



CANDIDATE STATEMENT



LEON TRICKER

My name is Leon Tricker. I was born in St. Mary's hospital, and I have lived in Portsmouth and the surrounding area for the majority of my life. I am a season ticket holder in the North stand.

I sometimes feel as though my life revolves around either watching Pompey play or thinking about, talking about, and writing about the club. 25 years ago, I devoured coverage of Pompey in The News and Sports Mail and regularly have letters printed in these publications.

In the 2000's I wrote a blog for The News' website, offering a fan-eye view of events at Fratton Park. Later, I became the Pompey correspondent for When Saturday Comes magazine, writing articles about the club, season previews and season reviews. More recently I have been an active commentator on message boards and social media, which led to me becoming a fan representative at the Tony Goodall Fans' Conference earlier this year. Standing for election to the board of the Pompey Supporters' Trust (PST) feels like a natural – almost inevitable – next step. I believe strongly that football clubs are community assets. They are different to other businesses in terms of their huge impact on the area in which they are located. I take the view that club owners and senior staff are temporary custodians of a football club, who have a duty to maximise both its sporting potential and its social value.

Because of the profile and status of football clubs, I believe that fans, who devote their hard earned money and precious free time to a club, have the right to hold owners and senior staff to account. The PST has, by some distance, the largest membership of any Pompey supporters organisation, and I feel it can do more to capitalise on this. Therefore, if elected to the PST board my aim will be to grow and leverage its membership to give fans a louder and stronger voice within Portsmouth Community Football Club.

How do I believe this can be achieved? You may have heard the joke about putting ten Pompey fans in a room and ending up with at least eleven different points of view. There is

clearly a division in the Pompey fan base at present, evidenced by the existence of the PFC Coalition group and the arguments between fans that rage across social media. I feel the PST is in a unique position to cut through the noise by attracting new members, and regularly engaging and consulting with its membership to understand the priorities of fans. As a result, I believe the PST board, and in turn its representatives at the heritage and advisory board will be better informed and in a stronger position to champion the views of a greater range of supporters.

Away from football, I live in Eastney with my wife, son, and dog. I am a snooker geek and enjoy tinkering with modular synthesizers. I am a project and change management professional, with a track record of planning and implementing complex, high-value, and high-risk initiatives. A key component of my day job is interacting with a broad range of stakeholders, both working together to get things done but also constructively and robustly challenging people when necessary. Earlier in my career I led on consultations and improvement projects within the social housing and social care sectors. I am confident I have the skills and experience that will add value to the PST board and help increase the PST's reach, influence, and relevance.

I hope you will vote for me, but more importantly I hope all PST members engage with this year's election process and we see a substantial turnout. I believe it is vitally important that those elected to the PST board have a strong mandate and truly represent the breadth of Pompey's passionate and dedicated fanbase.

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