

A Common or Garden Ordinary Member of The Trust – Peter Hales

In one of the Trusts Newsletters last year there was request for volunteers to help with the forthcoming election of Board Members, if indeed an election was going to be necessary, from anyone in the Trust who was not considering standing for one of the positions on the board themselves.

I put my name forward to help, and it was later explained that the Trust would like a member outside of the board to observe the process to confirm or otherwise the election was fair and above board as far as they could tell. This entailed being very much a part of the election process.

I was the only member to volunteer which was a surprise to me.

I then got involved in the election and still am to some extent as we are now discussing how to improve the process if we can for any future elections.

The whole episode was very much an eye opener to me as I didn't realise how much work was involved by many people both on the board and outside of it.

I also found out that my Trust Membership card was out of date and a new one was issued, so this new card enables me to get a discount in the club shop. It also became surprisingly apparent that many members do not keep the Trust up to date about their addresses if they move and advise the Trust of any new email addresses. I was as guilty as anyone by not obtaining a new card despite several requests of the need to do so.

As part of the election process I spent a day helping a happy band of East Devon Grecians sorting out the ballot papers into envelopes for posting. The day wasn't long enough and this particular task went into a second day. I was now beginning to appreciate the hard work and dedication needed to keep the Trust going. It also opened my eyes to how much work is involved in the election, unseen and probably unappreciated by the members.

I was also copied into all the relevant communications regarding the election to keep me in the loop.

Special mention must, I feel, be made of the hard work by the Trust secretary Phil Burden, and how lucky we are to have John Street who is a Trust member and also in charge of all the elections on behalf of Exeter City Council. These two stalwarts and Nick Hawker put so much effort into the process to ensure it was a success.

As far as I could ascertain the election was fair. I was an internal auditor in a previous life so I felt capable of making a judgement.

There are some areas where I, and others, feel the process can be improved and discussions are ongoing.

So I am just trying to relate to you that so much goes on behind the scenes and if you have the time and another call goes out for a volunteer to help, please consider putting your name forward. It is an eye opener, and it helps the club we all support and are very much a part of as individuals and being Trust members.