

Joe Short

Hello fellow Rooks

I'm Joe and I'm one of the media volunteers at the club. You might have read my stories on the website announcing player signings, interviews with Tony Russell, and Women's match reports over the past few years. Perhaps you've even agreed with some of my match analysis. The Crystal Palace fans didn't, but that's another story.

I'm a sports journalist of 15 years, work for F.C. Copenhagen's media team, and am the owner of a marketing company. My work with F.C. Copenhagen has given me a unique insight into fan culture and how clubs can work with supporters for everyone's benefit. A club and its fans can never agree on everything, but everyone's heart is in the right place. I want to bring that expertise to the Pan.

I've worked with Maggie and Stuart on various projects during my association with the club, in particular the hiring process for our communications department. Being on the board would allow me to further help Jack and Stef deliver on their projects, while supporting Shrey with community work. My relationship with Lewes FC is only just getting started.

My wife and I have lived in Lewes for the last three years. One of the reasons we feel comfortable and accepted here – so much so that we've started a family! – is Lewes FC. The club is a cornerstone of a town that champions the right things about football and life: fairness, equality, openness and shared responsibility.

The decision not to progress with the recent investment opportunity highlights the club's priorities to delivering equality on and off the field. It was not an easy discussion to have among staff, volunteers and fans, and was a useful exercise in understanding our club and reaffirming our values.

We need directors willing to take on governance and financial strategic thinking roles. As a business owner these are things I am experiencing day to day. Should I be elected I would happily work more in these areas alongside more learned members of the club.

I also want to see us deepen our relationship with the local community. I love how vibrant and active Lewes town is, and the club's volunteers work hard to reach all corners of it. So does the fan club and those who organise activities on the 3G pitch. I feel we can always do more to support local groups but resources are the sticking point. As a director I would love to help strengthen the dialogue between the club and its support bases with regular meetings and cooperative projects.

With hard work we can do more to get Lewes FC into schools, to support the fan club, make improvements to the Dripping Pan, and nurture a passion for the Rooks across the town and beyond.

The Pan should be a hub for our community, like the Malling Community Centre, Trinity Church, Southover Grange Gardens and (for the parents among us) Monkey Bizness.

It's an exciting time to support Lewes FC and I want to be a part of it.