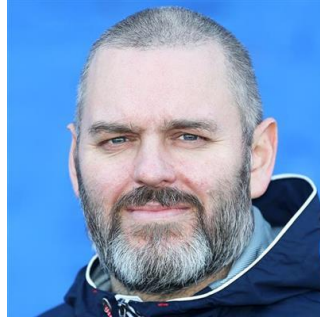




CANDIDATE STATEMENT



Phil Sandys

For the past three years I have served on the Pompey Supporters Trust board, having been elected in 2016. I have always been a strong advocate of supporter/community ownership in football and, prior to joining the board, I was involved with the Trust in a number of ways including handing out flyers and building the share issue website.

When I was elected, the PST was the majority shareholder in the club, and I was looking forward to the opportunity to have a direct input into how the club was run. Within a few months, however, everything had changed as we were subject to a bid to buy the club. It is fair to say that my three years on the PST board have not been what I had expected them to be!

When we received the offer from The Tornante Company, I personally did not feel that it was the right time to let the club go. However, I fully accept and respect the overwhelming decision from shareholders to sell. I am proud of the role that the Trust and the Presidents played in the transformation of Portsmouth Football Club from the brink of extinction to making it an attractive proposition for a global company such as Tornante.

I think it is fair to say that, in the time since the takeover, the PST has struggled to establish its new identity. However, I believe that we still have an important role to play as a bridge between the club and the supporters. Ultimately, we all want the best for the club – the fans, the owners, and the PST. I believe that, while we should be supportive of the people that are running our club, it is also the Trust's responsibility to scrutinize and question any decisions that affect the supporters. I've never been somebody who is afraid of asking difficult

questions and, for that reason, I intend to put myself forward to be one of our three representatives on the Heritage and Advisory Board (HAB) if I am fortunate enough to be given a second term on the PST board. The HAB presents us with not just an opportunity to work with the owners of the club, but also a forum to voice any concerns or frustrations our supporters may have.

During my time on the PST board, my primary role has focused on communications. I have overhauled and maintained our website, handled enquiries from members and the general public, created and sent out mailings and surveys, and represented the Trust at a number of events. I have also served on the Election Management Group for the past two elections.

Recently, on behalf of the PST, I attended the Football Supporters Association League 1 & League 2 Fans' Group Meeting. This was a fantastic opportunity to meet with representatives of supporters' groups and discuss important issues affecting us all, such as away ticket and travel pricing, matchday policing and safe standing. If re-elected to the PST board, I hope to continue attending these meetings as they provide a platform to present a unified message to the footballing authorities.

I am a season ticket holder in the Fratton End, and you will find me at half time every game helping provide our disabled supporters with hot drinks. This is an area where I believe the club could be doing more, so I intend to make lobbying for the improvement of the match day experience for disabled fans (both home and away) a personal priority.

Over the past year, I have seen my six-year-old daughter develop from having a passing interest in football to becoming a devoted Pompey fan who knows all the players and talks non-stop about the team. This has highlighted to me how important it is to make football more accessible and affordable for children and families. I would like us to work with the club to explore possible opportunities to do more in this area.

I was privileged to be elected to the PST board back in 2016 and would love to have the chance to continue in my role. If there is anything you would like to discuss or ask me about, please do not hesitate to contact me at phil.sandys@gmail.com.

Play Up Pompey