

WST Board Elections 2015

Questions for candidates

- 1. What are your views on the Disabled Supporters Association, how do you see the new wheelchair platform benefiting the Club and how can we progress the remaining two platforms?***

Mike Dean

I am extremely proud of the work carried out by the DSA and they should be extremely proud of the excellent work they do in representing and seeking inclusion for some of the most vulnerable in our society. The existing facilities were not suitable for our wheelchair bound supporters as they were exposed to the elements and their pitch level view of the game were not comparable to that of an able bodied person which is simply unfair. The new wheelchair platform will provide its users with an excellent facility and will help give a more inclusive feeling to our supporters. The Racecourse Ground will provide more wheelchair spaces than some Premier League stadiums and will hopefully continue the message that Wrexham AFC is a true community club which wishes to embrace all of its supporters and make them feel a sense of pride and belonging.

We can progress the remaining platforms by continuing to publicise the all-inclusive community message not only to the local community and businesses but also on a national level. This could enable the football club to use its good name to explore more funding avenues and become recognised as proactive and ground breaking in its drive to all-inclusivity.

Dave Jones

I feel that the DSA plays an important role in being a recognised body that represents the interests of its members to the Football Club around improving facilities and policies that affect disabled supporters.

In my experience as a Board member, the DSA was better represented when an elected board member of the Wrexham Supporters Trust was also a committee member on the DSA. This person was the key link between the DSA and the Club and issues around the DSA were always represented at Trust Board Meetings. This has not been the case recently and I feel that the DSA has not been adequately represented at the Trust Board meetings and therefore the two committees have not quite been aligned. I would be in favour of a return to this model where a Trust Board member at least attended every DSA meeting to act as this link.

The Wheelchair platform is a welcome long overdue addition to the Racecourse. As a Community club, we should be striving for the best possible facilities for all our fans, but particularly our disabled fans who have previously been forced to sit at the front of the Mold Road Stand with a poor view and open to the elements. I think they particularly deserve improved facilities and I'm glad that dedicated fundraising and grants have been made available to fund this initiative. The stadium should now be able to meet legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act as well as provide our disabled supporters with an improved matchday experience. This initiative, amongst others, promotes the club as a fan's owned community football club to the people of North Wales. This could also open up the possibility of further funding from sources such as Welsh Assembly

Government to help fund subsequent platforms along with some more dedicated fundraising initiatives.

Andy Pierce

Life should be about inclusion and enjoyment. If things prevent this then we as a society should look to remove those barriers.

I've been attending matches all my life, and like the majority of fans I've probably done so with my eyes closed to the problems that face our disabled supporters in order to watch football. Whilst volunteering at the football club open day I witnessed these problems first hand. The players were sat along the first row of the paddock between the dugouts and the players tunnel signing autographs for fans. Access was down the concrete steps into the paddock area. One of our disabled supporters had made his way to the top step but was unable to go any further and instead had to sit and watch everybody else getting their items signed. Thankfully I noticed and asked if I could help. Lifting his heavy chair down was not an option. Thankfully we were able to find a way around the issue via another route, but for me the fact we got there in the end is not good enough or acceptable. Why did none of us foresee this happening? Why were there not plans for disabled access to the open day in place? I believe the answer was because these problems didn't affect us directly and that is what needs to change in the mindset in every single one of us as fellow supporters. For me raising awareness amongst our support is key moving forward, as is working more closely with the DSA to prevent these problems occurring again in the future.

The disabled platforms are going to be a credit to Wrexham AFC and to all those who have worked so hard to get them. To finally see our disabled supporters enjoying the same vantage point as everyone else and out of the harsh elements at a night match in February will be a special sight. Moving forward I would like to see the platform in the away end completed next. As I say it's about inclusion and visiting disabled supporters shouldn't be treated any differently than our own. Wouldn't it be fantastic if away fans leave the Racecourse wanting and getting the same as we have achieved, in turn benefiting our own DSA members on their away travels.

For further funding I would look towards business sponsorship of the platforms like with the Leader Family area.

Stuart Roberts

I support the Disabled Supporters' Association 100% on this! The DSA provides support and a voice for fans of our club, with additional needs. As a football club, we are very lucky to have such a knowledgeable and passionate committee willing to stand up and be counted in support of our disabled fans!!!

At a WST board meeting in August last year, I took on the task of researching and funding a headstone to mark the grave of a former player. It took many, many hours to finish the research and gain the relevant permission to satisfy the council requirements, allowing me to then raise the funds required. This was to prove more difficult as I made the decision to put the fundraising on the back burner in favour of promoting the accessible platforms, reducing the risk of diluting the great work done by the WST, The DSA and the fans in general. My match day is usually spent with my 11 year old daughter but I volunteered my time to take photographs for the mosaic and promoting the project in any way I could. I'm proud to say that both projects are now progressing rapidly.

As a member of the WST Community group, I am passionate about helping to make Wrexham AFC and The Racecourse Ground a safe, accessible and enjoyable experience for the whole community, on a match day. My aim for us, is to become a dementia friendly football club and if you tie this

work in with the accessible platforms we will soon have a football club and sporting venue that the whole community can access and be very proud to be associated with! It will set standards that even the biggest of clubs sometimes fail to meet.

One of the most difficult parts of any project is raising the money needed to make it a success. The WST board are available for the DSA to approach for information, advice and guidance at any time. We are also there to be approached about any fundraising ideas that DSA may have and I'm sure that as with the viewing platforms, any such initiatives will be supported 100% and directed towards our membership of over 4000 people.

Geoff Scott

When I joined the WST board in January 2012 I knew very little about the DSA. On the Trust board at the time was Terry Stott who was Chairman of the DSA and he is immense and tireless in his work for this supporters Group. As a fans owned community club we support all our fans groups as well as local charities, As well as Terry involved with the DSA is Steve Gilbert who again works tirelessly for his group and as a club we should be thankful for all the hard work that he does .

As the Trust lead of the fundraising group we organise different types of events to raise money for the club, for our Charities, sometimes for good PR to promote our club to the community. One of our two biggest fundraising events away from the match day experience was a 150 th Mosaic to celebrate our glorious history. At Trust Board level the DSA asked for help to try and get the first platform for the wheel chairs started .We agreed that the Mosaic profits ,targetted at £20,000 would help to pay for the first platform .Even though it has disappointedly only raised £4,500 this will still help to fund the first platform because the plans have changed and costs reduced. As a club we don't own the ground but I still believe that morally we had to support this.

