



Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Trust

Election Pack 2025



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1867 SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED

(also known as SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY SUPPORTERS' TRUST)

**REGISTERED UNDER THE CO-OPERATIVE
AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETIES ACT 2014**

(FCA REGISTRATION NUMBER 8399)

Notice is hereby given that the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the 1867 Supporters' Society Limited (also known as the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Trust) will be held at **Wadsley Bridge Working Men's Club on the 30th of July at 7pm**, to consider, discuss and if thought fit, pass, the following resolutions or transact the following business:

1. To receive and adopt the accounts for the 12-month period ending 31st March 2025.
2. That, in accordance with section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, the Society be authorised not to undertake a full professional audit of the accounts for the period to 31st March 2026.
3. To confirm the appointment of the Society's Independent Examiner.
4. To hold an affirmative ballot regarding elections (assuming hustings are not required).
5. To transact any other business.

The agenda and meeting pack (including a proxy voting form) for the AGM is scheduled to be issued by Friday 25th July 2025.

Notice of Elections

There will be 9 vacancies on the Board at the 2025 AGM.

There were 6 members of the Board elected at the 2024 AGM.

Ian Bennett, Phiroze Mackenzie and Neil Seepujak will continue as members of the Board. Peter Bradbury resigned earlier this year.

In accordance with Rule 7.3 of the Board Membership and Conduct Policy, David Lee and Richard Marsh are the members of the Board who will resign from office. Note that David Lee and Richard Marsh are eligible to stand for re-election.

The maximum number of Board members is 12. Given the above, there will be 9 vacancies on the Board at the 2025 AGM.

A Nomination Form is included in this Election Pack, which must be completed and returned with a Candidate Statement (and optional photograph) from the email address that the member has registered with the Trust, to **Adam Willerton**, the Independent Nominations and Returning Officer, at Swfctrustelections@gmail.com with the subject line 'TRUST ELECTION NOMINATION'. The form should be returned **by close on Tuesday 15th July 2025**. Members interested in standing will find information about the available roles in this Election Pack.

Applicants will need to be nominated by at least two fully paid-up members of the Trust. Those proposing the nominations will need to email Swfctrustelections@gmail.com from the email address that the member has registered with the Trust, with the subject 'NOMINATION' and include the name of the member they wish to nominate, **by close on Tuesday 15th July 2025**.

Note that only fully paid-up Members on or before 30th June 2025 are entitled to stand for election, vote in the Board Elections and attend the AGM. Those who were NOT Members before 30th June 2025 are **not** entitled to stand or vote but **can** attend the AGM. If you are not a Member and would like to join the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Trust, please visit our website via the link below:
<https://swfctrust.co.uk/>

Should there be 9 or fewer candidates for the vacancies, there will not be a formal ballot of members, but instead those people validly nominated will be put to the AGM for an affirmative vote.

Should you have any queries about the nomination or voting processes, then feel free to contact Adam Willerton directly as the Independent Chair of the Election Management Group. Your enquiry will be dealt with in strict confidence.

Call for Motions

In addition to any resolutions that will be put forward by the Trust Board, members can submit their own motions to the AGM. Such a motion must be submitted to the Trust Secretary by email to hello@swfctrust.co.uk by Tuesday 15th July 2025 with the subject 'AGM MOTION PROPOSAL'. Please include the name and email address of another member who seconds your proposal. The full agenda is scheduled to be published by Friday 25th July 2025.

By order of the Board

1867 Supporters' Society Limited

30th June 2025



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

ELECTION TIMELINE

By 1 st July 2025	Election Announcement
15 th July 2025	Nominations for Board close
25 th July 2025	Potential Ballot Announcement
30 th July 2025	Affirmative Ballot at AGM if required

By 1st July 2025 - Election announcement for AGM

The Trust will post the formal election calling notice on its website, <https://swfctrust.co.uk/> - this will include a copy of the Election Pack together with a Nomination Form.

15th July 2025: Nominations for Board Member roles close

Nominations submitted will be counted and if the number of Nominations exceeds the available board positions, a ballot will take place. (Should there be 9 or fewer candidates for the vacancies, there will not be a formal ballot of members, but instead those candidates validly nominated will be put to the AGM for an affirmative vote.)

