



## **Candidates for Vice Chair of the National Council**

Malcolm Clarke

Tom Greatrex

Martin O'Hara

## **Malcolm Clarke**

I support Stoke City home and away. If Stoke aren't playing and York City are I'm usually there. I have been chair of the FSF since 2002 and have represented supporters on the FA Council since 2007. I worked with Stoke City to establish a democratic Supporters Council for dialogue with the Club and was its first Chair. I have a long track record of successfully working for supporters' interests at both club and national level.

### The Trust philosophy

Although my national role has been with the FSF, it might easily have been with SD. I am an advocate of part or full supporter ownership of clubs where it can be achieved and of co-operative principles ( I am a member of the Co-operative party)

I was the first Chair of the Potters Trust, which later merged with the Supporters Club of which I am a committee member (but unfortunately not as a Trust because of the then stringent SD audit requirements, ironically subsequently relaxed).

I am a Life Member of York City Supporters Trust, playing my part in its successful fight to save the club and take ownership of it in 2003. I chaired the Trust meeting in 2006 which decided to sell a 75% stake to JMP Ltd. This year I supported the Trust in responding to the Club Chairman's demand to gift the remaining shares to him, and spoke on that at two large meetings. I am also a member of the Enfield Town Trust.

### My vision

The new united organisation can be more than the sum of our founding parts, to become the truly effective champions of supporters' interests at all levels. We know we are right, but being right is not enough. We must translate that into real change for supporters benefit.

This will not happen automatically .We must work together to make it happen by making the best use of our volunteer, staffing and financial resources, not only at the "top" of the organisation but also mobilising the skills and passion of our members. I can help make that vision happen.

### Outside football

Now retired, I started as an academic, before moving into public sector senior management, up to Chief Executive level. 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 in both executive and non-executive roles.

## **Tom Greatrex**

I am standing to be vice-chair of the new organisation for two principle reasons:

Firstly, as the outgoing Chair of Supporters' Direct, I believe it is important that in a new organisation there is continuity and leadership from both FSF and SD if we are to successfully establish a partnership that brings together the achievements, experience and missions of both in forming a properly representative body for football supporters that will serve fans well. Having been on the Board of SD, and also the interim board since both AGMs voted to form a new entity, I am very familiar with that background, and will work to ensure the integration happens in a way which protects and enhances the work of both organisations, supporting our new Chief Executive and their staff team, but also challenging and scrutinising as part of the leadership, directly elected by our members.

Secondly, it is important that the leadership of the new organisation has drive, energy and commitment. It needs to embrace the developing campaigning zeal we see from Trusts and supporters groups on a wide range of issues – both the immediate and the longer term. There is a growing sense of dissatisfaction with the way some aspects of football are run, and there is a need for a coherent, enthusiastic, progressive and creative voice on behalf of fans to marshal that energy to ensure change. Alongside the painstaking and time-consuming plugging away through committees and structured dialogue, a new organisation needs to ensure it has a high profile, is openly challenging football authorities where they are unresponsive and reiterates the clear and unambiguous link between individual misguided decisions and inadequate governance at every appropriate opportunity. There is a new generation of football supporter activists emerging – we need to ensure our new organisation is relevant, open and responsive to their concerns and priorities, embracing creative ways to pursue that agenda.

In 2003, I was part of the original group that established the Fulham Supporters Trust as a successful campaign to return Fulham to Craven Cottage, and I now chair the Trust. Engaging a broad range of people to pursue what seemed an impossible task taught me how effective leadership works. I would like to bring that experience, as well as previous professional experience as a trade union negotiator, (Labour & Co-operative) Member of Parliament and running a membership body, to the leadership of our new organisation.

## **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.