



## Mariners Trust Election Candidates and Statements

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>First Proposer</u>	<u>Second Proposer</u>
Wayne Brightmore	Kelly Billings	Kristine Green
Chris Parker	Nigel Lowther	Graham Hackney
Kelly Billings	Kristine Green	Wayne Brightmore
Marc Reed	Peter Turner	Graham Precious
Ian Townsend	Dave Roberts	Paul Roberts
Sandii Raithby	Stuart Raithby	Kristine Green
Hayley Carver-Smith	Stuart Raithby	Sandii Raithby
Alan Rutter	Ian Keightley	Colin Hodgson

The above candidate list and subsequent statements have been randomised and are listed in no particular order.

The order of the candidates above match the order of candidates on the ballot paper.

Mariners Trust members must select at least one candidate but no more than six candidates. Ballot papers with seven or more candidates selected will be classed as spoilt and so not counted.

Completed ballot papers must be returned to independent election manager [geoff.bielby@hullcityst.com](mailto:geoff.bielby@hullcityst.com) no later than **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 3pm**. Forms received after this time will not be counted.

Final election results will be announced under the relevant AGM item on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 6:30pm**. Members must request a link to attend the online zoom AGM and can do so by sending an email to [membership@marinerstrust.co.uk](mailto:membership@marinerstrust.co.uk)



## **Wayne Brightmore**

### **Proposers: Kelly Billings and Kristine Green**

My Name is Wayne Brightmore and I'm a GTFC season ticket holder who attends all home games and a great percentage of away games (when there are no restrictions).

I have been attending games regularly for roughly 40 years and will never forget the roar of the crowd from when we lived in Neville Street behind the Osmond Stand in the 1970's and early 1980's and that was where it began for me.

I'm a qualified electrician by trade but as the years have progressed my job role has changed as I have moved up the ladder within the construction trade (no pun intended) and currently I'm working as an estimator, contract/project manager and company health and safety officer. I have IOSH managing safely and have vast experience in writing and producing risk assessments and safe systems of work. My role also involves organizing staff on a daily basis and ensuring the correct resources are assigned to complete each project in a safe manner and within customer timescales. I also pride myself on my customer service approach and ensure clients are given the best attention at all times. Due to my business operations I have made a number of contacts within the local business community who I believe share the view that GTFC is a good for the community but for various reasons they have been put off from investing in the football club, I would be prepared to contact these and convince them of the good the football club can do in the community if they were to invest and hopefully be part of a new legacy within the clubs history.

I believe that if I was elected to the Mariners Trust board I can bring a number of skills and ideas for going forward, my skills in my employment I have already set out, health and safety, risk assessments, organizational skills and project management, but alongside this I

have a number of ideas for the trust to use and I have already discussed one of these with Dave Roberts and Kristine Green at a recent meeting regarding the disabled WC construction to the lower trust bar, the idea I have passed on is for the trust to use to attract new members as the club moves forward into the new chapter of its history. I'm also known amongst the fan base and I feel that if fans see people they know becoming active within the trust then they will see a reason to become involved themselves, a united fan base, trust and club will bring the success the football club and fans crave and deserve, we can only be stronger together.

As a board member I would not shirk any of my duties and I would be active in all areas I can possibly be offering ideas and input and also opening doors to other businesses in the town who can also assist the trust in any way.



If I am not successful in becoming a board member then I don't want to just be a backseat trust member I want to be an active member and will still be willing to help in any way I can, after all we're all town aren't we.

537 Words.



## **Chris Parker**

### **Proposers: Nigel Lowther and Graham Hackney**

My name is Chris Parker and I am applying to join the Board of the Mariners Trust.

I first attend Blundell Park in 1965 and although I spent several years in exile, I have been a season ticket holder since my return to Grimsby 25 years ago. I also, during 'normal' times, attend around 75% of away fixtures each season.

