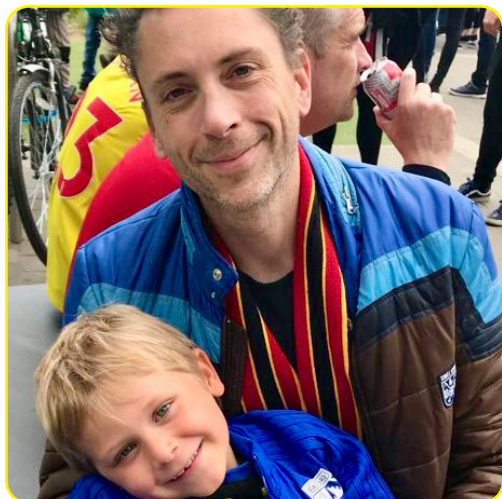




# Supporters Board Election

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**NAME:**

Ian Strang

**APPLYING FOR:**

Commercial

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I've been a Watford fan since March 1987, when my Dad took me to see us brilliantly beat Arsenal 2-0 at Vicarage Road, and I've been a Family Stand season ticket holder with my three boys (12, 10, 6), all Junior Hornets. We grab every chance to support the club - from Dome inflatables and stadium tours to a family away day at West Brom last season.

I'm standing for the Supporters' Board because I care deeply about our club's future and believe fans deserve a real voice in it. I'm not part of any official group - just an independent supporter who will represent all Hornets.

Football runs through my week - I volunteer on the steering group at Berkhamsted Raiders, one of the UK's biggest grassroots clubs, where I manage three year groups and organise an annual trip bringing 200+ young players to The Vic - spreading the Hornets' love to the next generation.

Professionally, I've built and run businesses by listening to people and improving their experience. I know how to challenge big organisations constructively at board level, and believe those skills can help improve how the club runs commercially and on matchdays.

Most importantly, I won't disappear after the election. I'll be visible and approachable - on fan podcasts, at events, or simply chatting on the terraces - making sure your voice reaches the club's boardroom.

I can't promise we'll win every week, but I can promise Watford fans a stronger voice in how our club is run.

**NAME:**

Peter Thorp

**APPLYING FOR:**

Matchday & Supporter Engagement

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am asking for your support to become one of the representatives on the new Supporters' Board at Watford Football Club.

I've been a Hornet since 1978, when I first came to Bushey Hall School as a PE teacher. From the Graham Taylor years of honesty, openness, and family spirit to the rollercoaster of recent decades, I've stood shoulder to shoulder with fellow fans through it all. Like you, I care deeply about this club, and like you, I know that trust between the club and its supporters has been severely damaged. That must change.

The Supporters' Board gives us the chance to challenge, to ask the tough questions, and to demand honesty. But this isn't just about passion - it's about competence too. My career has taken me from teaching to senior management in financial services, to running my own successful company supporting boards and leadership teams. I understand how boardrooms work, how to hold people accountable, and how to make sure decisions are explained and justified.

If elected, I will fight for transparency, better communication, and genuine respect for supporters. Most of all, I will make sure your voice is heard at the very top of the club.

Together, we can rebuild pride and unity at Watford.

COYH.

**NAME:**

Jon Di-Stafano

**APPLYING FOR:**

Finance

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Why would I want to be on the Supporters Board? I've been a season ticket holder for 30 years, I've loved this club every minute of that time and that isn't going to change no matter what happens in the future. I've saddled both of my sons with the same passion. No Champions League for them (yet), just the odd goalless draw with Stoke or a last minute loss to Swansea. I don't get angry on twitter, I don't host a 'space' or a podcast, instead I really want to represent the rest of us. Those that love the club but would like to know more about how it is run. Those that have ideas and want to have their views listened to. Those that can be upset and complain but dust themselves off and still look forward to the next game. You don't have to shout the loudest, you just have to know how to get your point across. I would like to represent everyone that supports Watford and can see the benefit of our fans having greater access to the club, getting some answers to questions and making our views heard in a constructive way that, just maybe, will actually make a difference. For what it's worth I'm the CEO of a housebuilding business, I'm a qualified accountant and I understand how businesses and boards should work. But from a Watford and a football point of view, I'm just a fan like the rest of you.

**NAME:**

James Bateson

**APPLYING FOR:**

Commercial

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Watford FC has been a part of my life for more than 50 years, and for almost 30 years, I have sat in the same seat in the Rookery End, surrounded by family and friends. Matchdays and message boards are full of opinions: the hopeful, the frustrated, the funny, the heartfelt. I agree with some, but by no means all, and I do believe passionately that every voice matters and that, so far as Watford is concerned, every supporter counts.

The role of the Supporters Board is to serve the fans and act as a bridge between Supporters and the Club and I am grateful for this opportunity to play a part in that. Unity is in everyone's interest - the Club, the Fans, the Men's First Team, Watford Women, the Academy, and Youth Teams, which are so vital to the future of our club. Graham Taylor believed football was for the supporters, and his values and sense of community should be the foundation of our approach as we establish our Supporters Board. All supporters of our club care passionately about it and I am no different.

