

Ben Hall

My name is Ben Hall and I am a 58 years old local resident having moved to the Lewes area in 2020.

I have played football, coached football, refereed football, organised football and watched football for most of those 58 years and I will bring to the role a passionate belief in the ability of sport, of football and of a community owned football club in particular, to bring people together. Football is a totally unique form of 'social glue' and a club like Lewes needs to be supported and nurtured because it is built upon principles and an ethos that is rare.

I have spent most of my career working in the TV industry and have run production companies, multi-million-pound productions as well as managing the Masterchef brand globally. I have also co-created more than 25 shows that have made it on air. Some good, some bad ...and some truly terrible!

I have built a reputation as a vocal diversity 'champion' within the TV industry and have twice set up industry leading, training schemes to help young people from more diverse backgrounds find a way into what can appear to be an impenetrable, impossible industry.

I have raised investment for, launched and been MD of successful business in the TV industry and am as comfortable talking to investors about the P&L as I am with a ball at my feet. OK ...so the Lewes Vets I regularly play with would probably say that this is not much to shout about ...but hey ...you get the idea. I can dream, and in my head...I am still a dynamic, box to box, midfielder!

While I am both capable and confident of dealing with the financial side of running a business, I am also, obviously, comfortable working within the media world and so would intend to support the board and management team in ensuring that the Lewes FC story is told as widely and effectively as possible. I am also keen to help support the Fan Engagement Team and believe that after half a lifetime working in the entertainment industry, I must have some ideas that might help.

The club is at an interesting point in its evolution with the huge growth of interest in the women's game. I voted in favour of the proposed investment from Mercury 13 even though it posed a unique challenge to the much vaunted 'Equality FC' model. The club has to decide how to respond to the challenge as women's sport finally moves a little closer to parity with men's. There are exciting opportunities to be embraced and explored and the club may need to move to more of an 'Equity FC' model.

It is also essential that with or without new investment, the club remains true to its community roots and continues to grow its involvement with and support for the Vets and Junior branches of the club. Lewes has to fully embrace what is involved with being a community club as well as continuing to talk eloquently about being one.

I love this town, I love this community, I love this football club and everything it stands for and I look forward to joining the board to help the club move positively into the next chapter of its story. Thank you.