

CANDIDATE STATEMENT- CLIVE HAYWARD

Proposer: Dominic Roman

Seconder: Sam Swann

You might know me from my work on the Torquay Talk “Gulls Eye View” channel or the Talking Torquay podcast. You may have seen me at away games or in Bristow’s or Boots and Laces, or read my blogs, or heard me asking Paul Wotton questions at press conferences.

I have supported Torquay since childhood and I am now asking you to consider voting for me because I believe I can make a positive contribution to the running of TUST, an organisation dear to my heart which has proved its worth in the past 6 months.

I have been a member of TUST for many years and well remember attending AGMs at the Rugby Club with only a handful of other members. Although I feel the Trust could perhaps have been quicker to mobilise and to support the much-needed protests against the previous regime last season I have nothing but praise for what they have done since February, and it was a privilege in the summer to use my non-existent DIY skills during “Paint Up Plainmoor”!

I will work hard to continue to get important messages spread far and wide: supporter ownership of our beloved club needs to be embedded and strengthened because it is the best way to ensure that we are never again at the mercy of owners with no interest in football. I know several members of the current board, and I would be able to “hit the ground running”.

In my professional life I manage a team dedicated to delivering discretionary payments to local people in need, and I am currently responsible for overseeing the Council’s Household Support Fund, which has a £1.2 million budget over the winter months.

To be a true community club, the club and the Trust should be doing more in terms of outreach. I have links with the Torbay Food Alliance and Advice Networks, and I believe we can partner with- for example- foodbanks to raise funds and awareness: money is very tight for some supporters and if we have learned anything this year it is that by sticking together we can achieve great things.

Thank you for reading this.