

TRUST MATTERS

Wheels in motion behind scenes to get the Trust motoring again

Tom Dearie is the vice-chairman of the Pompey Supporters Trust (PST).

Tom, who is also responsible for a number of fundraising events within the PST, has supported Pompey home and away for more than 20 years.

He is passionate about both the club and the Trust engaging fully with its community and using the power of football as a means to have a positive impact on people's lives.

There's a lot of talk within the PST about developing a strategy on how we move forward.

The primary aim of a Supporters' Trust is to have some sort of fan representation on the board at a football club.

We massively surpassed that aim.

But there was almost a feeling within the Trust itself that we didn't actually know what we were supposed to do next.

Obviously there was the understanding to have three members on the club board maintaining a watching eye over what goes on.

But actually as a Trust we felt that we lost a bit of momentum as to where we moved next.

That's what we are looking at now.

We are looking at how we can engage with the thousands of fans at Fratton Park that aren't PST members and how we can make the Trust appeal to them.

The focus is firmly on building a strategy for how we move the trust forward as an organisation itself.

For that part, the Trust also needs to explain itself better.

It's too easy – especially on social media – when something goes wrong at the club for people to point their finger at the PST.

by **TOM DEARIE**

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Our chairman Ken Malley was saying he had an 'ask the chairman' session and was being emailed questions like: 'Why is Andy Awford picking this player?'

Although we have board members and although we are a majority shareholder in the football club, it's important to remind people that we are not the football club.

We are completely different.

Over time – and through nobody's fault – its just the way it has happened, we have almost merged into one big community football club, rather than being Pompey and the PST.

We are viewed as one wider group instead of being two separate and distinct organisations.

That's something that definitely needs to be addressed moving forward.

Talking of going forward, now seems as good a time as any to announce that there is going to be a big launch at the Lanyard Pub on Monday, February 16 for our York2Pompey ride.

It's on the same lines as the fantastic Ride2Bury trip we did last year, except from that we are coming back to Fratton Park for the last home game of the season (against the Minstermen) rather than being away at Bury.

All the organisations that we are hoping to help will be revealed, as will how we are planning to do everything.

We have 12 more riders than last year and a lot more knowledge, so there are a lot of things that we are going to do slightly different this time around.



Plans for this year's York2Pompey ride are to be announced on Monday, February 16 at a launch event at the Lanyard Pub and follow on from the overwhelming success of last season's Ride2Bury scheme, above

PICTURE: SARAH STANDING

It is time for Blues fans to do what we do best – support the club



Andy Awford is to remain as Pompey boss following a vote of confidence

Pompey Supporters' Trust (PST) directors were part of the discussions regarding Andy Awford this week and were unanimous in their decision to give Andy their support and let him carry on doing his job.

It is now up to us as fans to give both Andy and the team our full support for the rest of the season and hopefully cheer us on higher up the table.

Away from on-field matters, there's a lot going on at the PST at the moment.

by **JOHN KIMBELL**

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We have all got various projects we are working on, which I will keep you updated with over the coming weeks.

Myself and fellow board member Dan Fearnley were on the South Stand kiosk beat at the Burton Albion game looking into some issues with matchday catering which had been

brought to our attention by many Blues fans.

We are now in a position where we have done our primary job in terms of getting control of the club and are increasingly getting involved in relevant club matters and trying to make a difference.

That is being led by PST chairman Ken Malley and seen in his day-to-day involvement with the club, working closely with chief executive Mark Catlin and chairman Iain McInnes.

I am also meeting up with Pompey's PR Consultant Colin Farmery next week for a summit meeting.

We are going to spend a few hours together looking at how we can work closer together and improve the way we communicate between trust and club.

Over the coming issues of Trust Matters, I will be explaining our innovative Pompey Voices Project, why we are looking for young blood to join the PST board and our new strategy.

