



New unified national supporters' organisation: Community-owned clubs network

The Football Supporters' Federation and Supporters Direct will be merging into one organisation later this month and below is a list of candidates who have put themselves forward for consideration in the Community-owned clubs network elections.

Normally, each affiliate member can vote for up to three candidates to represent them on the new national council – below you can find the supporting statements for the two candidates in the Community-owned clubs network. As there were fewer than three nominations for this network, it is proposed that the below be elected unopposed.

Tim Hillyer – The Dons Trust:

For 18 months, I have been an elected member of the Board of The Dons Trust, the supervisory and policy board, representing 3,000 AFC Wimbledon supporter to oversee our League One club. These are exciting times with the imminent construction of our new stadium. I was involved in sections of the planning process, reconfiguring the public transport section, and countering an appeal to English Heritage by identifying errors, omissions and oversights in the appellants' submissions.

At AFC Wimbledon, I led the team of volunteers who run the Club Shop until the appointment of a full-time manager last year. In recognition of my efforts, I received a Club Employee of the Decade Award from the EFL.

I have been an elected member of the National Council of the FSF for several terms.

As a qualified Management Accountant, my day job is in finance at a medium sized charity. I have looked at the financial statements of organisations as diverse as The FA (on behalf of FSF) and Football Supporters of Europe (FSE), for whom I conduct an internal audit each year.

At university I had an interest in what is now called Diversity. This led to attending Kick It Out and Pride In Football events as well as FSF Roadshow meetings.

Until the AGM this summer I was a co-opted member of the Board of Supporters Direct, initially as the FSF representative. Having stood down in the interests of improving diversity, I was invited back to add strength to the business and finance skills of the Board.

The integration of governance issues into the new organisation formed by FSF and Supporters Direct will dominate activities for the coming year. It is vital to ensure core campaigns continue to be supported effectively. I have a particular interest in the Stand Up For Choice movement. I attended the recent House of Commons debate where the Minister for Sport announced next steps towards Safe Standing.

The Independent Football Ombudsman has acknowledged supporter issues to a greater degree. It is encouraging to note that the IFO Chairman now takes a more robust approach with clubs.

Being an away supporter, I have insight into how football supporters are treated as coach travellers and train passengers. I attend the Rail Football Forum as an FSF representative and Meet the Met meetings as a club representative. I share a similar role with colleagues at EFL Structured Dialogue gatherings.

Neil Le Milliere – Exeter City Supporters Trust:

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

I'm 65, married to Julie, who I married on the pitch at Exeter at her suggestion!

I've always been an Exeter City "fan" although I left Exeter in 1966 for Kent.

From 1980, I, with my brother, became "supporters" going to more and more games, home and away, hooked for life by our 1981 FA cup run.

I've played football and/or been involved in football administration for 51 years and feel qualified to represent supporters' views on a national supporters' organisation.

SUPPORTER INVOLVEMENT BACKGROUND

My background includes:

Being actively involved with the Exiled EC Supporters Group in London since 1984;

Being a member of the EC Supporters Club for a similar period;

Running an Internet Mail Group for Exeter fans since 1999 and sending out news and trips emails to a couple of thousand fellow supporters.

Being involved with APFSCIL and acting as Secretary and Travel Secretary since 2006;

Attending almost all home and away games and being recognised by being made EFL Supporter of the Year in 2013.;

Being a founding member of the EC Supports Trust and have served on the initial committee then the Board continuously since 2000 save for a mandatory year's absence;

Being on the Supporters Direct Board continuously since 2005; later also Chair of their England and Wales Council and Chair of the Governance Sub-Committee;

Being on the Trustees Advisory Board of Kick it Out before this body was abolished;

Holding a position on an FA Compliance Monitoring Group representing supporters;

and

Volunteering at the Club running a real ale/cider bar at every home match for the last fifteen years or so.

WHAT I CAN OFFER

With this wealth of involvement, I feel qualified to represent supporters' view and opinions and to help specifically with advising supporters on the setting up of a supporters' trust and ownership of a club.

I invite you to vote for me and promise to continue to work towards getting supporters views and opinions moved to the top of every agenda. I'll also strive to help those supporters who want to, to get involved with the running and owning of their clubs where possible; combining this with ensuring that clubs are community focussed, fully involving those communities in the life of the football club and vice versa.