



Welcome to the 2010 FSF Fans' Parliament

Delegate Pack

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WELCOME

Good morning,

We'd like to welcome you all to Wembley Stadium for Fans' Parliament 2010. We're delighted to be here at such an iconic venue, and we'd like to thank the England 2018 Bid Team for their generous sponsorship of today's event. Wembley has a special place in the hearts of so many supporters, and to hold our conference here, in the rooms normally only seen by the "prawn sandwich brigade" is bound to be an interesting experience.

We'd very much like to thank our guest speaker, Dr Declan Hill, for travelling from Canada to speak to us today. Dr Hill is one of the world's authorities on corruption in sports, and the author of "The Fix." This book, which suggests the possibility of match-fixing at the highest level of the game, was described by Shaka Hislop with the words "*Declan Hill writes a well-researched book, of investigative journalistic brilliance. A book that deals with the unseen and often shadowy world of football's match fixing. A world that exists right under the eyes and ears of its players, on the pitches of the hard working, dream-living professionals, going unnoticed by the endearing fans. A world the authorities try to ignore, the effects of its existence swept under the carpet in the name of preserving the game's image.*" As this is an important area of the game which is seldom discussed, we're sure that Declan's speech will give us plenty to think about.

Following the successful change of format at last year's Fans' Parliament in Newcastle, and the introduction of breakout sessions to discuss specific topics, we'll be following this format again. Today's topics, which will help us to define FSF policies and set our priorities for the year ahead, are Financial regulation and club governance; Policing, stewarding and criminalisation of supporters; and Safe-standing.

We're also delighted by the speakers who've accepted our invitation to contribute in these breakout sessions, and we'd very much like to thank them for coming today. As well as match-going supporters with specific interests, we have representatives here from the Football League, UEFA, the Premier League, the Football Association, the Independent Police Complaints Commission, Salford Law School and we are also particularly delighted to welcome Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Human Rights group Liberty. We're very much looking forward to hearing what they all have to say today.

A full run-down of today's events - what happens when and all the documents you need today - can be found in the following pages. We'll try and stick to this schedule as closely as possible, but of course times may be subject to change as the day progresses. We would ask, though, that you do everything you can to ensure that the sessions start on time by returning promptly from refreshment and lunch-breaks.

We have two elections today and would like to point out that the ballot boxes for these will close exactly on time. The box for the election of Deputy Chair will close at 11.10 am and that for the election of National Council members at 3.25 pm. In both cases, this coincides with the end of the morning/afternoon refreshment break. All things being equal, the conference is planned to end by 5.30 pm at the latest.

But that's not the end of today's events. We'd love you to join us this evening for our light-hearted football quiz, which will be held in the National Suite at the Wembley Plaza Hotel from 6.30 pm to 9 pm. Light snacks will be provided, the bar will be open, and we'll be standing everyone who takes part a couple of drinks.

We've a selection of fun, football-related questions to challenge and amuse you, so if you want to take part in the brain-teasing, just come along at any time before 7 pm, when the questions start. Teams will be of between 4 and 6 people, but don't worry if you can't put a team together before the quiz starts, as there'll be plenty of others people looking for teammates once the evening starts.

We hope you enjoy Fans' Parliament 2010.

FSF Southern Division

AGENDA

24th July 2010

1. 10:00 am **Chair's welcome** & introduction to the format of the Fans' Parliament
2. 10.05 am **FSF AGM Elections**
 - Chair's explanation of format of elections
 - Election of FSF Secretary
 - Election of FSF Deputy Chair, including hustings
 - National Council election of directly elected representatives – introduction of nominees
3. 11.00 am **Break** - refreshments to be taken into breakout sessions
4. 11.10 am **Breakout Sessions** commence
(note that the result of the election for deputy chair above will be advised to delegates during these sessions)
5. 12:30 pm **National Council election** - ballot boxes open
6. 12.30 pm **Lunch**
7. 1.30 pm Main assembly - **Presentation by Homeless World Cup**
8. 1.35 pm **Main Speaker Dr. Declan Hill**
9. 2.20 pm **FSF awards**
10. 2.30 pm **2018 World Cup Bid presentation**
11. 2.45 pm **FSF AGM resumption**
 - a. Minutes of last AGM
 - b. Matters arising
 - c. Acceptance of accounts
 - d. Acceptance of National Council report
12. 3.15 pm **Break** - refreshments to be taken into breakout sessions
13. 3.25 pm **National Council election** – ballot boxes close

