

Candidate statements



NIGEL WILD

**Proposed by Guido Giudice,
seconded by Philip Greaves**

This candidacy is not about me. It is about our Club and its members – you! It is about what the Club and its members need, and how I believe that in standing for Chairman I would be able to do more to achieve this. What does the Club need, and how do I match up?

Continuity – Brian Drummond has done a superb job over many years in guiding the Club's progress with a light touch, and is only retiring because his health no longer allows him to play an active role. Much has been achieved during his tenure, and this unparalleled legacy demands continuity, born of experience most readily gained by serving on the board. Having done so for many years, I understand how the Club works – working with volunteers in an organisation where profit is not (and should never be) the primary objective is poles apart from a conventional commercial environment.

Commitment – our Club has always benefitted from having good volunteers to run it, although the directors are not there to 'do' everything for members, but rather to provide the essential framework enabling you to enjoy yourselves. Every director is a volunteer, and I believe that we enjoy working with each other; we do this for pleasure – why else? – and decisions are almost entirely by consensus.

Innovation – for the future, I am determined to build on what we have achieved as a Club over more than half a century. We need evolution rather than revolution; whilst there is a constant need for progress to meet new challenges, we must avoid change purely for its own sake. As chairman, I would aim to provide decisive leadership of an active board, never attempting to dictate, but rather guiding with the benefit of experience. All the directors already contribute in different ways, bringing a wide range of both skills and experience to the board.

Experience and achievement – over the years, I have gained a great deal from the Club – friendships, knowledge and

much more – and I have always looked to put something back in return. My record shows this, encompassing active involvement in Sections, contributions to the magazine, guiding the delivery of events ranging from local and national rallies to ICCCR2012 and the Centenary celebrations, as well as at the Classic Motor Show and Restoration Show.

Dedication – I have been dedicated to the Club and the Citroën marque since 1972, so it would be a little late to change now! I am sometimes asked what is the best Citroën, and my answer is as it always has been: the one on your own drive. One of the club's strengths is its diversity of ownership, and we must expand our welcome – via social and other media – to encompass everyone interested in Citroëns.

I ask you to put your trust in me and give me your support – I remain committed to supporting our Club in every possible way.

DAVID KEETON

**Proposed by Jim Gibson,
seconded by Philip Chidlow**

I became a Member of the Club in May 2005 when I fulfilled a childhood dream and bought a DS20 Pallas and, later that year, went to the DS 50th Jubilee, Paris.

My first Citroën was a yellow and grey 2CV Dolly bought new in August 1985. I have owned thirteen Citroëns in total the other being 4 Xantias, 3 XMs, 2 C6s, a CX and a BX.

In 2006 I became Secretary of the Northern Section until 2016 and for a brief period I was the AtoZ correspondent in the Citroënian. I have volunteered at the Northern Rally, the National and Chevrans Rallies and currently co-ordinate the monthly Citroën Get Together at The Motorist in Sherburn-in-Elmet. I have completed seven of the Citroën/French car Challenges.

We need to increase the visibility and perception of the Club. As Chairman I would work with the Directors to ensure we:

- combat a reducing membership by making the Club more relevant, more visible

not just to our existing Members, but to those people who choose to drive a Citroën.

- target younger age groups using social media to ensure the future of the Club.
- review and encourage closer ties with those amazing independent specialists. Invite them to our events not just to sell parts, but promote themselves, maybe do a Q&A or talk about a specific repair issue that is concerning Members.
- seek a presence in Citroën showrooms so when that new owner drives away in their pride and joy they are aware of us, knows how to join or who their local Regional Group contact is.
- encourage retailers to come to events local to them with new and used cars for sale.
- Improve engagement with Citroën UK.

The Club should also improve the way it presents itself and:

- improve engagement and our visual appeal to meet and exceed other clubs. The Directors must ensure we do this effectively.
- increase its professionalism with proper Club branding, pop up displays, a range of old and newer cars on show and a warm welcome to visitors.
- showcase Citroën's innovative past at major shows by increasing interaction with visitors and those curious about the marque generally.
- the Directors and Officers should be as accessible as possible, perhaps through "Meet the Club" sessions at least at The Festival.