I believe that I have the skills and experience to contribute effectively, which is why I am asking you to support me as a candidate for your Supporters Board.

Professionally, I lead a large team in one of the world's leading law firms and have many years of leadership and service including time spent on both its executive committee and advisory board. I bring years of experience in governance, strategy, and leadership. I am unafraid to speak my mind and I know how to listen, advocate, and negotiate successful outcomes. My experience will help us to create and shape an effective Supporters Board that demands accountability and ensures every supporter's voice is heard.

Watford FC is more than the shirt, scarf, badge or stadium. It is an enduring community that has shaped my life. I would bring loyalty, professional expertise, fearless advocacy, and, above all, a lifelong commitment to ensure every Hornet feels heard, valued, and proud to belong.

COYH!



**NAME:**

Flis Irving

**APPLYING FOR:**

Matchday & Supporter Engagement

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Hornet since 1968!

I was born and grew up in Watford sandwiched between two brothers, but when I was about ten years old, there was a new addition to my family: Watford Football Club. That is how I think of this wonderful club: family. It is a place which brings out those traits of love, loyalty, friendship, and passion. It is in my soul.

I believe that I am well qualified to be a productive member of the Watford Supporters' Board. My first career was in stockbroking, but most of my strengths relate to my second career as a Family Project Manager: i.e., a mother of five. I developed organisational skills, calmness under pressure, focus and negotiating tactics, to name a few. I am determined, a clear thinker and a good communicator who is committed to getting the best for all Watford fans.

Football has changed enormously over the past six decades, but what has remained the same is the need for supporters, the lifeblood of every club, to be an integral part of how their club is run. I know what it is like to feel valued at Watford and to grow as one with the players, managers, coaches, and owners. If elected, I will do my utmost to work with my fellow board members at Vicarage Road to ensure that the views and concerns of the fans are listened to and acted upon.



**NAME:**

Nick Trigg

**APPLYING FOR:**

Finance

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am applying for a finance role on the Supporters' Board. I believe I would be an effective fan representative because:

- I have attended matches since 1977/78 and have been a season ticket holder for most subsequent seasons. I witnessed our rise to Division 1, FA Cup and Play Off finals and Premier League seasons but I simply enjoy supporting Watford, regardless of its present standing.
- I grew up in Watford and live locally. My family are proud Watford supporters. The Club has played a significant part in our lives and it would be a privilege to represent Watford supporters on this Board.
- I am an accountant who has worked for 15 years in audit and over 20 years in commercial finance roles, mostly as Finance Director. I have experience of analysing and understanding organisations' financial situations.
- My main concern is that we have a financially sustainable football club that is preserved for current and future generations of supporters.
- I currently work part time and am due to retire soon. I will have time to dedicate to this role and will be committed to it.
- I fully endorse the stated aim of achieving an experienced and committed Board which fully represents the diversity of the Club's supporter base. If selected I will be mindful of this at all times.

**NAME:**

Alex King

**APPLYING FOR:**

Commercial

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I am committed to ensuring all Watford supporters feel genuinely heard, valued, and represented. I believe this goal will make me an effective fan representative. Having supported the club and attended matches with family since I was eight, I have developed an understanding of the club's culture and values.

I respect the pride and traditions that shape our fanbase, particularly the knowledge and heritage of longer-standing supporters. I aim to honour this, while encouraging engagement that brings through younger voices, ensuring every generation has a part in shaping the club's present and future.

I want to create opportunities for open dialogue, supported by a clear feedback loop, enabling supporters to know their views are considered and, where possible, acted on. I am approachable, a good listener, and a clear communicator who respects different perspectives and is keen to understand concerns, frustrations, and ideas. I have demonstrated these values through encouraging constructive and transparent discussions online. I recognise social media can be polarising, and I am keen to expand engagement beyond these platforms, turning conversations into initiatives that make a positive difference for the supporter community.

In applying for this role, I will focus on ensuring sponsorships, partnerships, and catering feel authentic and aligned with supporter values, and provide clear rationale, ensuring fans understand the reasoning behind decisions.

No matter the issue, I will encourage collaboration, seek answers for supporters, and ensure their voices are represented.

Ultimately, my motivation is simple: make a positive impact on the entire Watford FC community.



**NAME:**

Jeremy Corenbloom

**APPLYING FOR:**

Commercial

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I'm standing for the Fan Advisory Board because I care about strengthening the relationship between the club and its supporters. I'm not interested in shouting the loudest or pushing a personal agenda. I'd work hard to represent a wide range of views and help bridge the gap between the stands and the boardroom.

I've supported Watford since 1985, when my dad took me to my first game under Graham Taylor, a time when we were proudly known as the community club. That spirit stuck with me. I've held a season ticket for most of my adult life and now share that love of Watford with my son and daughter, who was a mascot last season.

