



## Candidate Statement



**Graham Berry**

My name is Graham Berry, and I am 37 years old currently residing in Clanfield. I have been a season ticket holder at Pompey for 29 years.

Why am I putting myself forward for the PST Board? Well back in 2017 I was staunch the takeover of PFC by Tornante and as a PST member I voted yes for PST to sell their shares to Tornante. However, since then, I have become increasingly frustrated with Tornante ownership and am concerned about the future direction this club is taking. I have spent 3 years very active on social media raising my concerns and felt perhaps it's time to not snipe from the sidelines and raise my concerns and suggestions through more formal channels and that's why I put forward for nomination of the PST Board.

What will I bring to the board? Well, those that know me on social media and Pompey message boards will know I will bring straight talking and tough questions, I may ruffle a few feathers but I'm ok with that. Ultimately all I care about is a successful PFC.

What do I want to achieve? It's very simple, I want Tornante, who the vast majority of us put our trust in, to live up to their promises. I want to hold Tornante to the promises they made at the Guildhall, especially on disabled facilities, academy, and stadium which I personally believe have all fallen short. While its welcome news the investment into Fratton Park for next 4 years, this doesn't increase capacity significantly to help us increase revenues to be sustainable in the championship. The acquisition of Roko is equally welcome but it comes without any plans, will we be using this site for academy investment or is it merely converting a leasehold into a freehold because its financially better in the long term?

These are all questions I believe we need to get answered and have Tornante share their vision for us. I will find out if elected, but it's time for us to progress as a football club and I believe we need strong voices into the club.

One of my first priorities is for Tornante to share their blueprint for growth with the entire fan base, not just the HAB or TGFC, but all of us. Commit to some dates and show us the vision, right now it's too quiet and the group that get to hear is too exclusive. Brick by Brick platitudes do not work anymore. We have a new CEO at the club, and I hope a bright future, but we need to work with him to make sure all the concerns of fans are heard and acted upon. If elected I

don't want to take my concerns to the PST board meetings, I want to take the fans concerns as often I believe the wider fan base doesn't get a voice.

About me outside of Pompey. I am married with two children aged 4 and 8. My wife is a Primary School Teacher in Pompey, and I am a Sales Director for a Software Product across the globe for a large IT company. My 4-year-old son is just getting into Pompey so would love to play a part in influencing a future of PFC he can be proud of. During the pandemic I have been volunteering for St John Ambulance delivering the Covid vaccine in and around the city and I am passionate, no matter who are our owners are that Pompey is for Portsmouth.

I hope I can count on your vote!

Regards

Graham Berry.

15 May 2021