My reasons for seeking election to the board are centred around excitement and the hope and need for change. At the time of submission, we are all awaiting news of the completion of the takeover. If it is completed as planned, I strongly believe that the fans of GTFC have a huge part to play in the successful re-generation of the football club. The club has a major role at the heart of the Town and surrounding area, a vibrant GTFC lifts the spirits and drives the attitude of the people which in turn has a knock-on effect to business and prosperity. I have no knowledge as to the thoughts of the Consortium towards fan involvement but believe it is vital that the fans views are given in a well thought out, balanced and professional manner. The fans of the club deserve representation and I believe that should be provided through the Mariners Trust.

As always communication is the key, a free-flowing exchange of information & ideas and how the Trust can work together with the Football Club and new owners, can open the doors to a bright new future. A future where fans feel welcome and valued and where the owners see significant benefit in fan engagement for the growth & development of the football club, and larger community.

My primary wish is to try and ensure the long-term sustainability of our Football Club, ensuring that GTFC is around for our children, grandchildren and beyond and fan involvement and representation is the best way to ensure this is the case. The difficulties major around trying to represent the diverse views of the supporters, but again effective and open communication can only help. Listening to alternative viewpoints can only help the Trust be as representative as it possibly can be. The Trust must never lose sight of the fact that it is there to represent it's members and not just be an extension of the club.

I would bring with me 45 years of work experience. Initially I worked in Banking in London, spent time in management, sales and finance, including a spell in South Africa before 10 years as a Company Director locally. I have picked up skills in man management, strategy & communication and, at times, seen how things could have been done better. I see myself as a strong communicator and able to reach balanced and sensible conclusions.

I have spent time with The Trust previously but the major thing that has changed for me is that I am no longer in full time employment and have considerably more time to devote to try and help the supporters voice to be heard and listened to.



The ownership and structure of the football is about to change for the first time in a generation and it is vitally important that the voice of the supporters of Grimsby Town FC is heard in a positive manner. I would like your support in giving me the opportunity to represent you, the lifeblood of our Community led Football Club.

568 words.



## **Kelly Billings**

### **Proposers: Kristine Green and Wayne Brightmore**

My name is Kelly, I'm 41 years old and I've been brought up as a Grimsby Town fan my whole life. I first started attending games when I was a young girl with my Dad, Nanna, Aunties and cousins, GTFC has always played a massive part in our family and that is something that continues to this day and I now attend with my own sons - both now ardent and well-travelled fans.

Some of you may know me through attending all home and away games, some of you may know me through my work as the original Family Co-ordinator which I helped set up with the Mariners Trust and the Club in August 2019. It was through this we began to implement a host of activities for our junior supporters to get more involved on a match day with on the pitch activities before, during and after the game. I am extremely proud of the work I did and the activities that were put in place and I firmly believe they have been very well received and many young fans have enjoyed the opportunity to get on the pitch and take part as a result.

I am particularly passionate about enhancing the match day experience for our junior fans – they are, after all, the future fans of our magnificent club. I'd like to work on and support the continuation of the wonderful new junior's supporters club that will be launched and work hard to ensure that every one of the youngsters in our area have opportunities to get involved with the GTFC community from a young age and promote the benefits of supporting their local team.

I work in a local primary school and believe I have all the necessary skills, knowledge and qualifications to engage and work with fans and members of the community to achieve success. I would bring a lot of experience to the board of the Trust, a willingness to get involved, work hard to promote a positive working relationship with both the Trust, club and to work with and for the fans of this club.

Recent times have been difficult for fans of this club and in general with the pandemic, but hopefully we will soon be through and past these difficult times and together we can all look forward to a brighter future for GTFC and we can all get back to doing what our fans do best and supporting our team, home and away and by working together build a bigger and better Trust and future. UTM.

425 Words.



## **Marc Reed**

### **Proposers: Peter Turner and Graham Precious**

I previously served on the Trust Board from 2011 - 2016, and, within this initial service, I played a fairly significant role in the successful Operation Promotion campaign. My education and professional background make me an ideal candidate for a seat on the Mariners Trust Board.

Firstly, I have a degree in Creative Advertising from the prestigious Bucks Ad School in High Wycombe. At Bucks, I won an international student advertising award from a campaign I wrote for Walker's Crisps and the UEFA Champions League.

