



# **STOCKPORT COUNTY SUPPORTERS' CO-OPERATIVE**

## **BOARD OF SOCIETY ELECTION 2022**

4th November 2022

Herewith my report on the 2022 Board Elections to the AGM.

I was pleased to again be asked to act as the Independent Chair and Scrutineer of your election process.

By the closing time and date of the nomination period four nominations had been received for the four Board vacancies that were subject to election this year and all nominees and their nominators were verified as being current members entitled to take part in the process.

As there were four nominees for the four vacancies a contested election will not be necessary but rather the four nominees will be appointed to the Trust Board subject to an affirmative vote by the attendees at the forthcoming Trust AGM.

As there will be no contested election the nominees will need to draw lots to decide who fills the single one-year, and three three-year terms of office.

Therefore, the result of the Stockport County Supporters' Co-operative Board of Society Election 2022 is as follows:

**I therefore declare TERRY ARNOLD, DAVE MARCHBANK, CALLUM WALMSLEY, and PAUL THOMPSON, as the successful candidates subject to an affirmative vote at your AGM. Their manifesto statements and nominators details are appended at the end of this letter for information.**

I am also asked to comment on the election process.

I would like to congratulate and thank the nominees for standing for election, a Trust is only as good as its' memberships' engagement and having enough nominations for the vacant positions is a fairly good sign that this is the case.

I can confirm that your election policy and your rules were followed in conducting this election and were fit for purpose.

One point to make is that your membership database needs some work to bring it up to date and complete as lots of data appears to be missing.

Good luck to you all in the coming year.

**Best wishes, Neil Le Milliere**

**Independent EWG Chair, Nominations & Returning Officer 2022**

The following lists the nominees, photos (where provided), their nominators, and their statements presented in a random order drawn by lot.

**1 Terry Arnold** nominated by **Janis Phillips** and **John Gaskin**.

As a young boy of eleven or twelve the highlight of my week was to pay my shilling (or whatever) to stand on the terraces and cheer on my local heroes.

As I grew older and more cynical, I accepted that not every penny was going to the right sources, nevertheless I still considered that my football team would be the first priority of the owners.

As football as a business grew and greed tended to overtake the larger clubs, I began to realise that the costs of smaller clubs increased in an effort to compete for better players, facilities, etc.

As time passed it became obvious that my local club (along with many others) was struggling to survive due to poor investment, (or poor owners) and the seemingly best way to prevent (or highlight) issues was to have a representative body for the supporters.

As a recent owner of my club became more and more brazen with regards to his ambition and the ambition of my club somebody, as a collective body needed to make him accountable.

This became an issue when he sold the club to well-meaning fans but kept hold of the ground.

It took many years and many long unpaid hours for a collective to persuade the council and other legal bodies to ensure the stabilisation of Edgeley Park as a community asset.

I believe these early years encouraged a very good collective of people to invest in the club to the extent of making it viable for a takeover.

Now that we are looking to be in an enviable position with a good owner it is easy to forget the bad old days, but this is football, and nothing is forever.

This, I believe, is a more important time to encourage an active cooperation to actively engage with the club and the supporters, indeed a particular telling moment is the Co-Op initiative to invest in our history with the club and the fan base by promoting a statue of our former manager, something that wouldn't happen without that focal point.

As an individual supporter I would hope and expect that I could add to that collective and believe that I could offer the possibility of different viewpoints, whilst still embracing the original ethic of keeping a bridge between owner and supporter also linking with other clubs around the country who would have other ideas and situations with mutual benefits.

## 2 **Dave Marchbank** nominated by **Edward Keane** and **Graham Privett**.



I am Dave Marchbank a 59-year-old Married man from Reddish in Stockport where I live with my wife Sandra (a non-footballing fan) I have two grown sons who have now both flown the nest.

I have been a County supporter since being a schoolboy when I used to live in Wilmslow. County used to play on a Friday night when I started going and I have always particularly enjoyed football under floodlights.

I have been a Co-op Board member previously and was Vice Chair for a while, after a break I now feel the time is right to stand for re-election. I work for Astra Zeneca in Macclesfield who have been my employer for over 20 years, however I also started my own Care business in Macclesfield which I built from scratch to a million-pound turnover in under ten years, I feel this experience has taught me a lot about business which will be useful if I'm elected to the Co-op Board.

