



ELECTION STATEMENTS 2023

Provided below are the election statements for all candidates in the 2023 Trust board elections. The vote will take place by way of a show of hands at the society AGM on 3rd August 2023, 7:30pm at the Bishopthorpe Sports & Social Club.

Robin Bowes

I have been a York City fan since my Dad took me to Bootham Crescent in the mid-1970s. I am a life member of the Supporter's Trust.

I have been on the Trust Board (co-opted) since February 2023 and have supported several Trust initiatives, including the monthly Trust Socials, the bucket collections for Southend United, organising the AGM, and GDPR work.

The Trust was instrumental in ensuring the survival of York City FC and continues to protect the Club from unscrupulous or inept ownership. Whilst these protections remain essential, the time has come to work with the new owners in a spirit of partnership to ensure a successful and sustainable future.

I am standing for election to the Trust Board because I believe in what the Trust stands for and know that my abilities in effective communication, negotiation and arbitration alongside my organisational skills can help in key areas to ensure we continue to deliver our strategy to represent York City fans, to fundraise when required, to develop the thriving community around our Club, and to continue to protect the Club for future generations.

David Craven

I have been a York City supporter since 1984 when my dad first took me to a match. In that time I have spent time away from York, during which I founded and organised the North West Minstermen in the early 2000s.

Professionally, through a career in museums, education and nature conservation I have gained extensive experience in governance, data management systems, public relations and communications. I think this range of skills can be useful to the Supporters Trust, particularly in ensuring the board has the right skill sets, understands what members want and can offer, and ensuring recent improvements are embedded and continue.

I want to see the Supporters Trust more active with AGMs better attended both in-person and virtually to better serve members. Elections should be competitive to ensure a plurality of views so all supporters see themselves represented.

Finally, I want to ensure the Trust through its board and through wider initiatives is able to better support the football club through fundraising, community activity, and 'in-kind' work.

James Daniels

I am a York City Season Ticket Holder living in East London, I have been a fan since 1974 when I attended my first match with my uncle who lived in York. I now go to home and away games with my son where our "East London Minstermen" flag can be seen and captured in YCST photographs. I am also a member of York City South.

I am applying for the role of Treasurer as I am a qualified Management Account who has worked across various businesses including Chelsea Football Club (where I was responsible for the accounts for the merchandise department, the website/media and the new health club), Magnet Kitchens and CP Hart Bathrooms where I was Finance Director. More recently I look after my small property portfolio which means I have time and flexibility to get involved. I believe this experience will allow me to contribute to the running of the Trust and help ensure the safe stewardship of our club.

Richard Hall

I want to be part of the team effort to protect the supporters trust and our club and look forward to working together with the owners and supporting the efficient running of the club, promoting openness, community values and communication with the fans, I believe this to be the way forward.

York City has been a big part of my life and I've been a long standing York City supporter since 1970 and love the club.

As a graphic designer I was involved in the design of the original trust logo and other artworks.

I want to support the Trust in moving forward and building a community based club.

Matthew Long

Encouraged in particular by recent comments from the new ownership on continued YCST involvement, I wish to stand for election to the Trust Board.

In 'real life' I have a mix of experience primarily in customer service and transport project management. At City I helped organise JR04 displays (a small part of a legendary, groundbreaking group) and latterly the 'We Are York' flag group at BC. I have a season ticket in the South Stand and seem to leave games more impressed each week at the support given across the home sections.

I am the type of character to challenge the conventional wisdom on matters that affect fans and identify ways in which the 'matchday experience' etc can be improved, from that building trust/relationships with those in positions to give the green light.

If elected, I will assist the Trust in any way I can, but in particular will endeavour to be the strongest voice possible for fans on any and all matters, none are trivial to those they affect and the more we address, the more basics we finally get right, the stronger the club and our bond with it will be.

Thank you for your time, W.A.Y.!

Steve Ovenden

Having previously served as a YCST Board and an active fundraiser during the period once again I seek election and am keen to help raise funds and the profile of YCST & YCFC within the community and beyond.

I was until recently an active member of Pavers Foundation Committee and have helped raise substantial funds that have been donated to many good causes. Since March 2022 we have raised and spent in excess of £300K in Ukraine. Pavers Foundation has donated £1.7M to local and national good causes in the last 5 years.

In the original Save City Campaign, I was involved with many events such as the Shed Seven Concert, Legends Dinners, Auction and Fans match which raised over £75K.

I have a good contact book which enables me to generate both publicity and funds.

My intention is to build bridges for YCST and to generate engagement of the fans with the club and community.

Some may remember me as Yorkie the Lion and I was able to use the character to raise both funds and profile of YCST & YCFC previously.

The Lion is ready to ride again!

Steve Saxton

Principal Consultant / Senior Test Manager for one of the UK's leading software testing and quality assurance companies. I have a wealth of professional expertise and transferable skills, with a demonstrable record of achievement in delivering many projects, participating in and leading numerous teams, with strengths in planning, organising, analysis and liaison.

As someone who has attended almost every home and away game for over 35 years, and a season ticket holder for over 40 years, York City FC is more than close to my heart.

As someone who positively embraces the recent change in club ownership, I have always been an advocate of the Trust's aims and methodologies, specifically the protections it brings to the football club, similar to many the government is now seeking to bring in to the game through independent regulation.

However, I have often criticised the trust for its historically poor communication, though I recognise recent improvements.

I see the trust as needing modernisation and fresh professional voices without disturbing its fundamental principles. It also needs 'selling' better to the wider fan base.

Seth Sowerby

I've been a supporter for more than 40 years, and have been on the Trust board as a co-opted member since October 2022. In that time I've chaired the scrutiny committee responsible for reviewing and interviewing parties interested in becoming the majority owner of the club.

From the end of May I've been the acting chairman for the Trust, picking up the responsibility for representing the Trust in the sale of Glen Henderson's majority shareholding to Matt & Julie-Ann Uggla. Since the change in Trust leadership we've committed to improving communication and focussing the Trust on four key principles: Guardianship, Representation, Fundraising & Community. I'm proud of the progress we've already made but this is just the start.

If elected my personal focus for the next year will be on two areas:

- Working with the club board to define and build the partnership between Trust & club for the long term. The new board are committed to working with the Trust and we have a real opportunity to work as a team for the betterment of YCFC.
- Broadening the level of involvement in the Trust, both by growing the Trust board and increasing the number & scope of volunteers helping the Trust.

Sarah Stelling

My name is Sarah Stelling and I wish to stand for election for the YCST board. I was previously on the Trust board for a period of years but stepped down in October 22 due to personal reasons but I'm now ready and prepared for the next step of the bright future of YCFC.

I have been a supporter of YCFC for over 30 years and have been previously held a position on the trust board and I am very proud to hold a place on the football supporter's association council to represent fans from the National game. This is my 2nd year of a 4-year term.

I believe in the supports been an active part of the footballing family and really believe we as fans have a voice which needs to be heard in the best interests of our club.

I am fully aware of the hard work, dedication and commitment which lays within the role on the Trust Board and I will promise to give 100% in any way to support anyone who needs it or wishes to support the trust and club.

YCFC is a huge part of mine and my family's life's and we have certainly like many celebrated the great times and cried at the sad times. We love meeting our friends and making new ones and to feel the buzz around on a match day and in the community is just a reminder of what a amazing club and family of supporters the Trust represents.

I feel I would be suited to this role not only cos of my love for city but also over 26 years experience in the health care sector and been a parent of disabled children I can relate to the difficulties that some face within the game of ticketing etc.

I look forward to working with many of our fans and am always happy to chat with you.