

Candidate Statement - Ashley Brown



Due to the sad loss of our previous Chairman I returned to serve as PST Chairman for a second spell, in addition I have continued to serve as a PST Director on the PFC board and a Trustee of Pompey In The Community.

Over the last year we have gained a number of new, energised members to the Trust board, who have integrated well with the existing ones who have worked hard for the PST cause. As Chairman I am there to oversee meetings, support board members, provide assistance on projects and help to guide the strategic direction of the PST. I am supported in this by a tremendously committed board and I very much wish to continue to be part of our story.

One of my main activities for the PST is carrying out my responsibilities as a Director of Portsmouth FC. Last season ended with disappointment in the play offs however I believe the majority of fans recognise that there are a huge number of positive improvements in and around our beloved football club. For example, years of neglect at Fratton Park have been reversed, with a number of safety improvements and ongoing work to upgrade facilities. This is likely to continue for some time as we recognise there is still some way to go, but we are moving in the right direction. Furthermore we now have a training ground to be proud of, a facility that our coaching staff and players are often heard enthusing about. Alongside the clear tangible improvements such as these we now have a stable football club, ran on solid financial principles with a board of Directors who really do care what happens.

I am sure this season will see further improvement on the pitch and be the year our passionate fans are rewarded with entertaining football and success. It looks to me as if this is a view shared by many as we are likely to go past 12,000 season tickets, a number that other League 2 clubs can only dream of.

As a lifelong fan who has stood on terraces and sat in stands around the country to support Pompey, it's important to me to represent fans effectively on the PFC board. The opportunity given to me by the members to be a Director of PFC is both an honour and

taken very seriously. At times you are presented with some tough decisions, and be assured that I make everyone with the club and fans in mind.

Encouraging the youth element of our fan base back to Fratton Park is important to me and I was pleased that for this season I played a part in securing cheaper tickets to help encourage young people back to live football. I will continue to work in this area as we look to build on it, improving the atmosphere at Fratton Park even further.

My interest in fan representation is national as well as local. I was invited to be part of the Government Working Group looking at Supporter Ownership and Engagement, and after 18 months of meetings we were able to announce along with the Football Governing bodies some positive steps forward, albeit there is more for us to do and I am keen to continue working in this area.

Some of the more controversial recent proposals by the Football League involve the addition of academy teams to the Football League Trophy and the restructure of the Football League. I have been active in opposing both of these and pleased to say that our club led the opposition at this year's Football League conference. If the membership decide to re-elect me I am committed to continue representing fans both at national and at local level.

A key role I have as a Director of PFC is as the board member responsible for Diversity, Inclusion and Safeguarding. It is important that we make football a welcoming and safe environment for all, alongside this we try to maintain the renowned atmosphere at Fratton so that all can enjoy it. This is another role I would wish to continue if given the opportunity.

Having played an active part in moving PFC into fan ownership and the subsequent rebuilding of the club, plus helping to make the PST a recognised success story across the supporter movement I am keen to continue to play my part. I believe there is more to do and plenty more that I have to offer, in the last six years I have worked hard for both PFC and PST and I have no intention of resting on my laurels. I still have plenty to offer, bringing the experience of my corporate work background, everything I have learnt working with both PFC and the PST, the network I have built up both politically and in the fans movement plus my 45 years of supporting Pompey. The combination of which enable me to act as an effective board member and hope that the members will award me that opportunity by supporting my candidacy in this election.