**Ben Dunlop**

**Election Address**

Qualifications or experience relevant to Board membership:

I have more than 20 years of leadership experience – running businesses of up to c.£50m turnover. The directorship I have held in these businesses has broadened my wealth of **experience in leading in complex environments and the challenges these generate.**

A huge part of this is managing and evaluating a plethora of opinions and making the right decisions for the benefit of all. Coupled with working with other stakeholders to drive the right results**, I am the right candidate to engage with, listen, and communicate the Trust’s vision and values; as well as the opinions of its people**; to work with the club so that we can enhance the experience for supporters and ensure that the Trust remains an integral component of the club.

Since, 2019, I have developed my own business as a consultant and advisor to support senior leadership teams within engineering and transport sectors.

I hold the following formal qualifications:

* An apprenticeship in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering - 1988 to 1992
* A 1st class degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from South Bank University (BEng Hons) - 1994 to 1998
* A Doctorate in Engineering Management from Bristol University (EngD) – 2011
* A Chartered Electrical Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (CEng FIET)

My consultancy is widely recognised within the rail sector and **I feel that my knowledge and expertise of running businesses in the past,** evidenced through the support provided to multi-billion pound turnover companies, will **serve the Trust well in positioning it in the best way possible within the club.** Running a consultancy requires the development of a reputation as a person that provides **open and honest communication, making major decisions to support the best interests of the organisation, and integrity to do the right thing.**

Additionally, over the last nine years, I have been a Non-Executive Director of EAL, an Awarding Organisation that specialises in the Engineering and Manufacturing sector, and also the Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee of Enginuity, a charity that promotes the Engineering sector and STEM subjects generally. Both of these appointments ended in September 2022, due to the maximum tenure of service having been reached (3 x 3-year terms).

I am also the Patron for Engineering at Burton and South Derbyshire College.

My experience so far through business is transferable to support the Trust. **I am no stranger to working as part of a Board member team to achieve the best outcomes for an organisation.**

**Additionally**, please describe in **not more than 300 words**, what you would bring to the running of the Trust and why members should vote for you.

Alongside **the vast levels of experience in business consultancy and directorship knowledge** that I have developed over the last 20 years, **I am a *passionate* Wycombe Wanderers supporter** that wants to be a part of helping the Trust to grow. This combination brings highly relevant and direct skills that the Board of the WWT will benefit from.

I understand the key objectives of the Trust, and the extremely important role it has to play in protecting the proud history of this club, while growing its community reputation.

As an engineer, I am a disciplined thinker, communicator, and ensure progress strategically to continue growth, whilst considering sustainability. As Trust members, **we have an important role in growing the Trustee membership base,** alongside **driving an increase in Trustee participation,** such as fundraising. To achieve that, we must lead by example, and I am not afraid to get stuck in.

We have a responsibility as Trust members to build on the strong foundations of the club’s positive image in the community. **I want to be part of driving that further, especially through growing the younger demographic of the Trust membership base, and supporting WWSET with their goals.**

I am generally an optimist by nature and like to look for and build on positives. My business experience taught me that a positive outlook would often carry organisations through their darkest times**. I would bring the same positive approach to my role as a trust board member**, if elected.

My wife Janet and I attend most home matches with my 16-year-old son Matthew (who plays for Widmer End Blues). My 18-year-old daughter Elizabeth has just started University in Leeds but worked for Wycombe Wanderers in the boardroom last season and comes back to work at the ground on match days as often as she can.