Professionally I served as Head of UK Marketing and Sponsorship for German sports brand uhlsport for approximately two years. In this time, I was responsible for:

- All UK bespoke kit and ball designs: I have a deep understanding of how design increases fan engagement and commercial potential.
- All UK product marketing campaigns: During my tenure, I was responsible for all UK product launches with all the major goalkeeping glove retailers.
- UK Marketing strategy. I wrote and executed the UK marketing strategy and co-wrote the brands European marketing strategy.
- Athlete & Club Account Management: I was responsible for the account management of all UK-based endorsees and sponsored clubs. This duty included contract negotiation, maintaining contractual obligations and upholding brand relationships with retired endorsees. As part of this duty, I had the honour of designing a product range for England goalkeeping legend Peter Shilton.

Despite leaving the company, I still consult the brand on a freelance basis. I still design kits and the Northern Irish Football League ball for the brand and negotiate some sponsorship deals, including one in the last two months with a very high-profile Premier League Keeper.

I feel my skills and experience will benefit the Trust and, in-turn, Grimsby Town Football Club. My high-level experience within the football industry will add further credibility to the Mariners Trust Board. First of all, I understand that my role is to serve our great footballing institution's fans. Secondly, I am on hand to offer my skills and the football club if required or asked to do so.

Suppose I was lucky enough to be elected for a second time. In that case, my desire is to strengthen the Trust's relationship with the Grimsby Town fanbase and improve Trust communications and membership. I am a firm believer that you if want change you have to have a seat at the table. I am willing to stand up and be counted.

403 words.



## **Ian Townsend**

**Proposers: Dave Roberts and Paul Roberts**

I seek re-election to the Board of The Mariners Trust.

I have held the post of Treasurer since the re-launch of The Mariners Trust in November 2011. During that time I have managed successfully all financial aspects of a business with a turnover in excess of £100,000 per annum liaising closely with the Bars Manager and Grimsby Town F.C. on a regular basis. I have developed a working knowledge of tax matters enabling the Trust to keep within the law. In addition I liaise with the membership team to keep records of Membership renewals up to date.

I also run the 100 club which, since its inception in 2012 has consistently provided one of the main sources of income for the Trust helping us to fulfil our obligations as a Trust to undertake work in the community.

During Operation Promotion I contributed on average 40 hours per week to the administration of the biggest undertaking in the Trust's history. This work involved the packing, posting and in local cases the delivery of pledge rewards. Latterly I have been part of the group liaising with the consortium hoping to take over the football club, seeking to show that the Trust as representative of the fans have the processes in place to provide them with the assistance they will need should they be successful.

As someone who has reached the age of retirement I have the time to devote to the furtherance of the aims of The Mariners Trust. I am convinced that the future of The Mariners Trust relies on much more interaction with the fan base and the Community at large. Meeting these aims doesn't come without a financial cost and should I succeed in being re-elected my plans for the future include:-

Setting up the processes to enable the Disabled Supporters Club to continue to watch GTFC following the retirement of their former officers. This club has provided countless disabled fans with the opportunity watch the Mariners over the last forty years and I'll do everything I can to ensure that they can continue to do so once normal circumstances return.

The setting up of a programme and memorabilia shop using existing on-line merchandising tools to harness some of the popular interest in such items.

Scoping the possibility of financing and siting a museum facility where supporters of Grimsby Town can delve into the rich history of our great club.

My work is all "behind the scenes". I have neither the skills required or the desire to become the public face of The Mariners Trust. I do firmly believe that all good organisations are built on the solid foundation of good processes. I put my record on the line and ask for your votes.

Thank you for reading.

459 Words.



## **Sandii Raithby**

### **Proposers: Stuart Raithby and Kristine Green**

For the last 5 years it has been an honour to be the secretary of the Mariners Trust. Those 5 years have been anything but plain sailing. We've had multiple managers, varying levels of success on the field and more than our fair share of drama.

