

# BOARD CANDIDATE

## JOHN JACKSON

My name is John Jackson and I am a long-standing member of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, with extensive experience and involvement in grassroots cricket in the Airedale and Wharfedale League, which has run alongside my working life as a family law Barrister on the North Eastern Circuit.

I have been involved within cricket for many years, having both played and held various posts in local cricket, including as Deputy Chair and Junior Chair of North Leeds Cricket Club, Child Welfare Officer of the Airedale and Wharfedale Junior Cricket League and a North Leeds Cricket Club Committee member for more than 20 years. I have also been recently appointed Trustee for the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation

Whilst on the Committee of North Leeds Cricket Club, I aimed to provide an inclusive environment at the Club for children and adults in the local community to ensure that the Club would not only play cricket to a high standard but enable all members, irrespective of gender, financial or cultural background, to enjoy the facilities that it could offer. This ensured the Club itself would become financially viable in the medium to long term and demonstrates the benefits that a diverse membership and supporter base can deliver both for communities and commercially.

Following the disclosure of institutional racism at Yorkshire during the winter of 2021, I expected more to be done to engage with and represent the views of the Club's members – something I didn't think was happening. This meant members felt at points voiceless in something that threatened the very core of their organisation – and inspired me to get involved to ensure members' voices are heard.

I am a new face for many members despite having Club membership on various occasions since 1976. Some may have seen me sitting alone at County Championship matches working and reading papers to do with my work – something I want to change as I become more visible within the Club. I am committed to improving communication and representation for you all and as such would welcome anyone to speak to me through whichever channels they feel most comfortable.

For many years I have practised as a Barrister, specialising in family law and am Deputy Head of an award-winning Barristers Chambers headquartered in Leeds. I am also Chair of the management company Plowden Facilities Ltd which runs the Barristers chambers. I have a reputation for being a brave advocate specialising in representing women in domestic abuse cases, as well as vulnerable clients in care cases. As a director of the Facilities Company, I have led the Board in making difficult decisions to support the business and Chambers brand.

My commitment to you, the members:

- I will bring professional skills to the role through my experience as a Barrister, and my experience of speaking up for others whether I agree with their position or not
- This role needs someone who can support the newly appointed NEDs but also hold them to account – something I have committed my professional life to and which I will continue to do in this role
- Our membership is diverse and this benefits us all – I am committed to representing members from all backgrounds and regardless of gender, ethnicity, geographical area (indeed not all members live in Leeds) and more

- To ensure better communication and visibility for members, I intend to work with the wider team to set up new communications and digital channels to demonstrate the work we are doing
- I intend to make myself available for members for regular questions either directly or indirectly (via email)

We are a club fraught with divisions in recent months. I acknowledge many members may feel resistant to change and many of you have a knowledge of the club that should not be lost and can be shared for a new generation of Directors and board members for the benefit of the Club and the County. It is important that there is an attempt to bring everyone together, but this must not be at the expense of fairness, courtesy and respect to all in our cricket community.

The Club under Lord Patel and its new board has created a real opportunity for Yorkshire to be standard bearers in a new era for English cricket, matching the ground-breaking standards set by its leading players. The membership has to come together and I look forward to playing my part in achieving this for all the members.

John Jackson

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## RICHARD LEVIN

My late father took to my first Yorkshire match in July 1977 - we beat Lancashire by 6 wickets, and I loved it!

From then onwards YCCC became a hugely important part of my life and I have been a member in my own right since I was twelve.

Over the last 45 years and a huge number of games I've come to know hundreds of members, and I'm certain that almost all of us really do have the very best interests of the club at heart and are therefore appalled at the situation we now find ourselves in.

The Members' Committee has given me the chance to officially represent you for more than 15 years. Whilst I'm proud of the contribution I've made to our on-line and social media presence, my greatest pleasure has been the opportunity to shape the future based on the feedback our members are never shy of giving!

Despite a very busy working and family life, I still attend the vast majority of games, sit with my constituents and share their thrills as well as hearing their frustrations.

One thing I'm very certain of is whilst of course Limited Overs cricket has its purpose, we as club must be seen to be leading opposition to the ECB's reckless abandonment of the First Class Game. A 14 match County Championship with games spread throughout the summer is the bare minimum we must accept.

Times and expectations are changing and although that means the days of attracting 13,000 Full Members are unlikely to return, it also means there are many opportunities for the club to thrive. New membership packages could be marketed in ways we've never considered before and to audiences we've never targeted.

I've spent over 25 years in the corporate world, including Board Level positions in several consumer-based businesses and am now the CEO and co-founder of an online business, Loop Cashmere.

The road's often been rocky, but experience has taught me that setbacks can be used to learn, change, and create something extraordinary which is even better than the previous incarnation.

I'm thrilled the club are now convinced they need formal member representation on our Board.

I hope you'll be convinced that my deep love for the club and understanding of cricket, my knowledge and devotion to our members, the fact that I play a key role in my community and my relevant business skills means I will bring a unique perspective and capability to the Board, that will help us all reach a better place.

Thank you

Richard Levin