



Candidates for Individual Representative for the National Council

David Barwick

Geoff Bielby

Goronwy Brookes

Malcolm Clarke

Paul Corkrey

Pete Daykin

Rick (Richard) Duniec

Roger Ellis

Kristine Green

Michael Green

Tim Hartley

James Horrax

Chris Johnson

Mark Jordan

Fiona McGee

Martin O'Hara

Dave Pennington

Steven Powell

Christine Seddon

Ally Simcock

David Tomlinson

Steve Turner

Jordan Tyms

Robert Whittaker

David Barwick

I would like to be considered for election as an individual member of the FSF. I am a keen football supporter, notably as a season ticket holder and shareholder of Wigan Athletic and also an avid follower of the local non-league scene, particularly Burscough. I feel that in the ever changing football scene the need for supporter representation and involvement has never been greater, particularly as many of the actions pertaining to the game seem to be to the detriment of the core supporter.

There are 3 major issues in my assessment that are impacting on our love of the game. These are firstly fan representation in club policy, secondly the pricing of tickets and thirdly the TV scheduling. In terms of representation fans should be allowed to secure a place on the board of a football club or be attached to an advisory panel that can actually effect change. Real power to change is the key.

Following a Championship club as I do I am concerned that ticket prices for some away games can be greater than Premier League Clubs. This can lead home clubs reciprocating forcing prices up. This is particularly discouraging for those supporters who are not season ticket holders who may want to attend matches when commitments allow. A cap similar to that of the Premier League is needed in the EFL, particularly as we now have live broadcasting mid week matches. There needs to be more discussion with clubs and TV Companies as to the scheduling of matches particularly as we now have 5-55 kick offs in the Champions League. There also needs to be a more balanced coverage of EFL Championship so that fans of the bigger clubs are not adversely affected by continuously changes to kick off times. I am from a footballing family, my brother being FA Chief Executive until 2008 and I would hope that my ability to listen and communicate would be an asset if I were elected.

Geoff Bielby

I believe I can add value to the new National Council and Board if elected. My Background Born in Hull, I am now 62, married with three children and will have three grandchildren by spring 2019!

I worked in Financial Services from 1975 until semi retirement in 2015. The last 25 years of my career was working with major UK and International quoted companies advising on Employee Share Plans which involved working with both senior executives to junior employees.

I became involved with football fans groups in early 2013, initially protesting against police travel restrictions for Hull City fans at Huddersfield on Easter Saturday. Since then I was involved with the Hull City Name Change campaign "No To Hull Tigers", becoming a director of the "City Till We Die" protest group, helped re-launch the supporters trust to form Hull City Supporters Trust in 2015, where I've been Chairman since March 2016.

The last five years have been busy but that's given me great experience working on the campaigns mentioned earlier. We say locally "It's never dull in Hull" and that's certainly been true at Hull City under our current ownership. We have ongoing unfinished business with our fight to restore all Concessions and re-engage with our club in meaningful dialogue. These campaigns have given me experience working with both FSF and SD, where I sat on the National Council, fellow clubs supporters, local authorities and MPs. I've also attended Dialogue meetings with FSF and SD representing Hull City fans with two Premier League and two EFL meetings.

Only last month developments with a potential investor for Hull City led to an offer made to me for HCST to work with a consortium to buy the club. That made headlines but shows how even at the top level of the football pyramid there's still a place for supporters trusts in the modern game.

My Vision

I'm told I'm a good communicator and I'm determined to use past experiences and contact network to represent supporters in the modern game. Supporters have been ignored for too long by the football authorities. They and clubs can take liberties because of our passion and loyalty. I believe the time is now right for the supporters movement to unite working within the game with politicians to reclaim OUR game. I want to effect positive change as part of our new supporter organisation.

Goronwy Brookes

There is work to be done to keep supporters at the forefront of our game. We are reaching key points in campaigns on Stand Up For Choice, maintenance of the Away Ticket Price Cap, Fan Fare pricing for train travel for supporters and the strengthening of structured dialogue between fans, clubs and football governing bodies. I want to bring the experience I have accumulated at local, regional and national level to work on behalf of supporters to fight for our collective interests. Football Without Fans Is Nothing.