The perception & success of the Mariners Trust is often pre-cursored by events at the club, both on & off the field. Regardless of how've been seen outwardly, we have still had a job to do internally and as Secretary this doesn't really change. I am fortunate that I'm not at the forefront of the press, never mentioned on The Fishy- to most Town fans, I've been largely anonymous and that's OK! My job isn't to generate reactions, or give interviews or court publicity, but to keep our engine ticking over. I feel that I add a level of organisation and calmness that is needed for the role- not just as Secretary but as a board member. I strongly believe (and have mentioned in our meetings many times), that board members of the Trust need to bring a defined skill set. We need people who can do things, not just sit at meeting proffering opinions. My skills may be simple, but they're things that keep the wheels turning- minutes, agendas, website management, managing eBay sales, promoting events- all things I can do without fuss or drama that keep our Trust moving forward.

Away from the Trust, my career in administration across many sectors may seem menial & basic to some, but I pride myself in always ensuring a job is done fully, accurately and always with a thought in my mind of how it benefits others. I have working in the local property market, in the Offshore Wind industry and currently work within a local training company providing high level explosives training. All of my roles required me to be diligent and work to a high level of accuracy. I also give a lot of my time in volunteering for our local branch of the Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society where I also hold the position of Secretary.

I am extremely proud to be one of the founding members of this local support group, providing a safe space for bereaved families to share their experience and feelings.

There is no doubt that we are entering a period of substantial change at our club and I believe we need a steady, experienced Trust to navigate through these uncertain times. We always need new thoughts, ideas opinions, but at the moment I think we also need an element of experience.

We are entering a time where every one of us on the board needs to be open to scrutiny from our potential new owners- they will be demanding in terms of what the Trust can deliver. If we fail, our credibility is lost. We have to take this opportunity to kick off our new relationship strongly and positively to ensure a long & healthy relationship. Having been involved in preliminary meetings with the consortium, I believe I have a good understanding of the direction we need to go in and I am keen to help the Trust achieve these.

533 Words.



## **Hayley Carver-Smith**

**Proposers: Stuart Raithby and Sandii Raithby**

### **Supporting Statement for Hayley Carver-Smith**

I have been working with the Mariners Trust since March of last year and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I decided to offer my help after seeing the Trust posts in the football programmes. Having a son who is a Junior Mariner member and attending a lot of the Trust events I wanted to give something back. It has certainly opened my eyes to all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. I have recently taken on overseeing the Juniors Section and would love the opportunity to continue and expand on the work that has been started. Having a large family (seven of us,) I consider myself to be good at organisation, be hard working and have a pro-active, can-do attitude.

My career has been varied, it started with administration across several sectors and then moved into retail where I gained ten years of supervisory and customer service experience. This brought many challenges but I enjoyed the variety that each day brought. Wanting a career change, I went back to college and took qualifications to become a Teaching Assistant and worked with children at primary school age. Since moving to Cleethorpes some years ago I have helped out at the family business when they have needed an extra pair of hands. I can find myself shopping in Tesco at 11pm on a Saturday night for a ship's crew or trying to find a Dentist for an emergency appointment for a Captain with toothache. I also do volunteer work in Girl Guiding as a Brownie Leader. All my roles have required me to work to a high level of accuracy, handle confidential information, be adaptable to change and to work well with people of all ages.

I have worked on committees previously and have experience with having taken the roles of Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer in the past and understand that at times it can be challenging and time consuming but with a good team and sense of humour anything is possible.

With recent events things at the club are changing and everyone at the Mariners Trust is working harder than ever to improve our role with the fans and assist the potential new owners. Having been involved with this since last year I am keen to help the Trust continue to do both and hope that I get the opportunity to do that.

400 words.



## **Alan Rutter**

**Proposers: Ian Keightley and Colin Hodgson**

### **Background**

I spent the first 35 years of my career with Humberside Police, during which time I was the Football Intelligence Officer (FIO) for Grimsby Town Football Club from 2000 until 2007. This was an immensely enjoyable period during my career, and the skills I developed at Grimsby led me to perform a similar role working abroad, for England during the European Championships in Portugal 2004 and the World Cup in Germany 2006.