While on the Co-op Board previously I set up and launched the Guardian Account which now has over £78,000 and helps provide a safety net, should County ever find themselves in serious trouble at any point in the future. I believe the Football Club should be at the heart of the community and as Supporters are the heartbeat of every club, they should be involved and consulted in football related matters.

Over the years I have been a regular helper of the Hatters Half Marathon including being Chief Steward and Marshal on the waterside stretch of the Course. The Half Marathon helps showcase both Stockport and County positively and is a great example of the organisational skills of the Co-op

Obviously, County have been on an upward trajectory recently and it was fabulous to be able to see us regain our League status especially as I was able to attend the Halifax Match with my late Father Reg in what turned out to be his last ever football game, this felt fitting as he took a friend and myself to Edgeley Park for us to see our first ever game.

I am keen to help ensure that County supporters views continue to be heard by our Club, especially in view of the recent exciting plan for the redevelopment of Edgeley Park.

I would very much welcome your support with my nomination to be elected to the Co-op board.

### 3 Callum Walmsley nominated by Terry Arnold and John Gaskin.



I feel a strong connection, and sense of community, with Stockport and this is largely due to the fact I have grown up supporting County. The club undoubtedly plays a much bigger role in the lives of our supporter's than simply just coming together to watch a game of football once a week and it's important that the fans work together to maintain that existing connection with the club. For this reason, I would like to put myself forward for the Board.

My professional background is in strategic communications, which involves supporting a wide range of campaigns in various fields across the UK. Through this professional experience I have developed several transferable hard and soft skills that could help the Supporters Co-Op in any future fan/community engagement, as well as with local stakeholders, businesses, and the Club itself should this be something the Co-Op would wish to pursue. I am also an experienced public speaker and feel comfortable bringing my own personality into presenting to large groups of people. Furthermore, I have a comprehensive understanding of how to create and distribute targeted campaign material effectively.

I believe these skills can help raise the profile of the Supporters Co-op amongst both supporters and the Club or be put to use to raise funding from the Co-op's programmes. In recent years County have managed to bring back the 'feel good' factor around the Club back and with the changing circumstances in the ownership it feels like we are all part of a new era at County. Considering this, it is likely that the role the Co-op plays in supporting the Club will change, with an even greater emphasis given to maintaining the relationship between the Club and the existing and new fans. I strongly believe I have the necessary skills required to help the Board achieve just this and would be honoured to be part of the future of the Co-Op.

On a more personal level, I would also like to explore the opportunity of organising more social events for the Co-Op to host. I have a good relationship with Hazel Grove Snooker Club and would be interesting in setting up a monthly, or perhaps weekly, social pool/snooker league for County fans to partake in. I would also like to see more younger fans join the co-op and would be interested in working with the rest of the Board to grow the Co-op's social media profile should I be elected.

#### 4 **Paul Thompson** nominated by **Adrian Caville** and **John Gaskin**.

After several years of being in the background as a co-opted member of the Stockport County Supporters' Cooperative I have now finally decided to run directly for election.

My name is Paul. and I became involved in the Coop when a request to help out with social media & the website was put out back in 2013. After just returning from a long but enjoyable drinking session in Austin I decided that this was a good idea! It was of course driven by the predicament of the football club at the time.

I'll be honest with you and there has been many times I've since tried to leave. During my time I've found some of the time I've had limited due to work and travel commitments. The pandemic put a hold on that and although still busy professionally wise at least i don't have the travel commitments thank to Zoom.

It's our ability as a Board to now run and host such Zoom meetings ourselves which has peaked, my interest for having more of an input.

As a collective, including our many supporters and members we do such wonderful things. The Hatters Half is an event that many now look forward to in the local athletic race calendar and has raised many thousands for good causes outside of our immediate goals. The magnificent work done in raising funds for one of our greatest managers of all time - within touching distance. The Guardian Account. Yes, it's taken a backseat with the statue campaign but it's still there. Food & cloth drives for The Wellsping.

So. what will I offer to the Coop moving forward. I would look to bring the website and social media into a more engaging space for our members which will help drive awareness of the organisation.

I will also be keen to grow the membership base though other initiatives. I believe it's time that the Coop had a bit of a rethink in terms of what we do and what our membership want. While I am not looking to throw the baby out with bathwater or become a complete new radical, I will be interested in representing genuine ideas that would benefit us moving forward with a healthy and engaged membership and help drive these through.

I look forward to receiving your vote and if elected please feel free to reach out with any initiatives you have that will benefit the community and or Coop.