

I am realistic to know that fan ownership has its limitations and I remain ambitious for BWFC. If the opportunity arose at BWFC for the club to become fan owned I believe that the Supporter's Trust model provides for this. I consider that there is scope with the Supporter's Trust model for commercial investment and partnerships to co-exist with fan ownership and community investment and these partnerships would acknowledge the respective contribution of all parties with full participation through a supporter's trust. As the Supporter's Trust model dictates that any individual or corporate member can only own one share, the institution that contributes a large sum will have only the same level of vote as any paid up individual member of the trust on any matter subject to a vote. It is true to say that this investment may not be attractive to every corporate investor but there are corporate and community investors who have already expressed an interest in being part of a club of this nature. As BWFC led the way in creating the first football league in the world, so I believe the current fans can lead the way in showing a high level football club can represent its community, be commercial and acknowledge all parts of the club from its junior supporters all the way to the players who pull on the first team shirt.

My vision for the club is that a commercially sound basis which is sustainable should be created in the first instance. A manager and a squad of players should be assembled which should have pride in the club, its heritage and have ambition for success. The club should preserve its facilities and develop the facilities for the furtherance of the club. Improving the accommodation for the fans should be considered in this as well as facilities for the playing staff and provision for corporate sponsors.

I believe that the achievements of the academy in providing young talent for the first team will be intrinsic to the future success of the club. Active and talented scouting networks throughout our extensive network of connected individuals and ex-players should be encouraged to locate the players we want to nurture as future BWFC players.

Associated bodies such as the community trust and development association should be recognised for their huge contribution to BWFC and their involvement should not be overlooked. The involvement of the first team with these organisations should be intrinsic to the spirit of a club where allegiance means everything and through this community the whole club becomes stronger.

Signed:



Date:

28/6/16

The closing date for receipt of nominations is 5pm on Monday 04 July 2016

Voting lines will be open from 18 July 2016 and will close on 15 August 2016

Election results will be published at the AGM to be held on Monday 22 August 2016

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Candidate's Name: Maggie Tetlow..... Page 1 of 1....

My first memory of watching Bolton Wanderers was taking my younger brother to a game against Arsenal at Burnden Park back in 1979. From then on, I was hooked and have been a season ticket holder since the early 90's.

There have undoubtedly been some real high points in my time watching Bolton but, like many other supporters, I have been extremely saddened over recent years to witness the demise of our great club so when the Supporters' Trust was formed it gave me real hope. I joined the Trust and immediately offered my services to help in any way I could and I was asked to be a member of the Steering Group soon thereafter.

Since its inception, real progress has been made to establish the BWFCST and develop its ethos, aims and objectives. We have also sought to harness the passion of the supporters and bring them together to provide a solid foundation and a collective voice. Principally, the aim of the Trust is to give the fans a greater influence in the governance of our club and promote stability and sustainability. We need to ensure that we never get to the situation again where our beloved club is close to extinction!

Having worked on this project now for the last five months I have experienced such passion and dedication both from my colleagues on the Steering Group and from fellow fans and it has given me real hope that the will is there to turn this around and first bring stability and then success back to our club. I now want to be an ongoing part of this revival and it is for this reason that I wish to stand for election to the board of the BWFCST.

Since being involved with the Trust, my role has largely been on the Media, Communications and PR side which broadly aligns with my career experience. My background is in the media industry, specifically in brand placement in TV and film and red carpet events. I worked my way up from the bottom and eventually became a director of an AIM listed company. I then went on to start my own company in 2006.

In addition to my career experience I have also worked in a voluntary capacity elsewhere so understand the commitment and approach that's required with this type of organisation. I currently work for the Prince's Trust delivering courses and helping young people develop their businesses. I also spent some time working with British Cycling assisting them with developing commercial partnerships following the 2012 Olympic Games.

