

TRUST MATTERS

Six key objectives to keep PST on track as evolution is targeted

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As we look to evolve, the Pompey Supporters' Trust (PST) has six specific objectives for 2016.

One of those is to increase the number of members we have (more on that later), so if you're not already a member you can help make a difference straight away by signing up to support the work we do!

Here are our other five aims:

1. Community

To be the driving force behind 'Community Pompey' and to become a more active partner in community projects.

2. Next Generations

To reach out, engage with and attract in more fans of the future through our newly-formed Next Generations group.

This is a group of younger supporters created specifically to listen to the needs of those Pompey fans under the age of 25.

3. The Academy

To help fund and support our home-grown footballing talent.

4) The Stadium

To be active participants in the discussion and decisions on the future of Fratton Park.

5) New Investment

To investigate and propose new ways of raising finance to help ensure the long-term sustainability of Portsmouth Football Club.



Join the Pompey Supporters' Trust for just £5 by visiting pompeytrust.com

PICTURE: JOE PEPLER

I would like, this week, to focus on our Next Generations group.

I said when I started with the Trust, I wanted to re-energise the youth committee and engage with the next generation – the younger Pompey fans.

At a meeting I was shocked to find out that 67 per cent of Pompey fans, so two-thirds, are aged 45-plus.

Simply put, we want our future fans to keep filling out Fratton Park.

The Next Generations group was the brainchild of our previous chairman Ken Malley, who sadly died last year but Scott McLachlan has done brilliantly to get it up and running.

We are really happy with that. The guys are already on Twitter – @PSTNextGen – and have a lot of fun things planned, which John Kimbell will give you a taste of in his column

below. I can't wait to spend some time with them because I am really eager to help them make a difference.

When we have diversity across a group, it makes life much easier because we don't always know what 16 to 25-year-olds are thinking.

They bring a different perspective and ambitions.

We look forward to having them on board and hopefully you will join in the fun, too.

By becoming a member of the PST, you can have a say in shaping some of the key decisions that will impact our club in the coming years.

It is only a fiver to join us and before you know it you will be part of the biggest supporter-owned club in the Football League.

I'll be back soon to keep you all updated with more of our goings-on.

yourselves first hand. We were delighted to have popular video game Fifa 16 bring their mobile gaming centre, the 'EA Sports Dugout' down to the ground before kick-off.

Thankfully for us, Fifa 16's product marketing manager, James Salmon, is a big Pompey fan.

And he was only to

pleased to help out in any way possible.

The great news for all of our new younger members who enjoyed themselves this afternoon, is we are planning to put on a player v member tournament at the training ground on Thursday, April 7.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information on that!

Shrimps revenge was tough to stomach but the fantastic four can still propel Pompey to automatic promotion goal

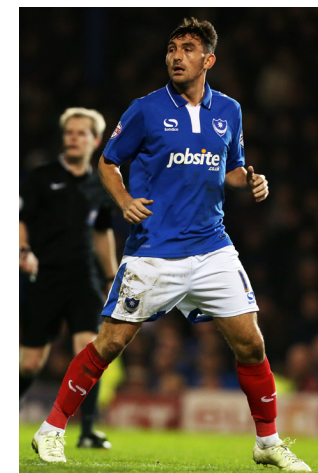
TEENAGE KICKS

with Ben Sturt

Hi fellow Pompey fans, my name is Ben Sturt. I'm 16 years old and I've been a season-ticket holder in the Fratton end for as long as I can remember.

I am also the youngest member of the Pompey Supporters' Trust youth committee, which tackles all issues that may concern younger Pompey fans.

I hope you enjoy my weekly column in the Sports Mail, describing the goings on at our club through the eyes of a younger supporter.



Ben Sturt reckons Gary Roberts will be Pompey's catalyst

There are not many more depressing feelings in football than conceding a last-minute goal.

I had got home from a shift at work to tune in for the second half of Pompey's League Two game at Morecambe.

And I had just sat down for dinner when Barry Roche, the Shrimpers goalkeeper, nodded home a corner to secure a point for Jim Bentley's side.

Revenge, you could argue, for Jayden Stockley's last-minute equaliser in the reverse fixture – when Morecambe were the better side and probably deserved all three points at Fratton Park.

If I felt bad for the next couple of days, I cannot begin to imagine how the 479 Pompey fans who travelled up north for the rearranged fixture felt.

But to coin a phrase used often by Paul Cook, you just keep going.

Prior to today's match with Leyton Orient, Pompey had 19 games left to secure a place in League One.

Personally, I believe the odds are in our favour.

We have got games in hand on the teams above us and we still have to play many of the other promotion chasers at Fratton Park.

However, you are not guaranteed three points from your games in hand – as we saw on Tuesday night at the Globe Arena.

And you do not always win the games you need to win – as we saw against Michael Appleton's Oxford United last month.

What Pompey need now is a run of wins.

We haven't won more than two games in a row all season.

That has halted any momentum we have gathered – and it has to change.

Until the Oxford game, I was always adamant Pompey would still win the league.

However, that opinion changed at 4.45pm on that Saturday afternoon.

For the first time this season, I saw a team who were better than us.

I would now tip the U's to go on and win League Two this season.

As for the other three teams above us – Bristol Rovers, Plymouth Argyle and Northampton Town – they have all got to come to Fratton Park.

I think the key to our success this year will depend on whether our front four players can stay injury-free and complement each other more fluently.

Those four players are Gareth Evans, Gary Roberts, Kyle Bennett and Marc McNulty.

I still think Roberts is not fully fit but match fitness will only come with game time.

It's worth remembering he was named League Two player of the year when Chesterfield were promoted, so he can be our catalyst, too.

If those players hit form, then I would back us to beat our rivals and get promoted automatically.

Fifa at Fratton shows the future is bright

THE TRUST welcomed two new members to its ranks this week after manager Paul Cook and first-team coach Ian Foster signed up for annual membership.

Cook signing up kicks off a concerted effort by our board for new members, which includes the launch of the 'Next Generations' group (Johnny has told

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you all about in the article above) and working with EA Sports to try to attract more younger fans to Fratton Park.

Hopefully those of you who went to today's game will have seen that for