25th July 2025: Ballot Announcement

The Election Management Group will announce whether a ballot is needed, and a ballot paper will be shared if this is the case. Candidate details will then be published on the Trust's website with individual statements (and photos if provided). All Members will be notified of the election and will be directed to candidate profiles.

30th July 2025: AGM

Should there have to be no ballot due to the number of nominations either being the same as, or less than, the number of vacancies, then the Board Appointments will be ratified by an official vote by those attending. Candidates' statements will be published on the Trust website. If there is a ballot, then those elected will be announced within two weeks via the Trust's website.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY SUPPORTERS' TRUST

ELECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document is drafted in accordance with the existing Rules of the 1867 Supporters' Society Limited, adopted pursuant to a resolution of the Society Board Meeting held on 5 May 2020 and the Best Practice guidance issued by the FSA. The purpose of the Election Policy is to ensure that the elections for the Society Board members are conducted in a democratic and unbiased manner and the process and results are accepted as free and fair by all participants.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 "AGM" means the annual general meeting of the Society.
- 2.2 "Election Period" means the period from the date each year on which the Secretary issues nomination forms to Members until 3 days after the announcement of the result of the election to which the nomination forms relate.
- 2.3 "Member(s)" means a member(s) of the Society.
- 2.4 "Society Board Member(s)" means an elected or Co-opted Member(s) of the Society.
- 2.5 "Election Policy" means the terms and conditions laid out in this document.
- 2.6 "EMG" means the Election Management Group.
- 2.7 "Board Membership and Conduct Policy" means a detailed set of rules and regulations of the Society set out in a separate policy statement.
- 2.8 "Co-opted Member(s)" means a person(s) who has/have been elected to the Society Board by Society Board Members but not elected by the Members.
- 2.9 "Indictable Offence" means a criminal offence (other than a spent conviction as defined by the rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) for dishonesty, fraud or dealing in drugs.
- 2.10 "Rules" means the rules and regulations of the Society laid out in the separate Rules document
- 2.11 "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Society.
- 2.12 "Society" means 1867 Supporters' Society Limited (also known as Sheffield Wednesday Supporters Trust).
- 2.13 "Society Board means the elected Board of the Society including any co-opted Society Board Members.

3. Election control

- 3.1. In advance of the commencement of the election, the Society Board will appoint members of the Society (who with the exception of the Secretary may not include serving Society board members) to form the EMG. This group shall be chaired by an independent person who is not a member of the Society. The Secretary may be a member of this group. In the event that it is not possible to agree the identity of the independent chair, the FSA will select the independent chair.
- 3.2. No members of the Society Board whose positions are due to be offered for election shall play any part in determining the composition of the EMG or any aspect regarding the conduct of the elections.
- 3.3. Members of the EMG shall not be eligible to nominate candidates nor be a candidate themselves and shall ensure that they are not associated closely with any candidates and have proper regard to maintaining the integrity of the election process.
- 3.4. During the Election Period the EMG will ensure that the election is run in accordance with this policy.
- 3.5. The EMG shall make the final decision as the eligibility of candidates, nominations and valid votes. They shall conduct the count and the result, as determined by them is final. Any decisions taken will be by majority vote and recorded. The Chair of the EMG shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

4. Timetable

- 4.1. The AGM will take place within the period laid down in the Society's Rules, and the exact date shall be decided by the Society Board by the end of the preceding financial year.
- 4.2. The Board shall agree the number of vacancies to be elected; if the numbers to be elected differs from the numbers elected in previous years or changes the number of places to be elected in total on the Society Board, then the reasons why the change has been made shall be communicated to members in the form soliciting nominations.
- 4.3. The Secretary will circulate a nomination form with advance notice of the AGM at least four weeks before the AGM*.
- 4.4. The Society Board shall ensure that the membership of the EMG has been agreed by the Society Board before the Secretary circulates nominations forms.
- 4.5. During the Election Period, the EMG shall manage the process, with the assistance of the Secretary as required.

5. Nominations and eligibility

- 5.1. Any person wishing to be a candidate for election to the Society Board must be a fully paid-up member of the Society and be nominated by at least two fully paid-up members of the Society.