My nomination is backed by the Spirit of Shankly Management Committee to represent our views and interests in the new National Committee and continue our long and established history in national supporter representation.

Spirit of Shankly have been at the forefront of supporter engagement, activism, organisation and representation for the past decade and are recognised as a leading supporter organisation with reach to 150,000 twitter followers. During that time we have delivered victories on ticket price campaigns, securing price freezes after our 77th minute walkout in February 2016 and organised the march on the Premier League offices in June 2013 paving the way for the £30 away ticket price cap.

I have been the secretary of Spirit of Shankly for the past two years, overseeing the governance structure and arrangements including the creation of an Executive Committee as a decision making body.

I have been heavily involved in Spirit of Shankly's campaign on Safe Standing, including the extensive consultation process leading up to our open vote, receiving 27,000 responses, and I participated in our visit to Celtic's safe standing section. I have expertise in the history of Sports Stadium safety legislation. The issues we are faced with in the debate for safe standing are not new, they are themes and attitudes that have been pervasive for decades.

I have extensive structured dialogue experience. Through the meetings with the Premier League I have developed a deep understanding of how they work as an organisation. I sit on Liverpool FC's Stadium supporter forum, dealing with all issues supporters have in relation to Anfield, its expansion and problems that occur in how the Club treats supports.

The National Council of the new organisation is the best forum to bring my experience to bear to fight for supporters across the country and it would be an honour to be elected.

Malcolm Clarke

Football biography

I support Stoke City home and away. But if Stoke aren't playing and York City are, I'm usually there. I am a committee member of Stoke City Supporters Club. I was also the first Chair of the Potters Trust, which merged with the Supporters Club (but unfortunately not as a Trust because of the then stringent audit requirements, ironically subsequently relaxed).

I worked with Stoke City to establish a democratic Supporters Council for dialogue with the Club and was its first Chair. I stood down due to pressure of work from national supporters activities.

I am a Life Member of the York City Supporters Trust, and played my part in the Trust's successful fight to save the club and take ownership of it in 2003. I chaired the meeting which agreed to sell a 75% stake to JMP Ltd. In 2006. More recently I supported the Trust in responding to the Club Chairman's demand to gift the remaining shares to him. I am also a member of the Enfield Town Trust.

I have been national chair of the FSF since it was established in 2002. I have been the supporters' representative on the FA Council since 2007.

I have a long track record of successfully working for supporters' interests at both club and national level. There is still plenty of fuel left in my tank.

My vision

I am excited by the opportunities presented by the new united organisation. We can be much more than the sum of our founding parts. We can make better use of our volunteer, staffing and financial resources, and remove confusion among our members and those with whom we have to deal. But these things will not happen on their own. We must make them happen.

We know we are right, but being right is not enough. We must translate that into real change for the benefit of supporters, which requires a range of political, campaigning and organisational skills. We must mobilise our resources, not only at the "top" of the organisation but also use the skills and passion of our members. I can make a contribution to making that vision happen.

Outside football

Now retired, I started as an academic, before moving into public sector senior management. I have been a non-executive on several QUANGOS. I still serve on the Information Rights Tribunal. I have extensive senior level experience of governance and government.

Paul Corkrey

The amalgamation of the two biggest supporters' organisations will make the voice of the supporter far stronger and more credible, a mandate from so many trusts, supporters clubs, associated and individual members is a powerful representation of the views expressed by the fans and something that would have to be taken very seriously by the powers that control our sport.

Personally, I would love to be an active part of that process as a member of the new National council, working together with like minded people who all have the supporter's best interests at heart. Football fans are the life blood of the game, the most loyal and consistent component, regardless of what level or standard their clubs compete at. We are often overlooked or ignored when decisions are made which is ridiculous when most of the decisions made effect or input on the supporters in one way or another. This new organisation needs to protect, support and enable supporters to be heard and represented.

