



Paul Hodgson – Candidate Statement

I have supported the club Home and Away since I was a youngster. Having basically grown up at Christie Park, I've now been a fan for 30 years. work permitting I still attend as many matches as I can and take great pride in bringing my young family to home games hopefully they get as much enjoyment from supporting the club as I have over the years.

My time supporting the club I've been involved with a number of fan led activities and projects that have raised money for the club has included amongst other things sponsored walks from Morecambe to Halifax and Fleetwood respectively and a sponsored hitchhike. I have also arranged transport for away supporters. When it was first publicly announced that Morecambe players have not been paid on time, I came up with the idea of the Travelling supporters meeting the first team bus at Doncaster Rovers and applauding them off the coach as they entered the stadium. Out of a period of real adversity, it was a great unifying moment which I know the players really appreciated it was in a great away point go on a good run of results. This is a small example of the positive effect that supporters can play if we collectively get behind the club.

Having previously been a member of OMFSC and FCOM, I have now been a trustee for Shrimps Trust since 2018 and would love to continue. During the last few seasons when the trust asked for supporters to help the club by volunteering their time to clear litter after home games, I was able to offer my services and persuaded others to get involved. I have also helped with organising the Shrimps Trust Christmas Toy appeal, which has supported local families at Christmas time for the past few years.

The club has faced periods of instability in the last few years and during that time communication with the supporters has been poor, which needs to improve in my opinion. My opinion if selected as a trustee I hope to increase engagement between the supporters and the football club and generally promote the benefits of the trust and the club to the local community. I would also like to look at ways that the trust could help the improvement of overall match day experience for supporters. I will also advocate for a smooth transition for new ownership for our club.