For your consideration, here are some of the things I would like to see happen with the Trust/club:

- A greater voice for the fans in club affairs
- A Campaign for transparency, accountability and financial stability at the club
- Lack of communication from the club has been a major problem in recent years so this needs to be addressed
- Bring the club back to the fans and the wider community
- Drive membership and become the most progressive, innovative and proactive Supporters' Trust in the country
- Work towards ownership of the club in some form
- Make Bolton Wanderers a club that players are proud to play for again!

I care passionately about the future of Bolton Wanderers and would love the opportunity to help bring these things to fruition for the good of the club, the fans and the Bolton community.

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Candidate's Name: IAN BRIDGE

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As a BWFC fan from the age of 5, when my Dad used to take me with him to Burnden Park in the early '60s, I have had the Club in my blood. Bolton Wanderers have been a big part of my life and my family's life. In common with many other fans of my age (61yrs), we have all surely experienced the whole range of emotions consistent with being a committed Wanderer. From the old Division 4 season under Phil Neal, to European football with Big Sam – all part of being a White.

But in early November 2016, I felt that there was something going badly wrong with our Club. The performance on the field wasn't good, but we have been there several times in the past. However, signs were also not good off the field and things took a turn for the worse when the HMRC winding-up petition landed with the Club. This situation prompted me to start doing some research into the work of supporters' trusts.

I contacted Supporters Direct and was put in touch with several other fans who were also expressing interest in the possibility of setting up a trust. I subsequently became one of those supporters involved in organising the open meeting in the Premier Suite on the 6th January 2016. Those supporters in attendance at that meeting can only be humbled by the outpouring of passion and genuine concern for our Club and I subsequently became one of the three individuals in whose names the BWFCST was first registered.

I have since been involved, along with the two other founders, in putting together the current group of passionate and dedicated BWFC fans who are moving the BWFCST towards our first elections. As part of the steering group, I am currently honoured to have been asked to act as interim chair.

In association with the other steering group members, I feel that the presence of a strong BWFCST as an established voice of the supporters can only assist in ensuring that the events of earlier this year are never experienced again. I don't need to go into the details, but as members of the BWFCST, I am sure that you are all aware of how close our Club came to being wound-up on the 7th March 2016.

The BWFCST is still in the very early stages of development, but I am proud to have been involved in helping progress towards our first elections, whilst starting to develop meaningful relationships and links between the Club and the BWFC supporters and the community. An examination of the BWFCST Model Rules highlights the abilities that a fully functional Trust can have in establishing the fans involvement in helping ensure as much stability as possible for our Club moving forwards.

I feel that we are still at the very beginning of the life of the BWFCST. With your backing, I would very much like to carry on with that work and would like to ask for your vote to allow me to remain involved with the Trust as a member of the inaugural elected board.

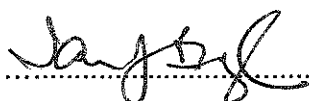
I am aware that the Trust could perform a vital function on behalf of the fans in helping to establish some stability in both the short term and long term future of BWFC.

If I were to be elected as a member of the board, I would carry out any duties allocated to me to the best of my ability, whilst always having the best interests of the fans, the Club and the community at heart.

Thank you!

Ian

Signed:



Date:

24/06/16



2016 BWFCST Board Election – Candidate Statement

Candidate's Name: ...Michael Smith.....

It started for me as a 3 week whirlwind romance in 1973. Being brought up in Tyldesley and schooled in Atherton there was no real affiliation with any particular football club for me. My parents weren't really into football, some of my mates where Utd fans, some City and the odd one or two Bolton.

Me and my mate Gaz were more interested in going to the cinema on a Saturday afternoon than a football ground, but on the 16th of April 1973 my life would change forever. We travelled by bus from Astley (Tyldesley) to Bolton en route to see Paul Newman's new film "Judge Roy Bean". To this day I don't know why we got that bus because we always travelled to Bolton on the 82 from Atherton which went straight to Moor Lane and the Odeon.. but this bus went past Burnden Park. As you can imagine, the traffic was horrendous and we were stuck outside Burnden Park for what seemed like an age when we noticed it was the same price to get into the embankment for a junior as it was to go to the pictures. So, off the bus we got and into the ground we went to see our very first BWFC game, a 3-0 thrashing of Halifax town... my interest was piqued. We were at home the following two weekends a 3-0 thrashing against York City and the final game of the season came with a 2-0 win over Brentford to take the 3rd Division Title. My love affair was very much cemented that day and is still as strong today.