I have been a member of the FSF since 2002 and have spent many years on the National council, sometimes co-opted but more recently directly elected at the AGM. I am also an elected member of the board of the FSE (Football Supporters Europe) where we deal with issues that effect fans from all over Europe at International and national level. I also helped set up the Trust at my football club and became its first chair in 2008, keeping the work of the trusts thriving will be an important component of the new organisation.

I have been running fan Embassies for Welsh fans since 2006 and arrange regular dialogue meetings with the FAW in venues throughout Wales every few months, always inviting new members to participate in order to get as many views as possible across to the head of departments. This work also needs a lot of media coverage which I have been facilitating for many years. "Together we will be stronger"

Pete Daykin

I have been a match-going fan since 1981, for most of the 1990s I wrote for, edited and produced Sunderland fanzines and have been a member of the FSF's National Council since 2004. In 2011, I co-founded The Blizzard Football Quarterly.

Over the years I have tried to involve myself in as wide a variety of the FSF's activities as possible, at different stages giving time to:

- Running the FSF's Standing Campaign
- Sitting on the National Council and Executive Committee – I am currently elected to the FSF Board and was a member of the Interim Board for the new, unified, organisation
- Setting up, running and handing over the original FSF office in Sunderland
- The FSF's Fans' Embassy service, with whom I was in Russia this Summer
- On-the-ground campaigning with fans in the Northeast
- Editorial direction and production of the Federation's communications, now passed on to Michael Brunskill

I hope to be elected to National Council of the new organisation to continue my work as co-ordinator of the Standing Campaign, developments in which are, I hope, self evident.

May's Stand Up For Choice Campaign, which we launched jointly with the Football League, represented the first time the FSF had ever campaigned directly with one of our core football family partners, garnering some 34,000 survey responses in the process (94% in favour of standing areas at football).

Its fallout precipitated the current DCMS review into the subject and in recent months we have worked closely with the various footballing authorities – EFL, Premier League, SGSA etc. – to form a coalescence of strategy around this process.

At the time of writing, we can be cautiously optimistic about the direction of travel. While there is much to do, the review remains the first time in 29 years DCMS has strayed even marginally from its all-seater policy.

In real life I run a digital agency and recently launched an ai/linguistics startup, Wordnerds, that teaches computers to understand unstructured text. I hope my business experience gives me a commercial perspective that colleagues on the FSF and interim boards have found useful.

I play the game competitively, albeit at an appallingly low standard, without pace, grace or talent of any description, but with an enthusiasm that borders on the embarrassing for someone of my age.

Rick (Richard) Duniec

I am currently an elected member of the outgoing FSF-NC and former Leeds Supporters Trust Chairman with resultant inevitable experience of football's ownership, governance, and financial issues (including the EFL financial administration processes) and of Shaun Harvey.

Attended FS Europe Barcelona10, Copenhagen11, Istanbul12, Amsterdam13, Bologna14, Belfast15, Ghent17 and Gijon18.

Extensive experience meeting with the EFL, F.A., M.P.s, and Local Government.

Numerous interviews and appearances in media including newspaper, radio, television, and football related documentaries, though none recently.

Graduate of the University of East Anglia; worked in The City before moving to sales with Kalamazoo in UK, & Sales Management in Arabian Gulf states including time working in Qatar. 10 years as an IFA, registered with the FCA.

In many ways the experience I have gained regards the real workings of football is something that I would have much preferred not to have been forced, by circumstances, to acquire. I wish to continue to put that knowledge and experience to wider use and for the greater benefit of Football Supporters as a whole. I feel that the NC is the best place to achieve this aim, alongside like minded colleagues. Much progress has been made and this should be acknowledged but I remain comfortable in bringing supporters issues to bear at the most senior levels which have included pressing issues with the FA, EFL, Sports Ministers, MPs, including the DCMS Select Committee.

Whilst I take interest in a broad spectrum of fans issues my primary concerns will be to continue involvement in Football Governance, Finance and Regulation. I have an active interest in the way the Rail operators market to Football Fans and in particular I am seeking greater flexibility in validity of rail tickets when fixtures are changed.

I intend to progress concepts regarding football heritage issues and seek to achieve some regulatory degree of separation between the club as a business which can be bought and sold, and the club as "construct" (its heritage, etc.) which cannot and should not.