As Chairman I want to visit as many of the monthly meetings and events so Members can put issues or concerns directly to me. I would also encourage other Directors to do the same.

The CCC is for all Citroëns not just the Classics, and for all Citroën drivers not just enthusiasts.

Before I retired I was a Project Manager in the public sector for 37 years, the majority of which was spent working at a senior level managing teams and multimillion pound projects around the country. For over 50 years I have enjoyed volunteering for many diverse organisations and will bring the skills learned to the role of Chairman.

PHILIP CHIDLOW

Standing for re-election

Since being elected to the Board in 2017, I have continued to strive towards the improvement of the whole 'membership experience': I want my enthusiasm and expertise to continue to have a positive effect upon the Club. My work with Anna - and now David - over the past six years have kept the Citroënian Magazine at the very heart of this experience.

In addition to this I have continued to work with the events team and as administrator on the group's growing Facebook page.

Although the lion's share of my contribution since 2020 has been to work on the magazine, I will look to further develop the visual identity of the CCC with a view to reassessing our presentation online and at shows like those at the NEC. I will also work closely with the rest of the board and relevant club members to enhance the appeal of the CCC to enthusiasts of all ages but particularly the younger enthusiast. My recent foray into Saxo ownership has revealed to me the passion of this model's following; something that surprised me when there's so much negativity about the young 'not wanting to be in a Club'. This plainly is not the case. The BX too is enjoying a wonderful renaissance - and not just amongst second-time-around owners reliving their younger days. I reckon other single model communities are similar (Berlingo, C2 etc.). Nostalgia amongst the more youthful for late Twentieth/early Twenty-first Century Citroëns will have a positive bearing upon our efforts to maintain and improve our membership, which will only happen if we tap into this demographic.

If re-elected, I will:

- Continue to Art Direct the Citroënian Magazine and generate wide-ranging content to ensure it remains best in class.
- Ensure the visual presentation of the Club is not only maintained but improved. The impact of our show stands and the quality of Club graphics/publicity material needs more work.
- Address the lack of a modest range of appealing and strongly branded official merchandise.
- Assist with realising the Club Board's Social Media PR ambitions by working with

Damian Smith to provide suitable Club graphic assets and creative input.

- Liaise with other Directors, notably Jim Gibson, to help build closer links with Citroën UK with relation to Club activities - especially in encouraging and coordinating environmental initiatives, in line with the group's objectives.

And finally, an overarching determination to work with my fellow directors to ensure everything we undertake is best for the future of the Club, its members and its reputation. We have to tread a fine line between preserving the Club's great heritage and not being afraid to shake things up a bit: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is futile. We need to be prepared to approach things differently and act decisively to effect worthwhile change for the better.

I thank you for supporting me thus far and I hope you see fit to continue to do so.

BEN COWELL

Standing for re-election

I stood two years ago as Secretary as Alan was standing down after many years of service. That coincided with the Board asking me to organise the Festival. So I'm often busy but do aim to respond to emails in a timely manner.

I am still involved in the Northern Section, working closely with Colin, the Northern Section Chairman, and am working with others on the initiatives we've previously mentioned, such as increased social media awareness, advertising club events and an improved Good Bad Ugly database. The next idea is to retain old manuals in the Members Only section of the website and to negotiate more club discounts.

As many of you know, I drive a 2CV (or two) and a Saxo which many of you will have seen on the club Facebook pages and am really enthused to see the Festival has become a favourite event of the independent Saxo Facebook groups.

If re-elected I will continue to work to promote the club as well as ensuring good governance and compliance with company law and Motorsport UK regulations.

You can vote online at the Members Only section at www.citroencarclub.org.uk, by scanning/photographing both sides of the Ballot Paper and emailing Neil Osborn, Returning Officer, at voting@citroencarclub.org.uk, in person by handing the voting paper in before 10am on the day of the AGM, or by post to Neil Osborn at the address on the Ballot Paper.