- 5.2. The EMG will verify that nominations are from members of the Society. Society members can nominate as many candidates as they wish.
- 5.3. A signed letter of nomination from a member, or email from the address a member has given the Secretary for receiving Society communications, are acceptable substitutes for a signature on the candidate's nomination form.
- 5.4. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that their nomination is valid and submitted in accordance with the election timetable. In order to ensure that candidates can confirm the validity of their nominees, the EMG and Secretary should arrange for candidates to be able to check in advance whether those nominating them are fully paid-up members.
- 5.5. Decisions over the validity of nominations shall be a matter for the EMG having due regard for the Secretary's assessment of the membership status of an individual nominating a candidate. Any decision by the EMG not to accept a nomination as valid should be notified to the candidate as soon as possible in order that the situation may be rectified or an appeal heard.
- 5.6. Candidates must also submit a statement in support of their nomination and may also submit a photograph for publication with their statement (see section 6 below for more details).
- 5.7. The names of those nominating candidates shall be appended to each candidate's statement.
- 5.8. By submitting a nomination, Candidates will be deemed to have accepted this Election Policy, the Society's Rules, and any other policies and rules adopted by the Society Board and the membership and agreed to be bound by them.
- 5.9. Specifically, candidates are also self-certifying that they comply with the Society Rules and Board Membership and Conduct Policy relating to eligibility to serve on the Board. In particular, no person can be a member of the Society Board:
- (with the exception of Co-opted Members co-opted onto the Society Board under Rule [67] of the Rules) who ceases to be a Member of the Society;
 - who has been a member of the Board for 12 consecutive years;
 - who is subject to a bankruptcy order or has in place a composition with his/her creditors;
 - who is subject to a disqualification order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;
 - fails to abide by any rules for the conduct of elections made by the Society Board.
 - who has a conviction for an indictable offence (other than a spent conviction as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974);
 - in relation to whom a registered medical practitioner who is treating them gives a written opinion to the Society stating that they have become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a Director and may remain so for more than three months;
 - in relation to whom by reason of their mental health, a court makes an order which wholly or partly prevents them from personally exercising any powers or rights which that person would otherwise have.
- 5.10. All candidates shall leave full contact details with the EMG including email address.

6. Statements and Campaigning

- 6.1. Campaigning under the auspices of the Society will be restricted to the statements submitted by the candidates and to any hustings organised by the Society.
- 6.2. All candidates' statements are to be sent by email to the relevant members of the EMG. These will be gathered together and issued with the ballot papers and include the photograph (if submitted) of the candidate and names of the members who have nominated them.
- 6.3. Candidate statements should be no longer than 1,000 words. If a candidate's statement has more than 1,000 words, it will be truncated, and text will be inserted below stating "The candidate's statement has exceeded the permitted amount and has therefore been truncated". The number of words counted shall be decided using Microsoft Word.
- 6.4. Candidates shall not in their statements make threats, insults or derogatory, abusive, racist, sexist or homophobic statements. The EMG will reserve the right to edit any statement to ensure that it does not breach these rules.
- 6.5. In agreeing to be nominated and so accepting this Policy, candidates shall agree to indemnify the Society for the cost of meeting any liability of the Society that may arise as a result of the contents of their statement.
- 6.6. During the election neither the EMG nor the Society Board may provide advice to voting members as to the suitability of any candidate nor issue any voting advice to members collectively. Individual Society board members who indicate a preference in public must make it clear that they do not speak on behalf of the Society board and express a purely personal opinion.

7. Appeals

- 7.1. Candidates or complainants shall raise matters with the EMG whose decision is final.
- 7.2. Complaints after voting has closed shall be made to the EMG not later than three working days after the close of poll. Any complaint received after this date shall be ruled out of order.
- 7.3. If any candidate should contravene the Election Policy, the EMG shall judge whether a disqualification should apply and their decision is final.
- 7.4. Any appeal against the decision of the EMG shall be made through and governed by the disputes procedure as set out in the Society Rules.

8. Result

- 8.1. If there are more candidates than places available on the Society Board
 - 8.1.1 If Hustings are held before the AGM, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - 8.1.1.1 The EMG will issue postal ballot papers and copies of candidates' statements with the notice sent convening the AGM.
 - 8.1.1.2 Votes may be submitted by the post up to the day of the AGM and also deposited at the start of the AGM. The Count shall be made during the AGM, and the result announced before the close of the AGM.