My objectives over several years have been to seek a greater involvement for fans in football in general and to strive to deter their inappropriate financial exploitation. Essentially I believe that fans require and deserve a fair return on their "investment" in their clubs (both emotional and financial) and in football more generally.

Roger Ellis

I am a lifelong supporter of Coventry City FC. I have been Secretary of the Sky Blue Trust for the last five years, in which time we have battled with the owners - SISU - over various challenges to the very existence of our Club.

I have become active in the supporters' movement nationally. I have attended all the "Structured Dialogue" meetings between FSF/SD and the EFL since 2016, representing L1 and L2 Clubs, challenging Shaun Harvey on numerous issues such as "crisis clubs", safe standing, the scheduling of matches, etc. I was elected to the SD England and Wales Football Council in 2017. I spoke at the Supporters' Summit in 2017. I am a member of a working group of FSF and SD representatives developing proposals to reform the regulation of football. We hope this may deliver progress towards a new approach to tackling the owners and directors of "crisis clubs."

I spent 36 years as a solicitor and manager in Local Government before retiring in 2012. I had professional dealings with a number of football clubs and their owners - notably with Robert Maxwell, during his notorious spell owning Oxford United in the 1980s.

Formation of the new supporters' organisation is a key step. Football clubs are the greatest expression of community identity in our nation. For too long, too many owners of clubs have treated them as mere chattels and supporters as no more than sources of income. The game's future depends upon greater recognition of the crucial contribution which supporters make, especially when they are actively engaged in the running of clubs.

If elected I will hope to address many issues facing the game - such as its gross financial imbalance; the need for much better backing for the grassroots; the quest for more inclusive, welcoming and non-discriminatory clubs which encourage people from all backgrounds to enjoy their football with pride and in safety; and the improvement of the way clubs engage with their supporters.

I will also do what I can to try to bring about a change in the regulation of the game so that owners have to exercise proper stewardship, not just of their club's balance sheet, but also of the immense value of supporters' loyalty and the heritage and tradition which clubs bring to their host communities.

Kristine Green

Although I have only served around 15 months on the previous national council of FSF I feel that this invaluable experience will stand me in good stead to help any completely new council to progress during what will be a bedding in period. This will be helped with my 100% record in attending council and fan rep meetings as well as being active with email and telephone communications.

Outside of the FSF national council I have worked with Supporters Direct as a board member of the Mariners Trust in various aspects including a new MOU between the trust and Grimsby Town FC. It has been a long process involving meetings at various levels but one that I have not shied away from when hard work was needed. I have also worked closely with Level Playing Field as an Executive Trustee giving me both insight and knowledge into this area which again I feel would benefit a new council make up of a new organisation.

In the last three years I have built up a reputation with fans of Grimsby Town as somebody that they can talk to, somebody that they can trust and ultimately somebody that will work hard to get across their fears, worries and frustrations – whatever they may be.

This work has included time as the clubs Supporter Liaison Officer which opened up engagement with other clubs about various issues but also with Amanda Jacks of the FSF and various police forces.

The work I did around our troubles at Stevenage last season was praised and gave me a skill set to be able to communicate with people from various organisations that didn't always agree with the viewpoint that I put across but still dealt with this amicably. It also showed that I can be discrete and trusted with confidential information.

As a final point; I am currently in my 2nd year of my honour's degree in Public Relations. While on the face of it this may not seem applicable I feel that the knowledge and skills picked up during this time can only be of benefit should they be required both internally and externally through the setting up period of the new organisation or in the future.

Michael Green

I am standing for National Council to ensure the voice of those wanting an independent, radical and sustainable unified fans organisation is heard. As a Supporters Direct board member in 17-18 I saw at first hand the process that drove and brought us to the decisions made in July and I hope to bring my enquiring strategic experience to bear in order the Unified Football Supporters Organisation (UFSO) is a campaigning, democratic/governance, diversity and representative success.

