



A CLUB AND A GAME IN CRISIS

Dear visiting supporter,

On behalf of **Blackpool Supporters' Trust** we wish you a warm welcome to Blackpool and hope you enjoy your time here.

Unfortunately **Blackpool FC** is a club in crisis and you will find **Bloomfield Road** over three-quarters empty. We want to make you aware why the majority of our supporters are undertaking a sustained ethical boycott against the club's owners, the Oystons.

Despite an estimated £100m windfall from our year in the Premiership, the club has dropped to the bottom tier of the EFL with two successive relegations. Instead of investing in a sustainable legacy for the football club, the owners preferred to remunerate themselves and oversee large interest-free loans to Oyston companies.

The Oystons' treatment of supporters is arguably even more dreadful than their management of the club. They have taken the unprecedented step of suing many prominent fans for 'defamation' for daring to criticise their custodianship of the club.

Our decision to boycott has not been taken lightly. We love our club as much as you love yours, but we feel that the Oystons have ripped the heart out of our club and wrenched it from the local community. We believe they only run **Blackpool FC** for their own benefit, so as a last resort **Blackpool Supporters' Trust** voted to adopt an ethical boycott as part of a campaign to force the owners to sell the club.

Many lifelong fans have taken a 'not a penny more' stance, have not renewed their season tickets, do not purchase match day tickets for home games and refuse to buy any club-related merchandise. The minority that do still attend home matches are encouraged not to purchase programmes or refreshments inside the stadium. In short we do not want to give the Oyston regime another penny or any custom and we will not return to **Bloomfield Road** until they go.

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We do however appreciate that you want to support your club and respect your decision to do so. That said, we hope you support our protest and ask that you consider showing solidarity with your fellow football supporters by:

- **not purchasing any match programmes or lottery tickets**
- **not purchasing any food or drinks from the kiosks inside the ground. (Local businesses which have been negatively impacted by the downturn at the club would welcome your custom today.)**
- **spreading the word about the **Blackpool** boycott to any sympathetic listeners**

We greatly appreciate your support.

Yours in sport,

Blackpool Supporters' Trust

Website: www.blackpoolsupporterstrust.com

Twitter: [@BlackpoolST](https://twitter.com/BlackpoolST)

FB: [Blackpool Supporters' Trust](https://www.facebook.com/BlackpoolSupportersTrust)

Of course, Blackpool FC is not the only club in crisis at the moment and this action is part of a wider struggle by other supporters' groups which have different stories but the interests of their clubs and their fans at heart: Blackburn Rovers, Charlton Athletic, Coventry City, Leyton Orient to name but a few others. See contact details below

We have in common a belief in the importance of football clubs being a part of the local community. Football supporters have sustained their clubs for generations. Owners are temporary whereas supporters are permanent. We also have a collective concern about the will of the football authorities to guarantee a fair future for fans. Therefore we are working closely with the Football Supporters Federation locally and nationally to lobby for changes in the governance of the game, to place limitations on unscrupulous and powerful owners.

This is becoming a concerted struggle on behalf of all footballs supporters. You can show your active support by joining or donating to BST, by joining the FSF and your own club's Supporters' Trust. We are ramping up activity towards a national co-ordinated campaign on the final weekend of this season against the FA and the EFL.



**@The_FSF @NWD_FSF @SuppDirect
@BRFCActionGroup @BWFCST @CharltonCARD
@theskybluetrust @thejimmyhillway @LOFansTrust**