Like many of you, I've seen the full spectrum: play-off drama, promotion highs, relegation lows. But what matters most is the sense of belonging and shared identity that comes from supporting our club together. That's why the growing distance between fans and the club has been frustrating. It risks weakening the connection that makes following Watford so special.

Day to day, I'm a marketing specialist, helping organisations listen and act on what matters to people. I've worked with football clubs and sporting bodies too, so I understand both the passion in the stands and the pressures behind the scenes. I'd bring that experience here, asking the right questions and making sure fan voices are properly represented.

If you believe fans deserve to be heard, respected and truly connected, I'd be honoured to have your vote.

**NAME:**

Daniel Zealander

**APPLYING FOR:**

Matchday & Supporter Engagement

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Watford has been a huge part of my life, and like every supporter, I want to see our voices truly shape the future of the club we love. Every fan deserves to feel heard, respected, and represented in decisions that matter.

Having built my career in PR and communications, I know how to make organisations listen and engage openly with their audiences. As a member of the Supporters' Board, I would bring those skills to strengthen the dialogue between the club and its fans. Too often, communication can feel one-way, but I'm determined to help make it clearer, more transparent, and more inclusive. Ensuring feedback is acted on, not just acknowledged, will be one of my priorities.

Listening to supporters is at the heart of why I want to serve and I'll always represent fans' views honestly and constructively. Uniting the Watford community, on and off the pitch, is what will make our club even stronger.

Together, we can build trust between fans and the club's leadership. Our shared passion for Watford is what binds us, and I'll make sure it is never overlooked. Now is the time to strengthen the bond between supporters and the club and I'd be proud to be your voice on the Supporters' Board.

**NAME:**

Steve Cutmore

**APPLYING FOR:**

Finance

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

As a lifelong football fan, supporting Watford FC has been a huge part of my life for nearly 50 years. I grew up just a stone's throw from Vicarage Road, and the thrill of match days has always been a special part of my routine. I've cheered on the Hornets through incredible highs during the Graham Taylor eras and lows during the Jack Petchy years. I've spent much of that time as a season ticket holder, and I still am today.

Professionally, I'm a qualified accountant, currently working as a finance director for a multinational organisation. It pains me to see the growing disconnect between our passionate fanbase and the club we all love. Watford means so much to me, and I know it does to many others. I truly believe that by sharing my knowledge of financial complexities, I can help fans better understand what's happening behind the scenes at our club. I want to reach out and connect with fellow supporters, breaking down barriers to create a more united community. For me, it's not just about being there on match days; it's about fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring every fan feels valued. Let's work together to make Watford FC a home where our love for the club shines through, both on and off the pitch!

**NAME:**

Reza Bitaraf

**APPLYING FOR:**

Matchday & Supporter Engagement

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Dear Fellow Hornets,

I have passionately supported Watford FC for many years, and like many of you have seen the highs, the lows and the bits in between. Whilst football is our passion it is also a business, and except for the wealthiest clubs it is a tough business, with clubs such as Bury and Macclesfield being lost with Morecambe thankfully being saved at the eleventh hour. This is why I am excited by the wider adoption of Fan Engagement Boards and to be given the chance to run for election.

Whilst applying for this role I chose to focus on the matchday experience and how the stadium can best be developed and adapted to improve it. Poor experiences damage the fans relationship with the club. Easy access, improved facilities and the introduction of safe standing are important to me and I would love to hear your suggestions of which I would escalate to the club.

More importantly I understand the importance of open communication, transparency, and community building. 'Engagement' is the key phrase here and should I be elected, I will push to ensure that the board members are approachable and available, both online and in person at regular intervals and that the club are being transparent with supporters in their communications.

I aim to be part of an engagement board that truly makes a difference for supporters by maintaining a healthy, vibrant and inclusive football club that my daughters can support for years to come.

**NAME:**

David Weitzmann

**APPLYING FOR:**

Finance

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

I have supported Watford since 1978 and held a season ticket for 40 years, witnessing promotions, cup finals, European nights, and memorable victories. Many of the players I most admire come from the Graham Taylor era, a period that shaped my lifelong bond with the club. For me, Watford is more than football—it provides escapism, community, and shared passion. The foundations laid by Elton and GT to make the club family-friendly and community-focused have endured, and I am proud of Watford's ongoing efforts to promote inclusion, fight discrimination, and create a safe space for all.

Professionally, I have been a Chartered Accountant for 33 years and serve as Finance Director of an international Biotech Software company. My role involves working closely with the Board, developing strategies, and reporting on performance, giving me the skills to represent supporters when financial decisions are reviewed. I can provide informed, balanced input to ensure that the interests of fans are considered at the highest level.

I am a member of the Proud Hornets and value the club's commitment to tackling racism and homophobia. Beyond football, I am a Trustee of the London Gay Men's Chorus, where I was elected to ensure members' voices are heard at Board level.

If elected, I will prioritise clear, two-way communication between supporters and the club. I believe that open dialogue is the foundation of strong relationships, and I will work to ensure fans' concerns and ideas are properly represented to the Board.