The DSA like most organisation are very short of volunteers so if anyone who can help out with the car park on match days or would like to join the organisation please contact Steve Gilbert. I ,as well as a few more of the fundraising group, spent hours in and outside a few local pubs taking photos and filling forms in on Match days for the Mosaic so many thanks to everyone who participated and bought in to this initiative.. There is still time to get on the Mosaic and help raise money and help our disabled fans.

Once the first platform is completed we can look to progress the next two platforms and if I am voted onto the Wrexham Supporters Trust Board at this election I will support any requests for fundraising to make this happen.

Paul Smith

I think as an inclusive community club the dsa is an integral part of our club, it's certainly something close to my heart as I go to some games with my cousin who is disabled and have experienced sitting down on the front row of the mold road stand in the rain, it's long overdue having the platforms and hopefully this will encourage more of our existing and also new potential fans with a disability to come and enjoy football. I will be attending with my cousin the meeting on Friday the 12th June and will if I am voted onto the trust board look forward to working with and helping where I can with the dsa, the message that no fan is any more important than another is what resonates with me a strong dsa helps us be a strong supporters trust, together as a fan base we are stronger. A lot has been done but there is much still to do to help our fans with disabilities feel they have a voice and can influence our clubs future. One of the highlights for me last season was the sheer amount of fans with disabilities at the Wrexham Chester derby game, I was sat with my cousin 4 seats away from a

friend from work who was there with a member of his family and we all had a good chat which along with the scoreline left me in such a positive mood after the game. #coyr

Robin Wiggs

"The wheelchair platforms are a great legacy of our 150th anniversary season - and I am pleased the mosaic and turf sale was part of the fundraising. The DSA provide great leadership and work really hard on behalf of some of our more disadvantaged fans. The platforms help us level the playing field a little, but there is much more work to do - and we can not claim to be a real community club until we look more like the communities we are drawn from and all our fans enjoy equal chances to cheer on the Reds.

One of the aims I put in my candidates statement was to help forge closer links with our friends in the DSA if I am on the Board. There is much we can do to provide mutual support. I support the idea of a specific DSA liaison officer on the Trust Board, to ensure that thinking about fans with disabilities is knitted into everything we do. I would see this role expanding to cover better inclusion for many forms of disadvantage and diversity.

We should not rest until we have secured the third platform and exceeded national sporting guidance that 1% of seats in our stadium should be accessible to wheelchairs. And we must continue our pioneering work on autism-friendly matches, and the excellent work led by another candidate on becoming a dementia-friendly club.

Sport can be a great vehicle to challenge prejudice and inequality. And Wrexham fans can be proud of the advances we have made since taking ownership in 2011.

But it seems like we are often asking the same fans to dig deep to support the Club in everything we do. I'd like to see local businesses stepping up and funding the next platforms with grants from other bodies too. Wrexham fans have shown the lead - it is time for the business community to show how important the issue of inclusion is too.

2. ***The travel arrangements for the games against Chester (aka “the bubble”) have seriously restricted the freedom of law abiding fans to attend those games in the way that they choose to an extent rarely experienced anywhere else in the UK. Accepting that some people (e.g. supporters with young children and shopkeepers) may welcome the restrictions (and the resulting reduction in disorder outside the grounds and elsewhere,) the law abiding majority are paying a very heavy price for the use of these tactics which other police forces dealing with very much larger “derby” crowds do not deem necessary.***

If you were elected to the Board would you oppose all travel related restrictions on Wrexham fans attending away games and stand up for the human rights of the membership? What would you propose is done to lift the current “bubble” status of games against Chester?

What would your view be if the Club’s opposition to the “bubble” resulted in significantly reduced income for the Club e.g. through a ban on away fans or increased police costs or potentially the removal of the grounds safety certificate for those matches?

Mike Dean

First and foremost, I disagree with the principal of restricted travel or ‘bubble’ football games. I believe that the measures imposed by the relevant police forces are excessive and believe that policing of the game could be handled better. However, as a community club we do have to look at ensuring the pro bubble supporters and wider community are listened to so a considered decision can be made.

In order to lift the current restrictions, I would propose that further action is needed to educate supporters of our all-inclusive community based approach and how any disorder could damage the club’s standing in the community. It could be argued that some behaviour is a result of the policing measures, however, if we can educate supporters of both clubs, to conduct themselves in a manner befitting of a community club then eventually the restrictions may be lifted and we can all concentrate on just enjoying the games.

In principle I could not back any action that would see the club suffering a reduced income through higher police costs or potentially the removal of the ground’s safety certificate. If our club was to lose its safety certificate that could lead to serious ramifications and potential expulsion from the league and, if elected and acting as a custodian of our club, I could simply not let my actions damage our club. I would however, urge the Football club board to explore every avenue possible to ensure that whatever restrictions are imposed they have the least amount of impact to the majority of supporters who conduct themselves in the correct manner.

Dave Jones

I personally am not in favour of the travel restrictions that have been placed on any Wrexham or Chester fan travelling to and from our recent derby matches. These restrictions are not seen as being necessary for derby matches with larger crowds elsewhere so it does appear that the local police forces go for the “easy policing option” of penalising everyone rather than tackle the minority risk elements of both clubs. As a Board member, I’m not sure that opposing travel related restrictions is the correct way of handling this issue as there are other factors to consider. As I understand it, the club has no say in the decision of imposing the restrictions. If we opposed a

decision made by the Safety Advisory Group, influenced by the police, we would run the risk of having the grounds safety certificate removed which would incur cost implications in terms of lost revenue and could also bring sanctions from the League including a fine and possibly a points deduction. After the hard work done in the last few years getting the club on a sound financial footing and striving to get the club back in the Football League, this stance could be counterproductive.

I believe that both clubs need to work together and convince the authorities that they can find a way to prevent trouble without the restricted travel arrangements. I believe that the Reclaim the Game campaign was a good start to achieving this aim and I would support similar initiatives in the future.

Andy Pierce

From day one I have actively opposed bubble matches and if elected I would continue to do so. I petitioned against them and also led the Burst the Bubble campaign, which was aimed at highlighting all that's wrong with bubble matches. I wrote an article in the Daily Post explaining why I made the personal choice to not to attend the away match at Chester, and also went into public debate with North Wales Police's commanding officers, again highlighting why this blanket approach is complete overkill.

I spent many hours researching derby matches across two decades. In some cases I applied for 'Freedom of Information' and worked with the Football Supporters Federation who also oppose the travel restrictions. I looked extensively at policing costs and methods, arrest figures, other bubble match fixtures, and at how other forces such as Lincolnshire manage to police derby matches without the need for these policing methods. I will be happy to explain my findings in depth with anyone wishing to know more.

