Candidate Statement – Tom Charlton

Proposer: Ben Hustwayte Seconder: John Cadigan

I am standing for election to the TUST Board because I believe the Trust has a vital role in the long-term security of Torquay United and in ensuring supporters have a strong, informed and independent voice.

For me, TUST's role as a "critical friend" to the club is essential. That means supporting the club's ambitions while retaining the independence to ask questions, seek clear explanations and challenge constructively when needed. I believe the Trust can contribute to the club's success while providing scrutiny and representing supporters' interests.

The importance of the Trust was demonstrated during the demise of the Osborne era. That experience underlined the value of having an organised supporters' body able to act when it matters most. Alongside its contribution today, TUST must maintain the strength, resources and readiness to respond should the club ever face similar circumstances again.

I am a lifelong fan and attended my first game in 1999. Having grown up in the Bay, I understand the club's importance to the local community. I have since moved away and now work in London, but remain a regular away supporter. I would welcome the opportunity to turn that longstanding commitment into a practical contribution through the Trust.

I have spent my career to date working in audit, assurance and compliance, and currently run the assurance function at an insurance firm. These roles have taught me to assess complex information, ask informed questions and reach balanced, evidence-based judgements. They have also given me a strong understanding of governance, risk management and accountability, alongside experience of providing constructive challenge.

I would bring those skills to TUST to support sound decision-making, effective oversight of its own affairs and informed consideration of matters affecting the club and its supporters. My approach would be practical and proportionate: understanding the detail, recognising what is working well and identifying where improvements would help.

If elected, I would listen to members, support clear communication and seek to represent supporters both in Torquay and further afield. Above all, I would work to help TUST contribute to the club's progress while remaining an independent voice for supporters and a lasting safeguard for its future.