I am a Leeds United season ticket holder, an ex Chair of the Leeds United Supporters Trust, a recently stood down board member of Supporters Direct and currently on the England and Wales Football Council of SD. Prior to my Trust activity I was a activist and blogger around the fertile territory of awful club ownership that was Leeds United 2000-2017. In my work life I am a senior manager in the Volunteer Services sector and before that was a Public Affairs and political organisation practitioner.

The new unified body has a long list of challenges to face going forward, not least of which is to understand how to ensure the reality of Fans Fund/Football Foundation largesse does not spike the guns when promoting the interests of football supporters on the national stage or dealing with governing bodies, leagues, clubs, the police and related football stakeholders. Intertwined with that short-term consideration is the long-term need to make the UFSO sustainable, which will include diversified funding. I fully support the UFSO evolving into a cooperative society/CIC.

Whilst all that vital organisational bedding in is accruing the National Council and board will need to ensure we keep an eye on the ball around a plethora of football related issues. Whether its defending fans rights, supporting those in legal need, pressurising the FA/PL/EFL on ownership standards/the supporters match day experience/TV games issues etc. the UFSO needs in 2019 to not only to replicate the best of what the FSF and SD provided but to expand its reach and influence. Football supporters need to know the UFSO is its voice and fearless champion.

I will be in attendance on November 22nd to answer any questions. Regardless of the outcome of this election process I will be looking to promote the ethos of independent, radical and sustainable, from an individual member's perspective.

Tim Hartley

The new unified organisation must deliver for ALL supporters. That means building meaningful networks in the leagues as well as speaking with one voice for ordinary fans, supporters clubs and trusts.

I have followed Cardiff City for forty years and helped set up our Supporters' Trust. During my eight years as Chair I established regular meetings with the club to discuss fans' concerns over governance as well as bread and butter issues. Our most important campaign was to get our club playing in blue after the owner tore up a hundred years of tradition and made us play in red. My wife though says that the best thing I did was to get mirrors in the women's' toilets. The big issues and the small changes are equally important to fans.

I am Vice Chair of Supporters Direct and sit on the National Council of the FSF. It was only after pressure from supporters that the government set up a working group to spell out how fans should be represented. I gave evidence to that inquiry and pushed hard for fans to have a second representative on the FA Council.

I was a journalist with the BBC, Head of News in the Welsh Government and then worked in public affairs. I now write about travel and football and work as a consultant. I am a director of the Co-operative News and the Welsh Football Trust and set up the Wales supporters' children's charity.

We need to ensure the game is still played and run for the benefit of us, its true owners, the supporters. We will lobby, carry out research and devise policy. Be it ticket pricing, policing, setting up trusts or promoting good governance we can reform the game as a whole as well as campaign on single issues. With some 500,000 members behind us we have changed the way football is run. I want to continue to help the movement we have built together to be a success.

James Horrax

I have been a football fan ever since I can remember. Having become a father 20 months ago, I am determined to ensure that my son (and any other children I may have) can grow up to enjoy the game in the same way I have. That means supporting supporters of all levels of the game up and down the pyramid system.

By representing their interests across areas like ticket prices, travel, security, inclusivity, youth participation and facilities, only then can our game be given to the next generation better than we ourselves received it.

Chris Johnson

Since the age of seven I have been involved with football both as a player and a supporter . I became an apprentice in 1965 at Tottenham Hotspur F.C and spent four years at the club. At the age of Nineteen I suffered a career ending injury.

I have supported my country and established many contacts while raising money for charity. I ran my Owen business for some thirty years and qualified as an Institute of Directors .

I am Ambassador for Burnley Football Club Disabled Supporters Association and been instrumental in forming and progressing the Association . I am also a member of the Clarets Trust Board .

My number one aim is to enhance the match day experience of all supporters particularly the disabled supporters . I am particularly keen to ensure that the Association is represented with as much diversity and equality as possible . I thank you for reading my profile and look forward to your support .

Mark Jordan

At present I believe there hasn't enough done to bring supporters together from the nations fanbase, where many choose to belong to official groups, remain solely independent or who have concerns about joining a national entity.