For those with families official Wrexham AFC buses will always be there. I have always stated that this is by far the safest way for anyone wishing to travel to away games. There is no reason why they can't pick up a police escort ensuring their safe arrival. I also wouldn't be against being held in the ground for fifteen minutes after the final whistle, allowing the police to disperse any potential troublemakers away from the stadium.

Last season saw the launch of the Reclaim The Game initiative. I was invited by the club to be part of the campaign. I accepted working tirelessly in the lead up to the game writing five articles for the club. The successful campaign saw increased ticket sales with more family and child tickets being sold than the previous year. It also saw us develop strong working links with our fan-owned rivals showing it is possible to get along.

With Wrexham's ticket sales for the away game last season down by nearly 500 on the previous season I would argue that these restrictions are already significantly costing our clubs. If we as a club are being held to ransom over bubble matches then I believe we as a membership have the right to know, so that the club stop taking part of the blame for accepting the restrictions being imposed on us the fans.

Stuart Roberts

The travel restrictions imposed on Wrexham fans travelling to the derby match definitely limit the freedom of movement of your everyday law abiding supporters, supporters like my eleven year old daughter and sixty eight year old dad. Neither of these has ever been involved in any disorder and I remain to be convinced that the restrictions imposed on us prevented any disorder when we went to Chester.

I believe that working with the Police and all concerned with the derby match, we can find a way to avoid any disorder without the need for the restricted travel becoming an accepted part of it. I would commit to working with everyone concerned to make this happen. Consideration should still be made to our commitment to Wrexham AFC, it's financial security and also the safety of the wider community!

Geoff Scott

Liberties. Any fan should be able to travel to any match that they want to as they wish to. Last season the away match did affect me personally because I could not guarantee in advance that I could get to Wrexham in time for the buses so I did not attend. Ironically I was in Queensferry a couple of miles away at that time so I missed the match. So personally I do understand the inconvenience and ludicrous arrangements that stop us, the fans going to watch a local Derby.

I also agree that much larger "Derby" matches do not have to put up with this serious restriction and that the North Wales Police need to look at other Police Forces running of similar matches and learn and adopt similar tactics. They agreed to do this with the Lincolnshire Police Force although I do not know if this has happened.

For our home matches we have to liaise with the Safety Group and North Wales Police

Firstly let me state that I am against the "Bubble match " and I would expect every other fan to be of the same opinion and I do believe it is an invasion of our civil liberties as Chester do for the away fixture so in reality we have no input or a direct decision to whether our away match is a bubble match. That is down to Chester FC, Cheshire Police and the safety group although I expect NWP do have some input.

For our Home match we do have input and have to work with the Safety Group and North Wales Police.

As a club our goal should be to lift any restrictions and work together to return this fixture back to normal as soon as possible. I believe that a confrontational stance with the Police would not work and could result in the safety certificate being refused and the fixture not being fulfilled. The Police could also increase participation at the match at a great cost to the club.

The WST objective is to run Wrexham Football Club in a sustainable way and secure the long term future of the club. We need to continue to work to overcome any obstructions and return the fixture to normal for our fans.

If away fans are banned from the fixture then again we are talking about civil liberties being taken away so would not support this action.

If Police costs were such that it put the football clubs future in doubt or if the Safety Certificate was removed and the fixture was not fulfilled then I would reluctantly not support this action. We need to work with everyone in a non confrontational way to return this fixture for the fans.

Paul Smith

In principle I oppose the bubble restrictions, I think we all know they are there due to past troubles. However I do understand that due to the few on both sides who cause this trouble, large numbers of fans on both sides are being put to a lot of inconvenience. I am not aware of what dialogue there has been with regard to the bubble between both clubs the police and any other stakeholders and so would need to understand the stance of the police and the real worries from the club with regard to the bubble being potentially lifted.

I feel that if it is to remain in the short term, then there needs to be at least tangible progress that fans can see with regard the relaxing of certain elements, e.g the fact coaches could go straight from for example mold instead of having to come to Wrexham football ground first, maybe start with letting those with children and also pensioners not having to adhere to the restrictions. I thought the campaign this past season was a positive step, indeed I was part of it with my Chester supporting work colleague in one of the derby stories that was sent out by the club.

If by opposing the bubble, harsh restrictions would be implemented against the club by the authorities, then this would have to be looked at as to what those particular restrictions entailed. A ban on away fans would both affect the atmosphere and potentially hit the club financially and also may result in our fans being banned for the return game, I think in that scenario the membership should be consulted and given the facts. My opinion on higher police costs would depend on whether they were giving a higher fixed cost or insisting on an open cheque book approach with the cost being dependent on what happens on the day, if it was open ended I do not think that is a risk anyone of our members should want us to take as that could put the financial well-being of the club at stake with valuable funds being paid to the police if a lot of trouble ensued, of course a higher fixed bill could be looked at to see if the figures stacked up. As for having the safety certificate removed this I could not back, I would rather have the bubble than have a game played behind closed doors, nobody wins ultimately if that ever was the final solution.

At the end of the day we all just want to go to a football match and watch us beat Chester, lets all work together to sooner rather than later, make it a normal game travel wise.

Robin Wiggs

None of us support the “bubble”. It is an unnecessary restriction on fans that is not needed in other bigger derby games elsewhere.

However, as important as this issue is, my first responsibility as a Board member is to make our Club secure and stable for all fans. Anything which jeopardises that, (for example if refusing to co-operate with the Police/Safety Advisory group decisions meant away fans were denied access thereby reducing income, much increased police costs, or worse, we couldn't fulfil our fixtures for the Conference), I would not be able to support it. It would not be in the best interests of our Club. I will always put the long-term interests of the Club first.

I believe that change usually comes through co-operation and collaboration, not confrontation and outright opposition. I jointly led the #ReclaimTheGame initiative this season to work with other partners (fans, Chester, DSA, etc) to change the culture of the derby – and by and large this was successful. There were many more families at the derby game, and no repeat of the previous season's bitterness. It is disappointing that the police didn't/couldn't take up their invitations to any of the planning meetings. We should continue this work though.

We will return the derby game to a normal fixture. But we have to work with the appropriate authorities to do that. We have to involve the police more closely this time and work with them to remove the bubble. Whether we like it or not, at the end of the day public safety/security is a police and local authority decision – not the Club's.