Final Breakout Sessions, including preparation of report to Main Assembly
14. 4.30 pm **AGM resumption**
National Council election results – announcement
15. 4.35 pm Debate on **motions referring to breakout session reports** to be considered by National Council (see appendix herewith)

16. 5.15 pm **Any other business**

17. 5:30 pm **Close**

Appendix to Agenda

The motions to refer the reports from the Breakout Sessions are as follows –

Motion 1

Motion to refer to the FSF National Council the report of the Fans' Parliament 2010 Breakout Session on CIVIL RIGHTS

This assembly accepts the report received from the breakout session on Civil Rights, held during the Fans' Parliament 2010 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be referred to the National Council of the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), in accordance with Bye Law 17 of the FSF, the proposals to be reviewed and considered for adoption as the policy of the FSF.

Proposed by National Council

Motion 2

Motion to refer to the FSF National Council the report of the Fans' Parliament 2010 Breakout Session on SAFE STANDING

This assembly accepts the report received from the breakout session on Safe Standing, held during the Fans' Parliament 2010 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be referred to the National Council of the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), in accordance with Bye Law 17 of the FSF, the proposals to be reviewed and considered for adoption as the policy of the FSF.

Proposed by National Council

Motion 3

Motion to refer to the FSF National Council the report of the Fans' Parliament 2010 Breakout Session on CLUB REGULATION, GOVERNANCE AND DEBT

This assembly accepts the report received from the breakout session on Club regulation, Governance and Debt, held during the Fans' Parliament 2010 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be referred to the National Council of the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), in accordance with Bye Law 17 of the FSF, the proposals to be reviewed and considered for adoption as the policy of the FSF.

Proposed by National Council

Fans' Parliament 2010

Information on Breakout Sessions

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2010

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – POLICING & STEWARDING

A. SESSION FORMAT

- 11:05am Introduction of panel members by Chair (Michael Brunskill)
- 11:10am Presentations from the panel:
- Mark James, Reader in Law, Salford Law School
 - Nicholas Long, Independent Police Complaints Commission
 - Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty
 - Amanda Jacks, Football Supporters' Federation
- Questions
- 12:00pm Workshop discussion
- Laws that apply solely or disproportionately to football supporters
 - Strategies for challenging these laws and their implementation
 - Action points for an FSF campaign in these areas
- 12:30pm Close

B. FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS AND THE CRIMINAL LAW – A SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This brief paper sets out offences created by statute in England & Wales that can only be committed by football supporters following the game.

1.2. It is not designed to be an exhaustive guide to the law, merely a summary.

2. FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS AND ALCOHOL

2.1. Football supporters, uniquely amongst followers of other sports and pastimes in England & Wales are liable to commit the following offences:

2.2. Under the *Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985* it is an offence:

- to be drunk whilst entering or attempting to enter a “designated sporting event” (principally a major football match)

- to be in possession of alcohol or be drinking alcohol in sight of the pitch inside the ground
- to drink alcohol or be in possession of alcohol in any road vehicle which has the capacity to legally carry eight or more passengers

2.3. Additionally, a number of local authorities also use their powers under the *Police and Criminal Justice Act 2001* to establish “no alcohol zones” (formally known in the Act as “Designated Public Place Orders” in areas immediately surrounding major football grounds which make it an offence to consume alcohol in the street. Manchester United’s ground Old Trafford is just one example.

3. FOOTBALL BANNING ORDERS

- 3.1.** Under the *Football Spectators Act 1989* and the *Football (Disorder) Act 2000* football fans may be summarily banned from attending any designated football match in England & Wales and overseas by a Magistrates’ Court for a period of between two and five years.
- 3.2.** In recent years the FSF has noticed a trend to apply for banning orders from the courts for offences such as “drunk attempting to enter a designated sports ground” where no violence or disorder was involved.
- 3.3.** Banning orders were originally envisaged to prevent fans guilty of offences of violent disorder from attending matches. It is this purpose to which they should be restricted.
- 3.4.** Additionally a police officer may require any fan they believe will likely to engage in disorder to appear before a Magistrates’ Court within 24 hours where an application for a banning order can be made.
- 3.5.** Those subject to banning orders can be required to surrender their passports to the police to prevent them travelling overseas to attend football matches of their club or the England or Wales national teams.