8.1.2 If Hustings are held at the AGM:

8.1.2.1 The EMG shall arrange for candidates to address the AGM and field questions from the floor. The EMG will then issue postal ballot papers and copies of candidates' statements. Votes shall then either be deposited at the meeting or posted to the Secretary to be received no later than 2 days after the AGM. Alternatively, the EMG may make arrangements for voting to take place via e-mail or other electronic means.

8.1.2.2 The election result shall be announced within 4 weeks of the date of the AGM starting.

- 8.2 The highest placed candidates (*) in terms of total votes as equal to number of places available for election declared by the Board shall be deemed elected.
- 8.3 If there are as many, or fewer, candidates than there are places on the Board, an affirmative ballot shall be held at the AGM. Each successfully nominated candidate will be put before the meeting for the approval of members. Any candidate not receiving the support of more than half of those present in person and/or via proxy, shall be deemed to have not been elected. The exception to this shall be where a failure to elect any of the validly nominated candidates will leave the Board below the minimum required under the Rules for them to act, in these circumstances all validly nominated candidates shall be deemed elected by the EMG, and this shall be declared at the AGM.
- 8.4 The result shall be communicated to members on the Society's website and in the Society's newsletter (if they have one) and at the AGM or next members' meeting (if it is possible to complete the count at the AGM in question).
- 8.5 Successful candidates shall become full members of the Society Board upon receipt of their signed acceptance of the Board Membership and Conduct Policy.
- 8.6 The Society Secretary will issue the Board Membership and Conduct Policy to the successful candidates upon the result of the election and should any successful candidate not return the Board Membership and Conduct Policy duly signed in whichever way the Secretary asks for it to be returned within one calendar month, without an acceptable reason for the lateness in returning the document, the election of that candidate will be declared null and void and a vacant position will be created. For the avoidance of doubt, the onus for returning the signed Board Membership and Conduct Policy shall be on the successful candidate not the Society Secretary.

Approved by the 1867 Supporters' Society Limited 5th May 2020

+Amended by the Board of 1867 Supporters' Society Limited on the 23rd July 2025

() In the event that two or more candidates receive the same number of votes for the last available place (or places) for election to the Board then, assuming no candidate wishes to withdraw, lots will be drawn and the successful candidate(s) from the drawing of lots will be deemed elected.*



PROPOSED POSITIONS

The Chair, and the Vice Chair of the Board will be voted into office by the newly elected and existing Board Members at the first meeting of the Board following the election process.

The Secretary and Treasurer roles will be appointed by the Board depending on the relevant experience.

The exact structure of the Board and the positions within will also be determined after the elections take place. To give potential candidates some idea of the type of skills that are required however, we include nominal roles that would be typical of the work the Trust is undertaking in 2025.

Note that all roles are flexible and the tendency is for all Board members to support and help each other as required depending on the issues of the day.

Specialist Roles: Nominees should indicate that they are interested in these roles on their nomination form.

Treasurer: The Treasurer will ensure the Trust effectively manages cash and budgets appropriately. This is likely to be someone with a strong financial background.

Secretary: The role is primarily concerned with monitoring the trust's affairs to ensure they align with the rules, relevant legislation, and best practices. They will typically be organising and scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, and distributing minutes to keep everyone informed.

It is the secretaries role to keep accurate records of all trust activities, including membership details, financial transactions (in coordination with the Treasurer), and important documents.

The role would best suit someone with an administrative, governance, regulatory or legal background.

Board Member Roles

Operations Director: Responsibility for generating funds for Trust and Charities. Supports the Secretary in ensuring that all Trust operations are compliant with laws on GDPR, diversity etc. Communicates with club on day-to-day issues (e.g., attends SAG meetings).

Campaign Director: Devise and implement effective campaigns to achieve the Trust's core objectives.

Communications Director: Responsible for the generation of effective communications to all Trust stakeholders (e.g., members and fans across media/social media) to achieve the Trust's core objectives.

Contingency Director: Prepare for worst-case scenarios that might befall SWFC and prepare plans (e.g., Pheonix club, fan-financed takeover) for such eventualities.

