



Matthew Newsham – Candidate Statement

Hello, my name is Matthew Newsham. I am a thirty-two-year-old father of three and a lifelong supporter of Morecambe Football Club. I would like to be considered for the role of Board Trustee because I believe Morecambe Football Club is about the community and I see myself as a community-led person.

My early memories of Morecambe FC began with attending football matches as a child with my late grandad, Michael Wilkinson, a lifelong season ticket holder and avid supporter of the club. This is where my passion for football was ignited. The time spent on those Saturday afternoons on the terraces not only caused me to fall in love with football, but also solidified my strong sense of community and family, synonymous with Morecambe FC. In recent years, football has provided a support network through my own personal struggles with mental health. Without this support network found through the club and its supportive fans, I would not have been able to overcome these struggles. My grandfather's love for the club has grown within me over the years, and I feel that this is something that should be passed on to the next generation of football fans.

Looking forward towards the future of the football club, I would like our community's children to be as engaged in the club as I was as a child, and I believe that the future prosperity of the club lies with them. This is why I would endeavour to instil the ethos and values of the club to all trust members.

I believe that I have a multitude of qualities that make me perfect for the role of Board Trustee. I have managerial experience in catering and retail, communicating effectively with a large body of staff, which I believe gives me the transferable skills required to communicate fluently with Trust members and the wider community. Currently, I volunteer for a charity, FND Action, that seeks to promote and educate people about the condition

Functional Neurological Disorder. I have fundraising responsibilities for the charity, but I have also assisted sourcing volunteers and designing graphics used on their social media sites. I can work calmly under pressure and work to set deadlines. Additionally, I feel that I am an excellent communicator and listener, something I feel is essential for the role.

While it would be unprofessional of me to comment on the current situation regarding the takeover of the club, I would endeavour to find the answers to the questions we, as fans, so desperately need. While this coming season is probably going to be one of the most difficult seasons of our Football League history, keeping supporters well-informed on all things Morecambe FC is, and should be, a high priority for any Board Trustee, and is something I will prioritise if I am appointed.

Ultimately, I want to volunteer my time for the club I am so passionate about and hope that you will place your trust in me and give me the opportunity to give back to the club that has always been close to my heart.