If elected, I will be working again with other Board colleagues to show that the bubble is not needed. There are alternative means of crowd control (eg separating the fans entry/exit times & routes) that can prevent disorder that don't unduly inconvenience fans and allow our neighbours and local businesses to carry on normally also.

But, since I believe in being honest, I will also be challenging all real fans to help us again in this. We can all play our own small part in helping to ensure that the tiny minority are not allowed to drag the name of the Club through the press again.

3. Volunteers play a vital role in our community club. They are the way we get things done. But being a Board member requires more than being prepared to help out or being a long standing fan. The Board sets the strategy and direction of the Trust and thereby the Club. Four Trust Board members make up the majority on the Club Board. What particular skills and experience do you have which would help the Trust Board achieve its aims and objectives. Would you aspire to sit on the Club board one day? Why?

Mike Dean

Having been involved with the club/trust since the takeover in a non-official capacity I have gained extensive knowledge and experience of many aspects of the trust/club and their policies and operating procedures.

I have a good working knowledge of the systems used day to day for tickets and commercial activities and having worked in retail understand how a commercial business operates. Obviously I do not have access to confidential information and talks that take place at the higher levels of our club, however I do have a wide and varied knowledge of the day to day matters that our club is presented with.

I would not be looking to aspire to sit on the club board in the immediate future. If I was lucky enough to serve multiple terms on the WST board and if the opportunity presented itself and I thought I could be an asset to the duties that would be required of me, it may be something I would possibly consider.

Why? Because I would have gained extensive knowledge of how our club is run and due to my many interactions with our members and supporters understand what they expect of the club and I would be dedicated to the cause of improving our club.

Dave Jones

I initially showed an interest in joining the Board in October 2011, where a post to implement the Community Share Scheme was advertised. My recent career has seen me working in IT projects largely delivering legislative changes for the Government and I saw this as an opportunity to use the skills I've developed in an IT environment and bring them into an important project for the football club I've supported since I was a young child. I see the skills I brought was elements of Project Management requiring a structured approach and Business Analysis skills. I've since taken over management of the Fans Ownership which has involved transition to a new database requiring data analysis and a people management role, managing a team of Board Members and volunteers. I now work in a Strategic IT role in my day job and my expertise in this area helped me in setting the Boards objectives in the Strategic plan around Fans Ownership. I think the main skill to have though is experience of the Board. Having been involved for nearly 4 years, I have a good knowledge of how the Board works and its relationship with the Club Board. The Club board is made up of people based on their skills. I believe in the future if a vacancy on the Club Board became available, I would have the necessary skills and experience to be able to perform a role, however the time required to perform a role on the Club Board in addition to the time already required as a Trust Board Member may prevent me from putting myself forward at present. If my personal situation changed in the future, I would aspire to sit on the Club Board one day.

Stuart Roberts

At present, I have no aspirations to represent The WST on the football club board. This is not through a lack of ambition or motivation but more to do with my own personal circumstances. However, if I were approached by the board with a view to utilising my skills on the football club board then I would most definitely take it seriously.

The skills that I see benefitting the football club board would all be person centred. It has been said that I can sell snow to the Eskimos. I put this down to my communication skills and think that this has a lot to do with my twenty years in the armed forces. During this time I learnt to adapt my communication skills to allow me to converse effectively at all levels, whether talking to royalty in Windsor Castle or a young army cadet who wants to go to war. During my twelve months on The Trust board I have had dealings with a variety of people from parents of Junior Dragons through to councillors and bank managers. All contact has been productive and I have made some very useful contacts that are keen to get involved with my community work. I put this success down to my love and passion for the football club; some people just need to be reminded that it's not all black or white and that there is red in between!

Andy Pierce

Whilst I agree it does take more than just being a long-standing fan, I do still see this as a key element for any candidate. For me it's the passion I have for the club as a fan that will be the driving force behind all that I do for the club, and will motivate me to succeed in the role.

The fact that WST board members are also fans puts us in a great position to know what the majority of the fans want from the club, what they expect, and also where they want us to be. Every week we sit in the stands, travel on buses or chat in pubs with fellow supporters. A unique insight that very few people who run football clubs will ever experience. This allows us to set the direction of the club. The hard part is the strategy.

People may rightly ask what can an electrician offer to the running of a football club? In my role at Tata Steel I cover four large production lines that run 24 hours a day. It is my job to ensure they don't stop. When they do I work under pressure to ensure they are running again ASAP, making the right or wrong decision can cost the company thousands so I have to ensure the correct one is made.

One of the primary roles of engineering is to overcome problems. Therefore I have skills in thinking outside of the box and exploring other avenues in search of solutions.

I also help to plan week long down shifts when the lines stop for maintenance. Planning work begins months in advance, making sure we cover for all eventualities and ensuring that all work is completed on time. Such is the complexity of the lines and process, organizational and planning skills are key. And with so many men on plant leadership and teamwork skills are essential.

In my opinion it is the diversity of skills that make up the trust board that make it so unique. Having accountants, IT experts, managers etc. gives us so much more than your average board room and I believe in myself to bring something new to the table.

Club Board member? Probably not but never say never. People have no idea how hard Wrexham AFC Board members work and for me I wouldn't be able to do the role justice at present.

Geoff Scott

As a massive Wrexham Football fan I will always do the best I can for our club. I have no major personal ambitions and just want to help. When someone suggested that I should stand for the WST

Board I had to decide three things. Did I have any skills that could help and enhance the board, do I have the time to commit to the board and is my skin thick enough to accept criticism especially if I think it is unjust.

My work skills are in sales and I have over 30 years experience working for two of the biggest Grocery companies in the world. Nestle and Uniliver In my private life I was involved in local football, with Lex xi FC were I played managed and fundraised for many years. I have always been involved in setting up and running events whatever size and also I am Chairman of Wrexham Tennis club where I also organise all the functions and fundraising.

Last season as lead of the Fundraising Group we raised £22.000 and this season already we are over £24,000 expecting to finish at £28.000. My skills are commercial and fundraising. So I believe I have relevant skills.

Even though I work full time my time management is fairly good and I still manage to put many hours in on Trust business each day.

Thirdly I am thick skinned and realise if anyone does take the time to criticise me or the Trust then it means they care about the club. I am always positive and carry on for the good of the club..

I think that the word aspiration is the wrong word to use in this context because it will depend on the situation at the time. Anyone who aspires to get on the Wrexham AFC board is doing it for the wrong reason.

