

CGRC Board Candidates, June 2016

At the AGM, you will be asked to vote for three of the six candidates. Each candidate was asked to provide a short intro, which are listed below (in alphabetical order).

Nigel Board – Sigma No. 41



I have been racing for 5 years, 3 of which have been with the Graduates. I love the club; the camaraderie, co-operation and friendliness of our paddock sets our club apart. We should all be proud of our club.

I believe that our positive paddock is due in part to good driving standards. Good natured banter and friendliness of the club will evaporate if people go home regularly with sore ribs and big bills. I see some early signs that during the 2016 season we may be letting standards slip. Our new members are often spectators first. Too many cars on tow trucks will put them off. If elected I will ensure that the club increases its focus on ensuring the highest levels of driving standards.

New drivers are the life blood of our club. For the club to prosper and ensure future full grids we must ensure that we appeal to drivers and novices outside of our series.

If elected I will ensure the club does what it can to be attractive to new drivers. For example joining our club as a novice must be more daunting than joining “the other series”. I think a simple buddy system for new drivers would give them the confidence that they are not going to be lost or look like an idiot at their early meetings, and I’m sure some of you would love to be an old sage.

My background is in major programme and commercial management in a technical and engineering setting. In other words, I am sufficiently business savvy to be able to tell the difference between a good business idea and a poor idea.

Michael Downing – Sigma No. 46



I joined the Club in 2014, after competing in the Academy and Roadsport championships. If you want to know how large a part of my life Caterham racing has become, just ask my wife (although you may need to remind her who I am). I think the club has a fantastic atmosphere and is very supportive; I was grateful for this after my experimental foray into Caterham aerobatics at Thruxton. It is important that the club retains this.

I think I could be a useful addition to the Board. I have 20 years’ experience of helping manage professional practices, and combined my first race season with setting up a brand new sole practice from scratch. That practice has become successful enough to pay for my racing and repair bills, so I must be getting something right.

I think the Club is very well run, and my main aim in standing is to try and help that to continue. There is one area, however, where I would like to raise a small flag, and that is to give drivers more warning of regs changes and a more formal opportunity to comment on them. This is partly because it would be beneficial to hear the views of the existing members (even if they are not followed) and partly to give drivers more time to plan winter work, upgrades, etc. So I would like to discuss with the Executive and the Technical Director the feasibility of giving some notice before the end of the previous season.

Tristan Judge – SigMax No. 156



I have been with the Graduates for three years now having started in the Caterham Academy in 2012. The last five years have been great fun (virtually) from start to finish with the mix of fantastic fun and laughter with a bit of motor racing and I continue to recommend it as a solution to a mid-life crisis! I have now been on the Graduates Board for two years and have enjoyed contributing to the general running of the Club. It is definitely important that it is run by the members for the members and can only succeed with the hard work, organisation and good thinking that comes from an active committee.

Over these last couple of years my achievements have included proposing, arranging and organising the Club's feature at Autosport International this year in order to encourage the necessary flow of new members into the Club.

Having experienced Caterham racing both with the factory and in Graduates, I recognise that there is plenty of room for both series to flourish with their different focuses and I hope that I have used that appreciation in my board contributions so far. In my quiet, private life away from the racetrack (the public exposure after becoming Sigma Champion in 2014 was almost too much) I run my own company. I hope that the project management skills that make that sufficiently successful to fund my racing can continue to be used to effect on the Club's Board.

Andrew Outterside – Sigma No. 43



I joined the club in 2001, immediately after my Academy year. Since then I have raced with the club for 10 seasons, mostly in Classics, but more recently, from 2014, in the Sigma Class.

For me the club embodies the spirit of the Academy – close, competitive and fair racing in a friendly and sociable environment. I strongly believe our club structure (run by members for members) gives us the best opportunity to achieve a successful formula for the future.

I have always enjoyed making a contribution to the club and previously held an executive position as Treasurer for a number of years. In 2013 I was elected to the board as a Trustee Director.

During my time on the board I have acted as a conduit for club members and made a contribution to the commercial aspects of the club based on my business experience. In particular, earlier this year Peter Marsh and I led the board in a business planning exercise to start the development of a rolling 3 year plan for the club.

In addition to my role as a Trustee Director I have been involved with the Awards Evening, being responsible for organising and briefing our speakers and compares, and manned our stand at this year's Autosport show.

I have a strong interest in maintaining and developing driving standards and have served on the Driving Standards Team for a number of years. Earlier this year I took over leadership of the team from Charles Elliott.

Should I be re-elected I will continue to do my best to act as an effective link between the membership and the board by representing members' interests and bring my business skills to bear for the benefit of the club.

Graeme Smith – Classic No. 99



I've been racing the same car with Grads since 1999, and have alternated between being Chairman and Secretary for most of that time, until stepping back a couple of season ago. I wish to stay involved on the Board so that we have visibility of what we've learnt since the Club's inception ("don't do that – it was a disaster when we tried it back in 2003" type thing).

I've negotiated getting our overseas races, making & building our contacts at Spa & Zandvoort - for next season, I'm looking at some different continental circuits.

I've also worked over the years on how best to serve all of our classes with split grids, to the extent that delayed starts are now legal in the Blue Book! I took a year out last season to race Clubmans sports prototypes, and have learnt from racing with another club where we might improve, but also what we are doing so right!

Peter Tattersall – Classic No. 81



I have a lot to say, so I will just summarise my thoughts in this note. The full details of my concerns and recommendations take four A4 pages and have been placed on my web site:

<http://tcdluk.com/Caterham/caterham-graduates-2016-elections/>

The page is not available via any other link and is only published on here.

Here is a summary of the areas in which I believe the club can improve:

- Allow the membership to attend main committee meetings as non-participating observers.
- Publish full minutes of all General Committee meetings, minus any sensitive material.
- Ensure that all of the work carried out by committee members is recognised.
- Club rules need to be published as early as practical and never after the start of the season.
- Club officials should always – common sense aside, such as race commitments – have time for communicating with members, and should never allow prejudice to intervene.
- Assign a Campaign and Publicity Secretary to push awareness of the club and gain sponsorship.
- Sponsorship needs to be sought more aggressively.
- Streamline the DST and investigate members being elected by the general membership.
- Introduce a club newsletter.
- Have at least one member represent each of the Graduate classes