



CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Ashley Brown

I have been on the board of the PST for approaching nine years and have seen a huge amount of changes in that time. From pressure group to club owners, from owners to club sellers and onto where we find ourselves now. To be honest I don't think anyone on the current board would disagree with my belief that the Trust still needs to figure out exactly where it fits and where its focus lies since the sale of the club to Tornante. My view is that the Trust is still relevant, all clubs should have a Trust regardless of their current position in the pyramid and the scale of their off-field problems, as let's face it the vast majority of clubs have issues of some sort. My current job with the Football Supporters Association sees me working with clubs and fans across the country in a huge variety of areas, with particular focus on what have become known as crisis clubs.

Football clubs across the country are now expected to participate in effective and detailed supporter engagement, at Pompey we are lucky to see this happen in a number of ways but specific to the Trust we also have the Heritage Advisory Board. I believe this should be the vehicle we use to challenge our club owners and keep track of the direction they are taking our club. Albeit the majority of fans are understandably positive about our owners there nothing wrong with challenging views and presenting alternate options and opinion. This sort of structured dialogue is constructive, and beneficial for the long term well-being of football clubs. In fact, I'm sure Tornante and our club executives welcome it as they were keen to put the HAB in place. Up until now I have yet to be involved directly in the HAB, but if elected this year I intend to put myself forward as one of the PST representatives and believe I have the experience

both locally and nationally to be good representative of both the Trust and fans in general. It will of course be up to both the membership to elect me to the board and the PST board to select me for this to happen.

What else should the PST be doing? Having worked closely with Trusts across the country I've seen the wide range of work they take on. At Portsmouth we have a number of other effective supporter groups and we have to recognise the individual roles they play, there is no need to compete amongst ourselves, better to clearly define the areas of work of each. There is no shame in a small focus, provided all areas important to fans are covered across the groups then the multiple organisations are doing their job.

I have already mentioned the importance of the HAB, the other major area which the Trust have been working on behind the scenes is to use some of our funds on a significant community project. This was always going to take time but in my view is something we should continue to put our energy and focus into, and as such would be keen to continue to support.

Some may question whether new blood is required on the board and I would not disagree, it is always useful to refresh over time. This view did make me consider whether I should stand for another term but having spoken to others I feel my experience is still of use. I am happy to play a background role on the board and if elected will offer to take up the new ticketing admin role as well as I mentioned above, work on a community project and stand for the HAB.

Ashley Brown.