At Leeds United who I follow religiously home and away and for whom I organise an official regional travel group, we've experienced hostility and inverted snobbery from our own fans which has often resulted in abuse especially on social media. What I'd like to see is a more open and tolerant approach to wholesale supporter engagement, whilst at the same time upholding the values and integrity of an independent and vocal national fans vehicle.

Its important given the almost weekly changing nature of a game undermined by the unfathomable amounts of money being pumped into the Premier League, that the fans unite for the greater good and ensure it remains affordable for generations to come.

Allied to that I'd also like to see all discrimination removed from every aspect of support, and the perpetrators removed and prevented from further involvement. I also think its important for fans to behave responsibly at matches and would like to see a more mature attitude adopted towards alcohol; also in line with that more done to make the game attractive to families and young people. Pricing too is critical and I'd like to see more done to push clubs on responsible charges for tickets, especially away fans who often bear the brunt of this.

Fiona McGee

I have been a football fan for as long as I can remember and have been a member of the FSF (and before that, the FSA) for over 20 years.

I originally got involved with the organisation as a result of my involvement in Leeds Fans United Against Racism and Fascism, before going on to become a volunteer for the Fans' Embassy teams.

I also led the Fans for Diversity research on women's experiences as fans of the men's game and wrote the 'Women at the Match' report (2015). I have been a member of both the FSF's National Council and Board of Services for the past 4 years and am a member of the current Interim Board charged with overseeing the establishment of the new Unified Supporters' Organisation. I am also involved in football in a number of ways via my professional life.

As an Associate Researcher for Substance, I have worked on and helped to co-write briefing papers for Supporters Direct (e.g. Business Advantages of Supporter Community Ownership in Football). I have worked for Show Racism the Red Card helping to research and write educational materials using football to talk to young people about racism.

I currently work for a grassroots football project based in Brixton, which uses football as tool to tackle wider social issues, including mental health, knife crime, literacy and community cohesion.

Through the work that I have done in my professional life, and through my own experiences of being a football fan, I am interested in issues to do with diversity, supporter ownership, transparent governance and how to ensure fans are getting a fair deal.

Martin O'Hara

I have been the Deputy Chair of the FSF for the last 7 years and I'm immensely proud of the status and achievements of the FSF during that time. Prior to that I was a National Council member for a period of some years and was actively involved in several of the workgroups gaining experience of all current issues. I also been a current board director of the FSF.

In addition I am also secretary of the Viking Supporters Cooperative at DRFC and a supporters' board member. In recent years we have been subjected to hostile takeover bids by offshore hedge fund companies which I am proud to say that I helped resist in the strongest possible terms. Despite threats of legal action and other less salubrious acts we stood firm and now have ownership that have the best interests of the club at heart. I currently advise the club on all supporter issues. During my time with the FSF I have participated in all the various campaigns, workgroups and activities. This gives me extensive experience and a knowledge base that encompasses everything that is current to supporters at all levels, this would include International football as well as the league structure in England and Wales. The issues which I have extensive knowledge of would be governance, safe standing, away fan experience, Policing and stewarding, plus a whole host of the day to day troubles that afflict football and its supporters.

In my role as secretary of the Viking Supporters Cooperative, I helped conceive, and run the IRWT campaign at Doncaster Rovers, which is a leader in fan engagement. This has attracted considerable praise and widespread acclaim for its achievements. Part of that responsibility also means I am a founder board director of the supporter's board at DRFC which again sets out to be a class leader. As usual I believe that we can and must work in partnership to achieve what we can for the benefit of all supporters.

My aims and interests would be to carry on helping out and being involved in all aspects of the work that the FSF are currently involved in. In recent years, following on from our reorganisation, we have made tremendous progress in all our campaign areas and that is a tremendous result for all the volunteers and staff that have been involved. I intend to carry on with the work as a board director, if elected, and guide and encourage the organisation to keep doing the right things for the benefit of all supporters.

Dave Pennington

I believe passionately that the needs and interests of supporters, who are the lifeblood of the game at all levels, must be heard and recognised. Developments across the professional leagues in the last 25 years have systematically and cynically compromised fans and our voice needs to be heard more than ever.

