



ELECTION STATEMENTS 2024

Jim Calverley

As Vice Chair of the York City Supporters Trust over the past year, I have been proud to contribute to significant initiatives that have strengthened our community and the club's future. The #StrongerTogether campaign last season successfully filled the stadium, raising thousands to send families to games they otherwise could not have attended, showcasing the power of our fanbase.

I led the creation, launch, and ongoing management of the YCFC Business Directory, providing an invaluable platform for local businesses to connect and support the club. Additionally, I spearheaded the "Fund That Minibus" campaign for the club's youth academy. Fundraising like this ensures the Trust contributes financially to York City FC, helping to support its future growth.

On a governance level, I have been heavily involved in key negotiations, including the Golden Share options, which enhanced supporters' rights. I also played a significant role in the sale of an additional 25% of the club and in negotiating and approving the new partnership agreement between the Ugglas, our silent investor, and the Trust. I am committed to ensuring that supporters have a voice in the running of York City FC and I hope to continue this important work with your support.

James Richardson

A life member of the Supporter's Trust, I attended my first game at Bootham Crescent 40 years ago. I'm also a former Commercial Manager of York City Football Club, leaving the club during the stormy John Batchelor era, after 8 great years. I have worked in York my whole life and continue to have excellent business connections within the city.

Having been co-opted to the Trust Board many years ago, I unfortunately had to step down due to my wife Sharon's employment at Radio York (deemed a conflict of interest by the BBC as they covered the fortunes of the club on and off the pitch). With Sharon now having left the BBC, I am seeking election to the Supporter's Trust Board, hoping to build on the excellent recent work and continuing to secure the continuation of football in this great city.

I believe I'm a decent communicator, well-organised, with a track record of getting things done. YCST is a brilliant organisation and should not be seen as separate to the general fanbase. Real progress has been made recently, so that needs to be capitalised upon. Everyone has the opportunity to have a voice and I want to ensure that happens.

Sam Leach

I am a lifelong York City supporter and would like to be considered on the York City Supporters' Trust board. I have been watching the Minstermen since the late 1990s and the football club is a central part of my life, as a South Stand season ticket holder and a regular for away games too.

In 2018, at 24, I founded Spark York C.I.C, transforming a vacant city-centre site into a vibrant destination that contributes over £5m to the local economy annually, creating 70 jobs and supported 24 start-ups move to a permanent premises. We support more than 100 community groups with free or subsidised event space and host the acclaimed Keith Walwyn mural at the venue, alongside seats from Bootham Crescent!

I've recently become more involved with the club, joining and networking as part of the business directory and hosting the inaugural Trust networking session. I am passionate about strengthening the club's presence across York, particularly with younger fans and I want to support the Trust to become more entrepreneurial and revenue-generating. I truly believe the football club can capture the interest and energy of the whole city and a thriving Trust is absolutely central to that mission.

Alastair Smith

I am a life-long supporter and former Chairman of Pocklington Supporters Club and York City South. I was honoured to be co-opted to the Trust board in early 2022 and subsequently appointed Chief Executive of York City Football Club in June 2022. Since then I have overseen the transition in ownership to Matt and Julie-Anne after introducing them to the Trust Board in 2023. As they have brought in their own people I have handed over my duties in the day to day running of the club and now remain as a Director on the Board representing the Trust.

As a Trust and club director, I promise to always remain faithful to our fan-centric vision, by listening to supporters and making decisions that put them first. York City fans have always shown that we can achieve anything if we all pull in the same direction. In the last year the supporters and club have come closer than ever and so I'm extremely optimistic for our future prospects both on and off the pitch.

I hope that you see the value I have brought to the Trust over the last two years and re-elect me to continue our great progress.

Alex Fowler

I have been a York City fan since my wife took me to an away game on an early date 8 years ago and I became a season ticket holder as soon as we moved to York. I was a volunteer bucket collector for the Supporter's Trust, helping raise over £2000 from the fanbase for Southend United. I am putting myself forward for a Board position as I want to help strengthen the Trust and its links with the fans.

If elected, I would revive the regular newsletter to members highlighting important club issues, upcoming fixtures and events and also sharing stories from the fanbase.

In my job as a Structural Engineer, I support young people at the start of their careers - for several years I have mentored sixth formers at York schools. I think the Club and the Trust have a great platform to do similar things, such as offering club work placements for scouting, sports science, data analysis etc., or using the Trust platform to spotlight aspiring sports writers and content creators.

I believe that the Supporter's Trust is one of York City's best attributes and I hope you will support my election to the Trust Board.

Terry Espiner

City fan since 1966, Trust Life Member since day one. YCFC for me is a passion.

Retired November 2018 after a 42 year career in IT, the last 30 in Sales. I worked for a \$60bn US Company, Cisco Systems. I led the team selling to the NHS, and latterly to Local Govt. I understand sales. I understand large complex multi-tiered outsource contracts.

I believe that I can help the Trust grow its revenues and hence with its ambition to support the Ugglas. If fans at Darlington and Chester can raise significant 6 figure sums to support their clubs then why can't York City?

I am balanced. I can see different points of view, debate, agree, move forward and succeed. It is no secret that in the past I've been a vocal critic of the Trust. I make no apologies for that but have been impressed by the new regime over the last 18 months. There is a renewed spirit of collaboration, and a desire to improve the supporter experience which I can relate to.

I genuinely feel I have the skills – and the time - to make a difference for the betterment of the Trust and club.

Steve Ovenden

Having been elected to the YCST Board in 2023 it has been a pleasure to serve the members interests as best as I can. I have formed good working relationships with Club Board members and staff.

Together with others I have restarted Trust Socials at Brew York and am pleased to report numbers are growing. Active fundraising has been challenging but has now started with the launch of the Youth Team Bus Appeal and for this I have arranged some interesting prizes and supporter opportunities.

I have sought to create further links with business and fans to allow the club to continue to thrive. If re-elected I will continue to do my best for all connected with YCFC.