I think most of us have a similar story of how we became supporters of our club or how our parents instilled that love into us and most will recognise that it's a love that lives on throughout our lives. I've not always agreed with how this club has been run, I've not even liked every player who's played here and I've definitely not wanted some of the managers who we've appointed, but I've never stopped loving this club and I realised a long time ago that the managers we don't want, players we don't like and owners we don't agree with, all move on at some point while we the fans, will always be here.

I think we all know a club without supporters is a non-entity. Who would want to watch two teams on Sky with no supporters in the stadium? We as a body represent the biggest contributor both financially and physically to any football club yet don't even have a say on what type of pies we can buy at half time. That can't be right!

I'm a great believer that every club should have a supporters' trust and every supporter should have a say on how THEIR club should be run, which is why I was one of the original instigators of a BWFCST over five years ago and one of the three founder members this time round. I feel we have assembled an unbelievable team in the current Steering group which consists of lawyers, accountants, PR Management, business people and just ordinary BWFC Supporters like myself who have one thing in common...we all love this club and will do everything in our power to make sure it's still around when we're long gone. The last 6 months have been an unbelievable rollercoaster for us, both as a club and as supporters. Yes, it's been hard work at times; long hours and endless meetings throughout the dark nights of winter on top of the day job can be a little energy sapping. But, the euphoric atmosphere and unanimous show of hands on that first meeting, the unbelievable support at our second and the resounding success of the Legends game , topped off with over 3200 signed up members made it all worthwhile for me, it also made up my mind that I wanted to carry on and help establish BWFCST as one of the biggest and best Supporters' Trusts in the country and I would be honoured to represent you on the first elected BWFCST board Thank you for reading my nomination statement #COYWM

By the way, we eventually got to the pictures to see 'Judge Roy Bean'.. a cracking film, one I can strongly recommend



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Candidate's Name: TERENCE RIGBY

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Like all of the present steering group, I am a lifelong, dyed in the wool Wanderers supporter. My earliest memories are of my father and I walking down Lever Street, crossing the railway bridge and joining a throng of supporters, so large that it stopped the traffic down Manchester Road to Burnden. I have been a season ticket holder since I was about 21 and have gone to matches home and away with friends, and latterly my son, ever since.

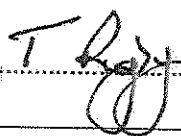
As an ordinary supporter, I have followed the Wanderers through good times and bad and had never thought that I would want or need to try to influence the fortunes of the club, other than by shouting the team on from the stands.

When things began to go horribly wrong last Autumn and it was clear that there was no multi-billionaire wanting to step in (or being allowed to step in) to save the club from the old regime, I felt deeply depressed and powerless.

When the original founders of the Trust put their heads above the parapet on behalf of the supporters, I was encouraged to think there could be another way forward. This if the supporters could stand together and mobilise their resources, there might be a prospect of providing constructive but critical support to the club and of moving towards the supporters and the community having a real say in its management.

When I was invited to join the steering group I couldn't wait to get involved, with what turned out to be an impressive and tremendously committed group of supporters. In only a few months, we have together achieved the first stage of the plan: 3,000 plus members, a constitution and a trust ready to have elections and its first AGM.

The group can take a great deal of credit for what has been achieved. For my part, I have worked very hard, used the skills I have and played a part in that achievement. I am very keen, if I am given the opportunity, to carry on the good work and push on to the creation of a powerful Supporters' Trust, which will speak on behalf of the fans and fight for their participation in the future of the Whites.

Signed:  Date: 2-7-16

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