Research & Investigations Director: develop understanding of club finances and corporate structure with a view to informing members and SWFC fanbase of their findings.

Members Director: Responsible for regular engagement with trust membership to ensure the board has a strong understanding of their views and opinions, and that the members will have awareness of the actions and strategy of the Trust board. Responsible for members' newsletters, organisation of events. Works with the Treasurer and Operations Director regarding charitable fundraising, and ensures the Trust is involved with initiatives related to diversity such as Kick it Out campaigns.

IT & Website Director: Ensure mailing lists are up to date and the website provides quality user experience.

Regulation and Governance Director: To guide the Trust as the forthcoming football regulator is integrated into the football framework.

Roles to be voted by elected Board members at the First Board meeting following election.

Chair: Oversees the Trust, Chairs effective and professional meetings of the Trust board, manages senior relationship such as those with EFL, civil servants, politicians, potential investors, high value fans.

Vice Chair: Substitute for Chair when they are not available, manages relationship with FSA, other Supporters Trusts, and other SWFC fans groups including engagement panel. Help the Chair oversee Trust activities.

Note that all successful candidates will initially become Ordinary Board Members and the allocation of roles will be discussed and democratically agreed by the newly elected Board, taking into account personal preferences and skills. Some roles may be combined, and other roles may be considered.



NOMINATION FORM

Election to the Board of the 1867 Supporters' Society Limited

I nominate myself as a candidate for election to the Board of the 1867 Supporters' Society Limited, also known as the Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Trust (the Trust).

My details are contained in the table below:

First Name	
Surname	
Postal Address	
Mobile number	
Alternative telephone number	
Email address	

I confirm that:

- I have read, understood and agree with the Election Policy.
- I am eligible to stand for the Board.
- I agree to agree by the Rules of the Trust and uphold its values and principles.
- I agree to sign and be bound by the Board Membership & Conduct Policy in the event of my election.

My Candidate Statement (together with an optional photograph of myself), and details of the two members who are proposing my nomination, accompany this Nomination Form.

Signed

Date: / /

(NB: this can be a typed or an electronic signature. Also, please ensure that your Nomination Form, Candidate Statement and optional photograph are sent to Swhfctrustelections@gmail.com from the email address you have registered with the Trust. This will form part of the validation process regarding your nomination.)

5) Names and contact details of two Proposers

(NB: both Proposers must be paid up Trust members and the email addresses provided must be the ones that are held by the Trust's Member database).

Proposer 1 details

Name	
Email address	
Mobile number	
Alternative telephone number	

Proposer 2 details

Name	
Email address	
Mobile number	
Alternative telephone number	

Please send the completed Nomination Form, together with an optional photograph of the nominee and Candidate Statement to the Election Management Group at Swfctrustelections@gmail.com with the subject line 'TRUST ELECTION NOMINATION' by 15th July 2025.

Please ask your two Proposers to send an email to Swfctrustelections@gmail.com with the subject 'Nomination' and include your name as the member they wish to nominate by 15th July 2025.

Should you have any questions about this form, or any related issues, please contact the Independent Chair of the Election Management Group, Adam Willerton, at Swfctrustelections@gmail.com

GUIDANCE NOTES

- Candidates must complete the Nomination Form and their Statement and return it to the Election Management Group, together with an optional photograph and Candidate Statement, by the deadline date of Tuesday 15th July 2025.
- Candidates can only be proposed and seconded by individuals who are current members of the Trust as of 30th of June 2025.
- A fraudulent nomination will result in exclusion from the election or expulsion from the Board (if discovered after the election).
- Details of proposers will be published with the candidates' statements. The Trust reserves the right to undertake enquiries to establish the validity of nominations.
- In order to be nominated, the Election Management Group must have received all of the following information by the deadline date:
 - Nomination Form signed by the candidate.
 - Nomination emails received from the two proposers.
 - Supporting statement of no more than 1,000 words.
 - Photograph of the candidate (optional).
- Candidates are encouraged to speak with their two proposers before submitting a completed Nomination Form.
- Proposers can propose as many candidates as they wish.
- Candidates cannot propose themselves. However, they may propose another candidate.