As stated the Trust members have 4 against 3 non elected on the Football board and anyone who joins the board I believe needs two things. Skills that can enhance and improve the board at a given time and they also need to be strong willed and confident in a Boardroom situation.

I do not aspire to join the football club board. If circumstances arose that I was the best candidate skill wise and was asked to do so then I would be available and accept the position because I love the club and want to see it sustainable for future generations.

Paul Smith

I feel that as important as individual skill sets are, there are several qualities any trust board member needs, if as a collective we are to achieve the aims of everyone connected with the football club. These would I personally believe to be.

- 1) Reliability. Board members need to trust that if other board members say they will get back to you or they will complete something within a given timescale that it will be done.
- 2) Team work. If some elements of the board team are not working then it weakens the whole structure of the trust board.
- 3) Listening skills. Members of the board have to be able to listen to others view points and appreciate and weigh them up, when deciding on any given direction the club is to go in.
- 4) Ideas. Equally as important as listening to others, is that people on the board bring ideas to the table and are able to articulate them for debate.

As for myself personally, I feel my particular skills are in sales (Both face to face and telephone based) and the customer service field. I also have experience of managing a team of people and training them to achieve.

As I helped our previous commercial manager and talked to him a lot when he was at the club, I

would look to help the new commercial manager as and when needed and feel I could really benefit this area, if used. I believe in getting as much interaction and feedback as possible so would look to engage with the membership base at every given opportunity as we are only as strong as the membership and the membership will stay strong as long as everyone is engaged and feels valued.

If it was felt I was the best candidate to be on the football board in the future, I would step up to the plate as it would be an absolute honor. I do have no particular aspirations in that direction. I say that though from not having any knowledge of what it is like to work within the club, maybe if given this first opportunity, I would in the future have a different opinion and answer to this question.

Robin Wiggs

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Trust and the Club. It is the selfless acts of many volunteers that saw us through the dark days. It is the volunteers who continue to help make our Wrexham AFC community a slightly fairer, more equal and caring place. They will always be of the utmost importance to us.

But, as a Trust we now run a successful £2m+ business. We want to take the Club back into the Football League asap, where I am sure it will fly. We can progress just as Swansea and Cardiff did. That will require us to plan, grow and safeguard a much bigger business with all the professional skills that requires.

We need to continue our journey from a supporters group, into a first-class business. But in a way that does not forget or abandon our roots. That is the best way to secure our Club for another 150 years.

I am a senior NHS manager, with a wide variety of skills and experience in general management, staff management, budgets, governance, planning, marketing and strategy. Outside of work I have managed teams of volunteers. This is a wide range of skills I am using to help the Trust and Club at the moment. I will use any of them to help in any way I can. For example - since joining the Trust Board in October 2013, I led on the development of "Our Plan" – our strategy for the next 3 years of our journey.

One day, I would like the chance to serve on the Club Board. I'm sure many people would (and let's face it, I'm not going to fulfil a dream to play for the first team!) Not because I'd like to be involved in "running" my Club, but because I think I might have the right principles, skills and experience to help support us on our journey. Others will judge if that is the case, but the Trust is a good way of preparing future Board members – and we are lucky that we already have a full complement of experienced and very talented Club Board members.

4. How can the trust retain its members and increase the membership?

Mike Dean

By being proactive within the community ensuring that our supporters feel a sense of pride in both the Football Club and the town. We need to continue to communicate the message that this is our Football Club and being a trust member is something to be proud of. We can also increase membership by promoting the various local supporters groups from across North Wales and continue to support these ventures.

Dave Jones

Our Strategic Plan for the Fans Ownership Group has an objective to increase membership by 10% each year. This season we increased a membership of just over 3000 to over 4000 members which was an increase of around 33%. Much of this increase was down to providing an incentive for people to join, which last season was to get priority for tickets for the Stoke game. The challenge now is trying to persuade these members to renew their membership this year and to increase further.

If re-elected, I would continue to encourage membership drives and provide incentives for people to join including expanding our range of benefits. The move to a new database and change to plastic membership cards with a barcode gives us the potential to offer some kind of loyalty scheme in the future providing more incentives to purchase items such as merchandise from the club. I would also like us to carry out some analysis of the geographic and demographic distribution of our current members and target areas where there is the potential to grow.

Andy Pierce

Huge steps have already been taken. The decision to bring all memberships in line with each other (in terms of expiry dates) was a decision which was made whilst I was still part of the membership team. This has given us far more continuity on the memberships. Further to that, bringing club memberships in line with the season tickets has made renewal even easier to do both at once.

Whilst I understood arguments about people only joining the trust for Stoke tickets, in my view it was a highly successful membership drive from the trust. It's all about building the membership database. Until then we had no contact details for those people, no way of reaching them. Now we have emails, mobile numbers etc. Meaning communications and renewal reminders can be sent out via an automatic email.

When we are taking over 10,000 to Wembley but membership stands at 4000, it is obvious that we still have huge potential for membership increase. Spend a few minutes in pubs or online after a defeat and you'll soon hear/see the negativity that some people feel towards the trust despite all their efforts. We cannot afford to adopt a 'haters gonna hate' attitude and for me we need to engage it head on. We need to understand the reasons why we have this negativity, granted some of it stems from two poor seasons, but for ages now we've been saying, "come to meetings, put your questions to the board" but they simply never come, which means we must go to them. We need more initiatives like Spencer Harris's online Q&A with the Daily Post making it easier for people to raise their issues; we need the members themselves to take ownership for this is your club too. If you hear/see negative comments about the running of the club then engage with them, find out their concerns then please contact the club. The board can't fix something if they don't know it's broken.

Many membership problems can be fixed if we can get things right on the pitch. For the Wxm150 match we had in theory 4000 non-members in the stadium, but it's very difficult to convince people to join when we then lose. When success on the pitch returns, we need everything ready for another membership drive and make the most of a positive buzz around the club.

Stuart Roberts

I think we will all agree that the best way of increasing membership is to have a successful team! With the appointment of one of the best managers at this standard of football, Gary Mills certainly looks like the man to bring success back to our club. Season ticket sales have exceeded expectations at the moment and membership is in excess of 4000.

The membership group are constantly reviewing member's benefits and are always looking to add to these. New benefits are always being worked on and will add to the value of being a member. The

community group is reaching out to the wider community and will be looking at taking the club further afield, hopefully both attending and hosting events

Geoff Scott

I know that the Membership Group have been working very hard, with computer systems being updated, in a job that is very time consuming and difficult to monitor and run but I believe that this is now under control with great improvements being made and work is now more focussed on retaining existing and attracting new members.

