



Candidates for Associate Representative for National Council

Barry Faust (Southern Wombles Supporters Group)

David Michael (My Old Man Said)

Ally Simcock (A Pint of Vale)

David Tomlinson (Sandbach Travelling Alex)

Barry Faust (Southern Wombles Supporters Group)

I am standing to represent a newly formed fans run group based in southern England. I want to give all fans a voice however and i believe this newly formed organisation will try and do that. I have been involved in football as a fan for over 30 years.

I dont know all the answers but what i do know is the majority of fans want whats best for their club. I truly believe in fan power and having fans at the heart of clubs, if elected i will strive to give fans more of say in how leagues and clubs are structured. We have to pressure organisations like the premier league and FA into doing more for fans and less for one man owned clubs!

One thing i will do if elected is consult as many people as possible on proposals, too many things are decided behind closed doors , lets invite fans in and ask them direct..not those who are members but fans who are never asked their opinion.. i want to be led by consensus not just opinion of a select few. My tenure will be noted but what i have done not said.

David Michael (My Old Man Said)

The importance of supporter Issues and club-fan communication were very much the starting points for me setting up My Old Man Said (MOMS) over seven years ago. As an Aston Villa supporter, I was actually appalled by how a football club could be so blindsided to their own supporters.

If I've done anything in the following years of being actively involved in supporter issues, it's evolving more of a 'can do' attitude at the club towards their fans and making sure they are at the heart of all club conversations.

At club level, I've done everything from helping supporters avoid wrongful banning orders in the courts, to using the national press to challenge and spotlight previous owners poor running of the club.

I've successfully got Villa Park recognised as an Asset of Community Value, played a key part in relaunching the Villa Supporter's Trust, and spearheaded FSF campaigns such as Twenty's Plenty and Safe Standing at club level.

I'm a founder member of the Aston Villa Fan Consultation Group (FCG), which has been a positive example of good practice in English football of Structured Dialogue. It has survived three different owners during its existence – a good sign of its worth! In the past year, I am proud to have helped empower the Aston Villa Disable Supporters Association to be active and constructive stakeholders in their club, both in getting a place at the FCG and the away supporter sub-group of the FCG.

As well as being a keen FSF member attending both EFL club rep meetings and before that, Premier League club ones (including attending a couple of FSF marches in London and activity supporting Twenty's Plenty), I have contributed to Safe Standing advisory meetings at the Home of Commons, plus other meetings advising of political policy.

Recently, I joined the West Midlands Police Football Unit Independent Advisory Group (IAG), which was the first of its kind in the country.

I have also been a member of Football Europe Supporters (FSE) for as long as I have the FSF, and have attended a couple of their European meets to keep tabs on European developments and good practice.

All this has enabled me to gather experience and knowledge to better serve supporters in a well-rounded and common sense manner.

Football for me makes up a holy trinity of interests, alongside both film and music, which I'm involved in as a journalist/publisher.

Ally Simcock

I have been part of the FSF's National Council for three terms and am eager to continue working in a new unified national supporters' organisation. Currently, I am the co-opted Supporters Direct board member on behalf of the FSF, where I help to communicate between the two organisations. This is a position am very passionate about and will continue to support the ethos of both individual merging organisations. Additionally, I am the only fan representative on the national Fixtures Working Party where I represent the supporters' perspective in multi-agency meetings between public authorities and leagues when looking at how fixtures are to be allocated.

I have been a keen participant in structured dialogue meetings with the EFL where I try to represent the views of not just Port Vale fans, but all fans potentially impacted by EFL-wide issues. Beyond that I am part of the England Fans' Embassy team and have enjoyed supporting England fans abroad, most recently during the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Previously, I chaired the PVFC Supporters' Club for five years. Currently, I volunteer as an SLO for the club, supporting all fans. I also write an article in the local paper weekly, write in every match day programme and am regularly interviewed by local and national media, both in written and verbal formats. I also co-run and moderate a Facebook page for port vale fans called 'A Pint of Vale' which gives fans a chance to discuss anything they wish, whilst providing them with up to date information from the club. There are over 2.5k members currently.

Prior to these positions, I worked as a trainer in a local college for over 17 years, where I worked with the homeless, young people with addictions and I won an award for writing a training programme aimed at teenage parents. This demonstrates my ability to speak openly about the most sensitive of subjects at all levels.

I am extremely passionate about equality and diversity. I would like to support the new organisation's aims in working towards a reduction in discrimination cases within football as a whole. I would also aim to explore ways of capturing wider audiences for clubs, especially encouraging more diverse groups to attend matches. I aim to be involved in initiatives which help improve fan experiences across the board. I am also very interested in the discussion around football governance and safe standing.

David Tomlinson (Sandbach Travelling Alex)

I passionately believe the voice of supporters must be heard and their views taken into account when decisions are being taken.

When issues and problems occur we need to make sure that our organisation is always available for supporters to contact, we must make sure our standing within the footballing authorities is high so that we are respected to such a level that they contact us to discuss issues as well as the organisation contacting them.

I believe it is a supporters right from the moment they leave their home to go to the match, until they return home, to be treated respectably by all who they meet, they should be safe and whether its travel or admission they should feel they have had value for money. Are we there yet? I don't believe we are. It is now time to move forward and I want to work with you all to help this happen.

At Crewe Alexandra who I have supported for over 38 years, I hold the position of a Supporters Liaison Officer. I am the link between the supporters and the club. I attend and organise meetings with supporters, supporter groups and club officials making sure that supporters views are taken into account when decisions are being made. On match-days I attend security meetings and make myself available to talk to supporters to deal with any issues. I am also a member of the clubs Safety Advisory Group.

I have recently been a part of a small group of supporters who have formed the new Crewe Alexandra Supporters group the Railwaymen and hold the position of Group Liaison.

For many years I followed England home and away and became involved in the England members club and Englandfans, I have also represented both England supporters and the FA on numerous visits to host cities prior to France 98 and Euro 2000.

I am at present a member of the FSF services Ltd Board of Directors, the National Council, and also a member of the FSF Freelions Fans Embassy team which provide valuable help to England Supporters abroad.

I hope the experience and knowledge I have obtained put's me in a position to help our new organisation move forward to a position where their voices are not just heard but their views, policies and ideas will become even more influential and continue to make a real difference in football.