I have input tirelessly to that cause at all levels for a number of years - as an active member and latterly a director of my own club Supporters Trust, as an active participant in Premier League networks in both SD and FSF, and since 2017 as an elected member of the FSF National Council. In those roles I have been involved in cross-network campaigns on Safe Standing, ticket pricing, development of meaningful structured dialogue between Club Boards and their supporters, and future legislative opportunities for supporter ownership.

My responsibility as a member of the new National Council would be to deliver for supporters of all clubs. Putting our on-field rivalries aside and working collaboratively and collectively will enable the new national organisation to be most effective lobbying and campaigning with the PL, FA and other regulatory bodies. I would look to ensure that the priorities, interests and actions of the different network and interest groups deliver for supporters at all levels of the game.

I lobbied passionately for a single national supporter body. As a National Council delegate I will work to ensure that the new organisation organises and delivers fully on its integrated mission and grows its influence and delivery across that agenda.

On a personal level, having recently been able to end my full time career early, in part with a view to spending more time on the football supporters agenda, I can offer time, energy and vision alongside my previous track record. It would be a privilege to be appointed to this role.

Steven Powell

Organisations:

Founding life member and committee member, Arsenal Independent Supporters' Association

Founding life member and board member, Arsenal Supporters' Trust

Life member, Arsenal Football Supporters' Club

Member, Arsenal Disabled Supporters' Association 2015-present

Member, Football Supporters' Association/Football Supporters' Federation 1996-present

Member, Level Playing Field, 2014-present

FSF National Council member 2015-2017, 2018-present

Former director, Supporters Direct 2003-2012

Former Director of Policy, Football Supporters Association/Federation, 2001-2014

Supporter:

Arsenal FC London Broncos RLFC Harlequin RUFC Middlesex CCC Wales (at everything!)

Second football clubs: AFC Wimbledon (shareholder and Dons Trust member) FC United of Manchester (member) Queen of the South FC SD Aucas (Ecuador) CA River Plate (Argentina, member) C d F Nacional (Uruguay, member)

Currently employed in the National Health Service as a zero hours administrative worker.

I've been a matchgoing Arsenal fan for over fifty years. I also enjoy rugby league (London Broncos season ticket holder), rugby union, cricket, American football, Canadian football, baseball, Gaelic games, Australian rule football and ice hockey. I have extensive knowledge of the game's governance as well as many other sports domestically and internationally. I've worked for and been an activist with the FSF and a director of Supporters Direct.

I have experience of building and running supporters' organisations from the ground up at Arsenal and mentoring/assisting supporters at other clubs.

My background as a trade union official and activist equips me with a detailed knowledge and training in employment, equality and health & safety at work law and best practice which I've been able to use both in my work with the FSF and SD.

As a wheelchair user and regular home and away match-goer I can bring this perspective to the new organisation's deliberations.

Christine Seddon

I am a lifelong, third generation fan of Blackpool FC and am currently the Chair of Blackpool Supporters' Trust. I have become involved in football governance due to Blackpool being a "crisis club" under rogue ownership. I have been at the forefront of the campaign to remove the Oyston family from Blackpool but also to bring about much needed change in football governance as a whole.

I believe wholeheartedly that football without fans is nothing and our game appears to have been hijacked by corporate bodies who have little or no knowledge of what football means to its supporters and communities. Football fans need a voice and it is essential that fans and football authorities work together for the good of the game.

National supporter organisations are fundamental to this goal and I am enthusiastic about the possibility of representing fans in this way. I have business knowledge from my working life and man management/people skills is my area of expertise. I also have experience of working with the media.

I believe that if I am elected I can bring these skills to the role. My work on behalf of Blackpool Supporters' Trust over the past 3 and a half years has been a learning curve as we have shaped our strategies, built our membership and dealt with an increasingly impossible situation at our club.

To date we have remained strong, motivated and effective and have already worked with both FSF and SD on a regular basis on various initiatives.

These are uncertain but potentially exciting times for football fans and it would be a privilege to be part of a new organisation which will hopefully be at the forefront of the changes which are needed to protect and nurture football.

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 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. Additionally, 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 I feel very strongly about and will continue to support.

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.

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

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.