Retain Members

We need to make it easier to join especially on line and easier to renew your membership whether on line or at the club shop. We know the demographics of our season ticket holders and our paying customers which should highlight any major differences when compared to our existing members. We can then target groups using this information highlighting any specific benefits that might attract them to join and finding out the reasons why they haven't joined. A survey as done previously would also be very beneficial.

To tie up with the work done on re branding the Trust we need to complete the alignment of WST membership with one date for renewal so that there is one date for existing members to join, season tickets will coincide with this making administration time easier with a lower cost. Any new members can join at any time and be processed accordingly. Continue the re branding so Fans become members of Wrexham Football Club and this helps them realise that they are club owners and have a closer affinity and connection..

We also need a drive to increase the number of members who pay by Direct Debit again making it easier to collect, collate, monitor and analyse at a lower cost. This will free up time for the membership group to focus on other areas.

Increase Membership

Members benefits need to be increased ,diversified and promoted more effectively .At present members can vote on issues, get ticket priority for away matches(after season ticket holders), discounts at local retailers and be invited to exclusive members meetings.

Incentives at the moment include being a Director for the day at a home League match. This needs to be advertised more effectively and more incentives introduced targeting specific groups and areas that we are weak in. Feedback can be obtained by another Big Red survey or similar.

Incentives can work which has been shown by the discount on season tickets and the priority for away tickets such as the FA Cup match at Stoke last season.

In Summary increased and innovative benefits, target groups, easier to join and renew with better promotion and advertising. Remember we have all of North Wales, Mid Wales and some parts of the English borders to attract Club owners.

Paul Smith

Firstly existing members, should be actively encouraged to move to a monthly standing order. Nobody misses a pound a month and membership is then continuous. Time and effort should be put into contacting individual members and asking them to do this. I believe as a community club, we should be looking to get deals set up for our now vast membership with local as opposed to national companies, once aligned with these companies. They will hopefully feel the benefit and will be open to sponsoring the club (an advert in the match day programme for example) or attending games by

having a table in Bamfords. The fact there is great potential to save much more than the annual subscription by getting discounts off local products and services will also help maintain existing membership numbers.

To increase membership, I think the above with regard to discounts locally would help as a selling point for certain people, I think a campaign for the hearts and minds of the North Wales population needs to be tapped into, there are more people who have Wrexham to heart but do not go to games than do go to games and would be prepared to help in everything we do in the local community and help us truly engage with the wider North Wales community by becoming a member of the football club whose results they look out for and they are happy we have won if we have. A little anecdote to back this up, I have a sister who has never been to watch Wrexham, it was only fairly recently I found out she always listens to the games on the radio, to this end I mentioned the work the club do in the community and that we are not just any old football club and encouraged her to become a member, which she finally did around 2 weeks ago. That's what we need to tap into £12 we would have never seen.

Robin Wiggs

The great power of the Trust is its wide and increasing membership base. The larger our membership, the stronger we are, and the more secure the Club we all love is. Also, the larger our membership, the better we will reflect the diverse communities we are drawn from.

Not everyone joins the Trust because they believe as passionately in fan-ownership as you or I do. We had over 1000 new members joining in the run-up to the Stoke game to secure tickets, for example. But once we have members signed up, we need to persuade them of the strength of fan-ownership and ensure they renew.

To retain and increase members we have to work hard to provide a first class service to members, and increase the range of benefits we offer members. Sometimes we still seem like a volunteer organisation – not a £2m+ business. We've made progress over the past year or two, but there is more to do.

In my candidate statement I already set this out as a priority if I am elected. With other Board colleagues, I will focus on:

- * Improving our communications, and using more technology, especially online and live-streaming to involve members, including exiles.
 - * Make it easier to join/renew and change details via the WST website.
 - * Hold more meetings outside of Wrexham, across North Wales & borders.
 - * Extend the range of benefits with local businesses.
 - * Use all opportunities to increase membership – whether they are cup runs or other WST events.
- The important thing is to build membership, regardless of why people initially join.
- * Strengthen our links with groups including the DSA and Supporters Groups – as they do much of the vital work on membership.

I have worked hard with colleagues on this area as a co-opted Board member (for example, part of the small team running almost 24/7 fans support before the anniversary, Stoke or Wembley games). I would like to continue to build our membership success, as an elected Board member.

5. How can the trust increase the participation of members in Trust activities such as volunteering, attending meetings, voting in elections and on resolutions etc.?

Mike Dean

Again it comes down to communication and continuing to get the message out that our Football Club is something to be proud of. Obviously live streaming of meetings and regular newsletters are also excellent ways of reaching a wider audience. Groups such as the senior reds can play a part in supporters being connected to the club and other sub groups could also have the desired effect. It is vital to keep a welcoming and positive environment for anyone who volunteers their time in the name of the Football Club. Providing volunteers with adequate training and ensuring they feel supported when representing the Club will make help retain their services and hopefully make their experience a good one.

Dave Jones

An excellent culture of volunteering has developed at the Football Club in the 4 years since WST took ownership of the club. All Trust Board and Club members give many hours of their time to the club to perform their duties. Each sub group has its volunteers that also give their time generously. Personally, I feel that the key to attracting volunteers is to find interesting roles for them to perform. People want enjoyable, meaningful, impactful things to do that fit around the demands of the busy lives they lead. In the past, we have asked for volunteers but perhaps not articulated what exactly we want them to do, which may have put people off coming forward to volunteer.

I feel that better communication of events is improving the general participation of members in terms of attendance and voting etc. I expect a better turnout for the voting for this election due to more publicity via social media constantly reminding members that they need to vote. I feel that this needs to continue as well as better planning of meetings, announcing of guests, venue and date earlier giving more time to publicise the event. Perhaps we should also survey members to find out what they would like to see at meetings.

Andy Pierce

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the club and do amazing amounts of work, saving the club thousands. I think we need to get more information out about the work they do on a weekly basis. Possibly a day in life type article in match day programmes, explaining exactly what the likes of Paul Evans does for the club. We also need to put people at ease, that going the extra mile is optional and that we are grateful of whatever time fans can offer; I think many people are put off by thinking they have to give up a full day or a few nights a week, when in fact even just a few hours of somebody's time can make a huge difference. It is also very rewarding, when the club has fantastic news like when they announced that we are now debt free, it fills you with pride to know you've played a small part in that success.

