

City Fans United / Chester FC –

Board Appointments – AGM 2021

Candidate Manifesto

(Minimum 400 words - maximum 800 words)



Name of Candidate: Jeff Banks

Proposer: Michelle Banks **Seconder:** Richard Sands

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances

A 48-year-old husband and father of 2 boys aged 6 & 7, with Chester FC ingrained in me forever having supported the club as a youngster back in the days of Sealand Road and on to the Deva Stadium. If successful at this election, then this will see a further 3-year term on top of the previous 7 years across two different spells on the board.

It's always very difficult to get the balance of life, family, work and football correct, but am fortunate that I have a strong family behind me, with one of my aims to provide a secure football club for my two boys to support as they are introduced more and more into life as a Chester fan.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory

Now in my 40th year supporting the Blues, and have spent many times reminiscing over the days gone by (sadly too young to recall the glorious 70s) including the mid 80s success in the FA Cup complete with a win in the snow at Wrexham, the exile to Macclesfield that saw us getting a double decker bus to home games 45 miles away, and the eventual return to the City in the 90s, which were challenging as a fan to say the least.

The effort that many put in for ensuring we still had football in the City of Chester was there for all to see and my part was to deal with the media side of the club and promote our reformed status as far and wide as possible, and I will never forget the collective efforts of everyone to deliver a club we could all be proud of.

Highlights for me over the past decade include the hat trick of championship wins to return us to the National League, and of course THAT win at Wrexham when the odds were well and truly stacked against us. 'Always Beat Wrexham.

Favourite memories also include Ben Heneghan's last minute winner against Wrexham, the 8-2 demolition of Aldershot, where even being 6-1 up at half time still never quite felt safe of the win, Matty McGinn's piledriver against Northwich to clinch the title, whilst going back further a Friday night special at Doncaster Rovers, coming back from 3-1 down to win 4-3, and the St Milner's Day visit to Wrexham in 1995.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm

With Covid-19 dominating the last couple of years, there have been plenty of areas of my portfolios of Fan Engagement & CFU Membership that are still needing plenty of focus and this is something I would like to concentrate on as we progress hopefully back to normal times, and work alongside the other portfolio holders too, in a bid to make our club even stronger than it is today.

During the last couple of years, I have helped shape the online ticketing for years to come, along with the introduction of the contactless payment option at the turnstiles, to give fans more options of payment and bring us into a modern-day environment at the club.

I'm also continuing to build the communication channels between the club and its season ticket holders and CFU members as well as the general fanbase. This is a time-consuming element of my role that I'm looking to continue with another term on the board.

I certainly believe I have the drive and enthusiasm to continue in the role for another 3 years and would like to ask the support of our members to allow me the chance to fulfil my aspirations for the club.

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Name of Candidate: Nick W Phillipson

Proposer: Martin J Williams **Seconder:** Richard Lynes

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances.

I am 63 years old, married to Jane for 31 years, have two grown up children, two grandchildren and live in Mickle Trafford. Curiously, our son is married to former Chester City full back Joe Jakub's daughter and so we share the grandchildren. I am semi-retired but still carry out the finance and admin in my wife's consultancy business, and my holiday let property in Scotland, as well as some local gardening in the Mickle Trafford area.

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory

My earliest Club memory was a game on Easter Monday (against, I think, York City) in 1971. I was aged 13 and taken by my father. We sat in the ancient wooden stand at Sealand Road. The main memory of that era though was season 1974-75, when I saw Chester's superb League Cup run with victories against Leeds and Newcastle, and going oh-so-close against Aston Villa in the semi-finals. We finished that season with promotion to the then League Division 3. My affection and support for the club continued on and off through the 80's and 90's (competing with work and family commitments), until the early 2000s when my daughter became a fan and we saw the 2003-04 Conference winning side regain League status.

Finally, coming up to the present, I have been an "owner" since the Guildhall days and watched Chester FC march triumphantly up the leagues, and then relegated to our current position.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm

I was invited onto the Board in January 2019 as the Non-Executive to replace Richard Lynes. This was at a very challenging time when Mr Murphy was on the scene, and creating "noise". I helped the Board plot a way out of that situation, trying to minimise any consequences.

I continued in the role through the start of the pandemic until November 2020 when I moved across and was co-opted on to the Board. My portfolio responsibilities cover facilities, including catering, club infrastructure (including the car park) and governance. This has given me a big insight into the internal running of a football club. I have been a member of the Fan Engagement Working group, and developed the Go Cardless direct debit system for various payment processes.

I have used my skill sets to fulfil all these roles. I started life as a management accountant in the NHS, then ran my own wholesale business for 15 years, and latterly have helped with my wife's business. The last eighteen months have been difficult for the Board but I have enjoyed the challenge, and believe I have more to offer, hence putting myself forward formally for election. I am committed to the current ownership model but we may need to explore suitable outside investment, while retaining fan control, to take the club higher.

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Name of Candidate: Charlotte Walker

Proposer:- Dave Powell **Seconder:** Richard Bellis

ABOUT YOU – please provide whatever details you are happy to share in respect of your personal/family circumstances

I'm Charlotte Walker, but you may know me better as Lottie. I live in Worcestershire with my husband Jason and our two whippets, Chester and Albert.

Professionally I'm a marketing and communications specialist, self-confessed analytics nerd and all-round content creative.

When I'm not working I enjoy the delights of watching non-league football, good food, good books and travelling (when the world allows for such things).

YOUR AFFILIATION TO Chester Football Club – to include years supported, first game, favourite memory

In terms of Chester history, I am a relative newcomer to the Harry Mac. I first started attending games in the seasons following the formation of Chester FC, so probably around a decade ago now.

I fell in love with the passion, the feeling of togetherness, the enthusiasm, and the team that we had built at the time. The club being owned by the fans and run by the fans resonated with me in so many ways that it was hard not to be instantly hooked.

Despite moving to Worcester 8 years ago I have followed Chester to some brilliant (and some not-so) parts of the country over the years and during normal times we would regularly make the trek to attend home games too.

I have been the graphic designer for the Chester FC fanzine, the Blue and White, for several years. I volunteer for the football club as part of the media team, including a few stints on Seals Live as co-commentator (but don't judge me on those performances).

I have also been an integral member of the fundraising working group since 2020, regularly attending meetings, volunteering my time to create graphics, write proposals and help shape the group terms of reference. Alongside other fantastic volunteers the working group launched Boost the Budget, helping to raise over £200,000 towards the playing budget over the last two seasons. We have ambitious plans to drive our fundraising forward and we are close to launching the club's first fundraising strategy.

HOW CAN YOU ADD VALUE TO THE CFU BOARD – describe your skills, expertise, drive and enthusiasm

I am an accredited marketing and communications professional with more than 9 years' experience working for not-for-profit organisations and in the public sector. In addition to my marketing and communications experience I am a professional photographer, videographer and graphic designer.

I currently work as a Digital Communications Manager for the NHS, responsible for writing digital communications strategies, user insight and analytics, digital change and transformation projects, social media content strategies, digital marketing campaigns and paid for digital advertising.

I believe that my skills and experience would be a great addition to the board. I want to be an integral part of improving our communications output, both from a commercial perspective and when engaging with our brilliant fanbase.

I am passionate about fan ownership and I want to see us as a club bring fans closer to the day-to-day running of the club with regular forums and more ways for fans to get involved.