

Battle of the Blues boardroom

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ALAN Parry's position in the boardroom is under threat. The man who brought Martin O'Neill to the club faces a battle to hold onto his seat at Monday night's AGM.

He is the first director in Blues' League history to be challenged and the well-known Sky Sports commentator is facing opposition from two supporters, who have become disillusioned with the way the club is being run.

Both admit it is ironic they are standing against Parry – a director they both respect – but both say they are confronting him because it is their only chance to get onto the board and have a say in the club they love.

Parry himself believes it would be ironic for him to leave at such a pivotal time in the club's history.

With his extensive contacts book he has been a key figure in the club's history whenever they have been hunting a new manager and he was responsible for bringing O'Neill to the club.

Parry and his two rival candidates will have two minutes to get their points across. There will be no opportunity for them to take questions from the floor.

Voting will be done by ballot papers and three tellers, secretary Keith Allen and a supporter each from the official and independent supporters clubs will then retire to count the votes.

In the event of a tie, chairman Ivor Beeks will hold the casting vote. The votes will then be kept for a month.

The winner's duties will begin immediately, with the first board meeting on October 30.



Under threat: Alan Parry, the man who brought Martin O'Neill to Wanderers, now finds his position in the boardroom threatened by the club's fans

Candidate: Alan Parry

Alan Parry
Sky Sports commentator

Election pledge: I will speak from the heart and remind people what I have done and what I will continue to do. I still feel I can make a contribution to this football club and I want to carry on helping them out and it is easier to do that from the boardroom.

I understand where the fans are coming from. I'm not a businessman. I don't have expertise in that field but I bring something different to the table through my job in professional football. I'm privileged to know what goes on behind the scenes and I know a lot of people in the industry. Over the years my contacts have been extremely helpful in bringing managers and players to this club.

I will continue to be honest and to speak my mind.

Changing the stadium's name: I voted against it. I am uncomfortable with the idea but I understand the reasons behind it because finance is a major issue at this football club. But as a football man I don't like it. I think the team's ground, the team's name and their colours should be sacrosanct.

Wasps groundshare: I was very apprehensive when the idea was first put forward. I thought it may affect the pitch and the attitude of our fans having to share the ground.

But when the details emerged I was very happy with it. Laying the Desso pitch has alleviated my fears over the

playing surface. I now think Wasps' arrival has been a very positive thing and I would be very sorry to lose them if they were to leave now.

Economically the groundshare makes sense and there are no obvious detrimental signs of a groundshare. Wasps put their signs up for their matches but they're gone by the time the football club returns.

Changing the constitution: It is a very sensitive issue but having been on the board for 15 years I think we cannot make proper progress the way we are set up. I believe we need an injection of cash and I don't believe this will be forthcoming unless we give people a say on how their money is spent.

Our constitution worked well in a different era. Either everyone has to accept we carry on pretty much as we are and hope young players come through or we discover a few gems or we sell a player

or if that doesn't happen the only way we can improve is with a substantial injection of cash. I know people have indicated that they would come on board if the constitution was different.

That doesn't mean selling out the club. There's no reason people should be fearful. It's not a Chelsea scenario where we would hand over the keys to someone else.

There are safeguards in place. Sainsburys can't come and build a supermarket on this site because it's protected for sports use. There are provisions in place that will ensure a football club remains in place here.

Sacking Lawrie Sanchez: I felt the time was right and voted in favour. I was a great admirer of what he did when he first came and to a great extent he had his hands tied. But you sense the moment when the time is right and that time had arrived.

Candidate: Alun Crockford

Alun Crockford 42
Advertising photographer

Election pledge: I am standing as a Save The Constitution candidate. I'm not trying to become a director for my ego but because if I don't do, or someone else doesn't do it, they will walk all over us.

The relation between the board and the fans is at an all time low.

Changing the stadium's name: It was appalling, a complete aberration. The amount of damage it has done through bad PR is a lot more than the money we have got in.

It was a mistake and the board should have declared exactly how much the deal was worth.

Wasps groundshare: Wasps have been very good for the town but I am not sure they have been good for Wycombe Wanderers. The jury is still out.

I believe we have lost several hundred supporters to the rugby. If Wasps sign for the long term it will probably be a good thing but if they leave after

this year then it will have been a disaster.

We spent £250,000 on undersoil heating which wasn't necessary and the club should have marketed themselves more at the time when Wasps came in.

Changing the constitution: If I was voted on, my mandate would be to protect the constitution. We are a membership club and that should be seen as a major asset not a disadvantage.

The club blame the constitution for everything that has gone wrong but if the club was run better, there would not be any need to change the constitution.

The reason we have lost money is because it has been mis-managed.

It is not the fault of the constitution.

Sacking Lawrie Sanchez: The board were right to sack him but he should have gone after the Cheltenham game last Christmas. Devine's transfer was the icing on the cake but we were playing awful football as well.

Not getting rid of him earlier has cost us hundreds of season tickets.

Candidate: Nigel Rowland

Nigel Rowland, 42
Civil Servant
Wanderers season ticket holder living in Wales
Married with two daughters

Election pledge: My mandate is reconciliation. We need to get the club on an even keel and drive it forward. Unless we are seen to be a united club sponsors will be put off.

I believe there are serious differences of opinion between the supporters, the membership and the board and until we get that sorted we cannot drive forward.

Unless we get that unity together we might as well pack our bags and go home.

I remember silly things like when Martin O'Neill was the manager. I went to pick up my tickets and he noticed my address and came and spoke to me for 45 minutes.

A year later he called out my name in the car park and spoke to me for another 20 minutes before one of our most important games of the season.

That sort of togetherness has gone now.

Changing the stadium's name: I see it as a loss of identity. Wasps in our ground Adams Park was fine but when we sold the name of our ground we sold our identity and went against the ethos of how our club was formed.

In my eyes it will always be Adams Park.

Wasps groundshare: I'm wholly behind the alliance. It's been very important commercially and drawn new people into the stadium and opened more commercial opportunities.

Changing the constitution: "I think our constitution is sacrosanct. The only reason I can stand is because of our constitution. If I was elected, as long as I was there, I would be an ally of the constitution."

Sacking Lawrie Sanchez: "It was a very bold decision but I think it was the right one."