It's a tough one, many people simply just want to watch a game of football and go home again. But we mustn't give up in trying to reach these fans. What we have is something special, fans have a genuine say in how our football club is run and I wish more people would embrace that. For me the internet is the way forward on this, whilst some people may not want to come to the Cent and vote in person, they are happy clicking a voting link from Facebook or Twitter whilst at home. The simpler we can make the system, the more it will be used.

The recent live streaming by Robin Wiggs for Gary Mills's Q&A was excellent. We had a great turnout in the room, but a fantastic 300 watching online. This hugely increases our reach and I want to see it used more. If people won't come to the meetings, let's take the meetings to them!

Stuart Roberts

The Trust and the football club currently have a presence throughout the local media as well as social media. We work very closely with the Wrexham World team and have achieved great success over the past twelve months through such media streams as Facebook and Twitter. We also work closely with The Leader and have a dedicated column on a Friday. Calon FM, our local community radio station has a show hosted by the fans and the Trust.

All of the above keeps our club in the public eye but maybe we could do more? Maybe it isn't made clear enough to our members that the football club and The Trust still need volunteers to help move the club forward. Options such as a community newsletter have been discussed within the community sub group and maybe some more direct action hitting all members with a request to get involved in any way that they can. We're not asking for a huge commitment and would highlight that just a few hours a week could allow us to reach potential fans living out of the Wrexham area. If you look at it from a financial aspect, with three volunteers manning a stand at a community event, maybe for four hours each. That would be a total of twelve hours that even paying minimum wage, and would have cost the club almost eighty pounds.

It's difficult to know what more we can do to increase member participation. All events are advertised and promoted thoroughly using all media sources mentioned above and members also share them on the popular internet forum, Red Passion. Maybe more guest appearances or possibly incentivising participation??

Geoff Scott

Attending Meetings and Voting on Resolutions

This is a choice for the individual. Voting on Resolutions can be done on line as well as by postal vote and this has got better over the last couple of years but I know this can and needs to be improved. For many members attending meetings can be difficult due to living away, work, child care issues etc and the club have tried to help by streaming members meetings such as meet the manager. This might be more difficult to do for the Agm because confidential financial aspects are discussed but this is also being looked at. I know that at the recent meet the Manager event about 300 attended with a similar amount watching on line which shows there is demand for live streaming.

With the fantastic work being done by our membership group I am sure that access to voting, improvement in event communication and the continual improvement and focus behind the scenes by Trust Board Members improvement will continue without being complacent.

Elections

To encourage more voting in this election Candidates were advised to list certain skills together with a photo so that people can maybe put a name to a face. The introduction of questions is also new so that people can evaluate candidate's views on specific areas. Maybe in the future we can have "hustings" where people answer questions with responses streamlined of course.

Consideration could also be given to an incentive to vote where a member is entered into a draw to win a prize if they vote.

This process is Democracy and we can't make people vote. In the future with social media the club should look at Candidates being able to Canvass and encourage support which would help get greater participation in the vote.

Paul Smith

The trust needs to understand why people do or do not do certain things. For example vote in the elections, this can only be gauged by asking what the barriers are for them. There may from this emerge a pattern of the same answers as to why they, in this example do not vote. These can then be looked at and maybe there would be an easy solution to overcome this barrier for them which would increase the amount of voting and so make those members feel more engaged. I do think some meetings possibly twice a year should be held away from Wrexham so that we are reaching out to the fans who do not live close to the ground, this would help make those fans feel closer to the goings on at the club and make them feel they have a voice. I generally think just being positive and asking for help and thanking people for their help and that it's appreciated goes a long way. The help is there it's finding out why its not coming forward that is the key. For example the numbers that turned up a few years back to clear the pitch of snow, I saw everyone from girls around ten to granddads in their 60's there all pulling together. There are not that many people helping out as far as I am aware, we need to find out why not, only then can we increase the amount of members of the trust who participate in helping with the running of the club.

Robin Wiggs

I am worried that only a small proportion of our 4174 members will vote in this election, attend the AGM or members meetings. Whilst those who do are very engaged and committed and provide fantastic support, I think this is a problem for two reasons.

Firstly it is a relatively small democratic mandate for how our club is run. I want us all to have a stake and a say.

Secondly we are relying on a small pool from which we draw our volunteers, help and fundraising.

We can increase participation by making it easy and by making it important.

We can make participation easier by:

- * Enabling much more online involvement – voting and comment from members.
- * Engaging more on social media – I have deliberately increased our social media output this year – doubling our Twitter followers, and engaging much more directly with fans on major forums including Spirit of 78, Red Passion and the Wrexham Fans Chat page on Facebook. This is in addition to our “official” output on the websites and members emails.
- * Holding more meetings outside of Wrexham – especially Members meetings.
- * Extend Livestreaming, live-Tweeting and recording of meetings. I introduced this to the Meet the Manager meetings (where 300 watched each online). I think we should do more, provided it does not then reduce actual attendance at the meetings.
- * Improving our communication with members. But members can also help us by ensuring we have up to date email addresses (about 40% haven't given us one) and following us on Twitter @WSTtweets and on Facebook.

In terms of helping more volunteers to help us, we also need to make this easier. Too often we ask for generic volunteers – and it can be daunting to make the first step to help the Club. I know – I've been there!

We can make volunteering easier by:

- * Being clearer what particular skills/experience/time commitment we are looking for when we ask for volunteers.
- * Capturing Members' skills and offers to volunteer when they join.
- * Maintaining a register of volunteers' skills, and approaching people directly to ask for help.
- * Run a volunteers workshop.
- * Set up a volunteers newsletter for interested people to subscribe to.

6. "We often talk about Wrexham FC having the whole of North Wales as it's catchment area, what more can the trust/club do to attract football fans from across the region?"

Mike Dean

By helping the existing supporters groups with ensuring that there is WST board representation at their functions and hopefully finding supporters who wish to set up supporters groups in their area. It would be great if we could set up links to schools across North Wales and invite them as part of the Racecourse foundation which is something I would like to progress. Also if supporters wished to volunteer to run a stall or fête at a local event in North Wales we could supply them with resources to help them such as merchandise, literature and Wrex the Dragon.

Dave Jones

The unite Half a Nation was an objective from the 3 year Strategic Plan that WST discussed at last years AGM to look at ways of attracting more fans from North Wales. From a membership point of view, an objective was included in the plan to carry out an analysis of the current membership to understand the geographical distribution within North Wales. The purpose was to identify potential areas to attract membership or to identify areas where there is a concentration of members and look into attending events in that area to promote the club or to hold members meetings in those areas and maybe encourage them to set up a Supporters Group. We could also look at opportunities to partner with coach or train companies to provide discounts on travel to people in North Wales who are attending a Wrexham home match.