Jordan Tyms

I would like to be considered for the Board.

I have been a supporter of Altrincham FC for almost 30 years and have a broad knowledge of non-league football from the National League at Step 1 to the Evostik Premier league at Step 3. I have a passion for Inclusion and fairness and recognise the importance of football clubs in breaking down barriers and being the hub of their local communities. Since taking on the role of Inclusion and Diversity Co-ordinator in April 2017 I have worked with a range of different groups and raised the profile of Inclusion and Diversity with our supporter base. I have developed strong links with a range of diverse groups including the local Muslim Association, supporting their youth football activities and involving committee members in wider campaigns. I also support national initiatives including Football v Homophobia and the Fans for Diversity campaign.

I am a member of The Football Supporters' Federation and Kick it Out's Fans for Diversity campaign national guidance group with supporters from clubs across the country. Altrincham FC have been shortlisted for the Football Supporters Federation National Game Community Award which recognises the work that we have done as a Club in working with partner agencies and promoting Inclusion and Diversity within our community. The projects I have co-ordinated are key to this.

Everyone should be welcome to feel safe and enjoy watching football, as a country we have made some good progress and clubs have started to recognise the importance of being inclusive both because it is the right thing to do but also it can make good commercial sense particularly for lower league and non-league clubs. Why would they not want to increase their supporter base? There is still a long way to go before all supporters feel welcome and I believe that engaged supporters have an important role to play in terms of educating supporters and influencing football club Boards and Associations. I am a Board Trustee for a learning disability charity and I am passionate about the positive impact that sport and in particular football can have on people. In my career I have vast experience of working with a range of partners to achieve positive outcomes and resolve issues. I am currently Safeguarding and Support Manager for a large Housing Association, based in an inner city area providing support to thousands of individuals and families with complex needs.

I believe that my experience will be of great benefit to the new National Council.

Steve Turner

I passionately believe that as fans, football belongs to us, not rich individuals, shareholders or the clubs themselves but the fans who make the club what it is, always proud and passionate and vocal about it home and away. I'm a Millwall supporter, season ticketholder and committee member of the Millwall Supporters Club. I'm also Assistant General Secretary at Unite, Britain and Ireland's largest Trade Union, and the joint National Chair of the People's Assembly against Austerity. As a trade union leader I have many years experience as a negotiator, organiser and campaigner industrially, politically and in our communities. I think I can bring that broad experience to the National Council and in our work with others across our game including the clubs, supporters and players bodies, political leads, the police, media and broadcasters. I'm active in campaigns to organise and win for workers across football from permanent ground and administrative staff to match day security and hospitality workers, fighting for a living wage and decent conditions, regular secure work and an end to abuse and assault. I'm active in Show Racism the Red Card and lead my unions work challenging the rise of the far right in society.

If elected I'd be there to represent you and remain accountable to you. My priorities are like all of ours; ticket pricing and availability, travel and ground access to ensure our grounds are open, safe spaces for all including our kids, elderly and disabled fans, the return of standing areas and an end to the discriminatory pitch side drinking ban on football fans.

We all get annoyed about media and police interference in match scheduling to suit themselves and with match day policing, particularly of away fans alongside the need to provide in-ground facilities, including food outlets that don't rip you off. But I'm also interested in better ownership models that do more than put a fan on the board but give fans a meaningful say in the control of our clubs. I want to ensure our grounds are free from discrimination hatred and bigotry and that workers across our game get a fair deal from it.

I'd be very proud to serve as a fan on the new National Council, to help us all make a difference for the ordinary fans who pay their money, love their club and our wonderful game.

Robert Whittaker

I support Blackpool FC, and therefore have first hand knowledge of many of the problems the game currently has around rogue ownership, poor governance and lack of effective regulation.

I was a senior civil servant before retiring and have considerable experience of tackling organisational failure and creating effective systems of regulation. I am confident with Ministers and senior executives and am able to advise / lobby them effectively.

I am a strong communicator and am sure that the Committee of the Blackpool Supporters Trust would vouch for my skills as an analyst and an advisor.

This is an area I care very much about, and I feel I have the skills and experience to make a difference.