During my time with Grimsby and England, I developed a passion to help genuine football supporters. In Portugal, I assisted a number of supporters who were arrested and appeared in court without the assistance of an interpreter. As the FIO for Grimsby, I was well known by the supporter base as I worked every home fixture and most away fixtures. During this time, I built up a good relationship with the supporters as someone that would assist fans who got themselves into difficulties whilst supporting Grimsby Town. I even appeared at Nottingham Magistrates Court in support of a Grimsby fan who, in my opinion, had been roughly treated and subsequently arrested.

As well as dealing with supporters empathetically, I built up strong working relationships with all stakeholders of the football club to build up a good understanding of how the football club operated and how this affected the experience of supporters. For example, it used to be the case that *all* football supporters were escorted from the train station directly to the football ground whilst attending an away fixture to support Grimsby. But why should the genuine football supporter be treated the same as a 'risk-based' supporter and have their experience negatively impacted? This was something that I changed to improve the experience of genuine football supporters during my time as FIO.

I still carry that passion to assist football supporters and my strength as a good communicator is vital to understanding the genuine concerns of football supporters and how to approach solving these problems. Using these skills, I have sat on the trust board for the past four years and have taken the post of vice chair and chair over the past two seasons.

### **The Trust Role**

Since being part of the trust, we have attempted to relate to two important areas:

- (i) Put the fans views forward.
- (ii) Enhance the match day experience.



These are not easy tasks, however, during my role as chair I have increased the number of members on the board to diversify the skills and abilities available to the trust. I have assigned responsibilities to complement the strengths of individuals in order to maximise their potential and to relate back to our objectives. For example, one of our board members, is a very skilled people person and became the Supporters Liaison Officer (SLO). A large number of changes and initiatives implemented during my involvement with the trust has enabled us to enhance the match day experience and put the fans views forward.

Most notably:

- As a result of feedback, all minutes of our meetings are now publicly available on the website.
- We are continually working to improve the experience for disabled supporters both home and away which has resulted in the appointment of a Disabled Supporters Liaison Officer who is available for home fixtures.
- Our newly appointed Family Co-Ordinator encourages families and children to attend fixtures with games such as the half time penalty shoot-out and pre match activities for youngsters.
- A member of staff from the Trust Bars attends board meetings and listens to concerns of supporters in that area such as live football before fixtures and drinks deals where appropriate. Having listened to the supporters the use of contactless payments has been adopted in the Trust Bar which we hope to extend to all bars.
- The Trust has organised and hosted Manager and Player Q&A Nights which have been extremely popular and well attended.
- The Trust organised the Juniors vs. Players Games Night which was a success, and we shall be repeating.
- One of our board members, Dave Roberts has proposed a Fan Zone having received Premier League funding. This is currently work in progress which we hope to have completed in time for next season.
- The Trust has assisted with the Open Day with a number of successful partners and also ran the very successful Beer Festival.
- A new ticketing system is in place at the club after a lot of hard work and persuasion by a member of the trust board.
- We now have two members of the trust board on the football club board, so our members can have a say as to what happens at this level.

The examples noted above elevated the profile of the trust and I feel that I have taken the trust forward with the help of all my colleagues. The relationship between the trust and the supporters is so important and the following example truly exemplifies the strength of both parties working together.



When Covid-19 hit in March 2020 and the season was curtailed, there was a great deal of uncertainty around the future of the club. One of the supporters, Richard Ladd, started a crowd funder which the trust supported and then supplemented with a call for supporters to buy shares as well as some other smaller initiatives such as eBay auctions and name cards. These activities raised around £120,000. In addition, supporters donated back refunds for cancelled season tickets amounting to a further £150,000. This was a truly remarkable effort.

### **The Trust Future**

In conclusion, a group from the trust board has met with the prospective new owners and we are all very excited about a new era about to take place at Grimsby Town and how we can build upon the successes already achieved.

I want to be part of that journey on the board and hope I can count on your support.  
Thank you.

Alan Rutter

980 words.