The club has also started to improve its bi-lingual offering by setting up a translation group which should improve communication to those Welsh speaking communities in North Wales.

Andy Pierce

We've always had strong support from across the region, often more so than from the Town itself and maybe we've neglected that somewhat. We have hotbeds in places like Corwen, but most of the fans I know from Bala, Holywell etc. are middle aged. Possibly because I am but I fear we've lost a generation of support and that urgently needs addressing.

The Racecourse Community Foundation has started some excellent work getting into local schools but I'd like to see it taken further afield, as far as Caernarfon, Bala, Porthmadog. Make these kids aware early on that we are their nearest professional football club, and also Wales oldest.

I'd like to see us start running half term soccer schools in these places. By holding one in Bala, you could then open it up to the children of Corwen and Dolgellau. Send players like Rob Evans along with his Welsh caps, tap into their national pride, sell Wrexham as a Welsh club and their local team. And at the end of the course give them all a free match ticket to come and watch us, look long term and see it as an investment.

Send out regular news letters/communications to local football clubs throughout North and Mid Wales and include schools/local authority networks into that. Offer group booking discounts to these organisations.

Establish more supporters groups, as a club we should assist more with the setting up of supporters groups throughout the region, Gwynedd Reds or Conwy Valley Reds and such bringing fans together. We've seen how beneficial they can be to the club, Mold Red's £500 DSA donation a prime example of this. So we need to help them more and work closer together. Let us put fans in touch with each other, establish a car share page where people from say Ruthin and Denbigh can arrange travel together splitting fuel costs. It's madness that two people from the same village might travel 40 minutes to Wrexham separately.

Re-explore the possibilities of a partnership with Arriva, offering match day travel discounts on trains and buses. Maybe sell match and train ticket bundles on the Holyhead to Wrexham line? I remember Brighton running a similar scheme. Let's contact them on how to go about it.

What do other clubs like Swansea and Cardiff do to attract support from the valleys? Let's make contact and see what useful initiatives they may run.

Stuart Roberts

This is the ideal time of the year to be promoting our football club throughout North Wales. Summer fayres are being arranged regularly and the community group are looking in to attending as many as possible. A regular stand will be manned at the monthly street festival in Wrexham and this Saturday the group will be at The Nightingale House Summer Fayre. With voluntary support from our membership the options are endless and we could target areas further afield. We need to utilise the fans that we have in other regions and work together to take the club to them. Maybe holding "an evening with" event in somewhere like Rhyl would be something to start with? A player or two would attend and have a question and answer session with a pint and buffet. I'm sure these would be a success and lead on to bigger and better things.

Geoff Scott

I will answer this question in two ways and i do agree that we have a big catchment area in North Wales as well as the border areas which should give us a great advantage over similar size clubs which at present we do not take advantage of...

Firstly we do need to do much more for our existing fans across North Wales and we need to make it easier for them to attend home matches. Even though initially it might cost us some money I would look to put on subsidised travel by bus at first and also look at the train option with Arriva Wales. I was involved with organising the Wembley buses together with the raffles and I do know that we do have a great many fans in Porthmadoc, Bangor, Caernarfon, Anglesey and Rhyl who at present we are not doing much to attract to the matches. Linked to the buses we could make it a family bus to Wrexham were some wives or whoever would like can accompany a fan and have a shopping trip in Wrexham.. Also needed is local advertising with posters and Adverts in newspapers such as the Daily Post, Rhyl Journal etc .We would need to persevere with this policy for at least a season to give it time to bed in and hopefully become successful.

For our existing fans help should be given to start Fans Groups and we have spoken to someone who is interested in starting an Anglesey Reds supporters groups. As a trust we should be running road shows in all areas to see what support there is backed up with players attending as well as a board member with Merchandise available.

We run stalls at local events at can take these further afield to meet our fans and attract new young fans.

To attract new fans we need to support local groups together with specific targeted advertising .We want the next generation to come on buses to support Wrexham and not drive past on their way to Liverpool or Manchester.

Soccer schools can be run across North Wales to get younger players involved with Wrexham Football club at an early age. In the Wrexham area we have turned the corner and I do see more and more youngsters wearing our Football shirts so lets openly target all of North Wales." Half a Nation." How many clubs can say that?

Finally an attractive successful Football team makes all the above much easier.

Paul Smith

I think ultimately its dependent on how the team is performing on the pitch as the further you live away from the ground, the less likely you are to travel if the team is not doing well. There are however positive things that can be done, having meetings away from Wrexham to get fans engaged and attract new fans, getting merchandise for sale away from Wrexham so that the club is visible. The club has commenced communications in welsh, if cost is not a barrier, I would like to see the club being visual in welsh speaking areas such as with xmas raffle tickets printed in welsh, this may encourage people to feel more attached to the club and come to the odd game, especially if we are doing well. I think the club for the Wembley games has done a great job of running coaches from many different locations, to a lesser extent this could be done for key league games e.g opening game of the season, xmas games, last couple of league games and play off games if we were at the top end and the interest was there.

Robin Wiggs

We have a huge potential fanbase across the whole of North Wales and the borders, and we should do more to draw in fans and members from the whole region. Indeed it will be essential to do this as we rise up through the leagues.

Firstly. we can do a number of things to make fans from further afield feel a part of our Wrexham AFC community:

** Gallwn ddefnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg yn fwy. Yn enwedig yn y Cae Ras ac yn ein deunydd ysgrifenedig. Mae hyn yn rhan bwysig o gynrychioli ein holl gefnogwyr.*

* We can make more use of the Welsh language. Particularly at the Racecourse and in our written material. This is an important part of representing our whole community. We made a good start with a Welsh language stadium announcer towards the end of last season.

* We should take the WST out of Wrexham more often and hold meetings across the region & over the border – and we should offer a WST Board member to every Supporters Group meeting that would like one.

* We can take the Racecourse Community Foundation to schools even further into North Wales, and make links with kids, as future fans.

* We can help other Welsh clubs in the region through our pre-season programme, increasing our exposure to fans.

Secondly, there are practical things we can do to make it easier to support Wrexham from further afield:

- * We can offer practical support to new Supporters group.
- * We should try running away coaches with a starting point further West rather than always at the Racecourse. We could trial coaches for home games from further West too.
- * We can offer more schools ticket offers further afield.

I don't have all the answers – and would like to hear from fans on what they think we can do. But growing our fans base is a really important part of securing the Club for the future.