4. STANDING AT MATCHES IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 4.1.** The *Football Spectators Act 1989* gives the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport powers to designate stadia which may only be licensed where they provided exclusively seated accommodation for fans.
- 4.2.** Currently this power is exercised to require all clubs competing or have been promoted to the Premier League or the Football League Championship (the top two football divisions in England & Wales) to have stadia which provide exclusively seated accommodation.
- 4.3.** For clubs in Football Leagues One and Two (the third and fourth divisions) that get promoted to the top two divisions, they are required to have their ground all

seated after a “grace period” of three seasons, whether they maintain their promoted status or not. This means a number of clubs who have subsequently been relegated to Football Leagues One or Two have all-seated stadia and can only be licensed for seated areas in the future. They may not revert to standing accommodation.

- 4.4.** Contrary to what is often believed, there is no criminal or civil offence committed by a football fan who does not sit in the seat provided. It is however an infraction of the ground regulations posted by the club and has led to countless expulsions of fans.
- 4.5.** This requirement to sit whilst watching the match is only imposed on football fans. Fans watching rugby union, rugby league, horse racing, speedway or any other sporting or cultural/entertainment event may stand.

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2010

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – SAFE STANDING

A. SESSION FORMAT

- 11:05am Introduction of panel members by Chair (Peter Daykin)
- 11:10am Presentations from the panel:
- Campaign background (Chris Nash & Stu Wood)
 - Sit Down Stand Up and the FSF
 - Progress since Walsall
 - Key campaign areas
 - Standing in seated areas (Peter Caton)
- Questions
- 12:00pm Workshop discussion
- Aims for next 12 months
 - Strategies for achieving those aims
- 12:30pm Close

B. SAFE STANDING – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. EXISTING FSF POLICY ON SAFE STANDING

1.1 Fans' Blueprint clause:

8 The Government to permit safe standing areas at stadia where clubs and their supporters so wish.

1.2 Policy resolutions:

Standing in designated areas of existing all-seater stadia – 2005

Conference reaffirms its support for the removal of the government legislation which prevents safe standing areas in the top two Divisions of football, and instructs the NC to continue to campaign on this issue. Until this is achieved, it endorses the decision of the NC to support the aims of the 'Stand up Sit Down' campaign to allow standing in designated areas of existing all-seater stadiums, as being preferable to the current situation in terms of both safety and customer care.

Safe standing trial – 2008

Conference calls for a trial of at least one football ground in Divisions 1 & 2 in England & Wales to be permitted to have a fully funded safe standing area, similar to that at Werder Bremen (and other stadiums in Germany - with barriers along every other row), built into a new stadium or stadium redesign. This gives those agencies with a stake in the issue the opportunity to monitor and evaluate all aspects of the issue on a regular basis in order to make a valid judgement. Currently no such facility exists in England & Wales to be able to accurately report on the full effect of such an area within a professional football stadium in England or Wales.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUSD/FSF MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2009

Attendees: Colin Hendrie (CH), Mark Longden (ML), Peter Caton (PC), Amanda Jacks (AJ), Kevin Ryan (KR), Paul Jones (PJ), Chris Nash (CN), Stuart Wood (SW)

Other abbreviations used are: Malcolm Clarke (MC), Phill Gatenby (PG), Manny Dominguez (MD)

Apologies: None

2.1 OPENING REMARKS

Meeting function was to discuss merger of FSF Safe Standing Campaign with Stand Up Sit Down into a new single body. Aim was to put together the building blocks of a working campaign.

Provisional new name of new organisation is *Stand Up For Choice* (SUFC)

CH outlined the importance of timing to the campaign, because:

- i) A change of government is possible in 2010
- ii) The FLA will soon have a new chair (arriving 2010) and three new council members.
- iii) We have a change in Sports Minister.

It was later decided on a campaign launch date of Jan/Feb 2010. This give 3-4 months to get groundwork together. A provisional budget of £10,000 was mooted.

2.2 INTRODUCTIONS

The eight individuals present introduced themselves.

2.3 REVIEW OF CURRENT POSITION

There were a number of positives and negatives of the campaign so far. Often the positives were qualified, because we had not properly exploited them:

2.3.1 LETTER WRITING

PG (& when SUSD was set up, PC) had been very busy with letter writing. This was felt to have a limited effect. PG in particular was largely dismissed as an obsessive.

2.3.2 EDM 101

Following campaigns by FSF & SUSD, some 140 MP's had signed up to EDM 101, calling for reconsideration of Safe Standing. On the other hand, we had not made much out of this.

2.3.3 Managed standing

PJ pointed out that standing was top of the agenda at every PL meeting. It is becoming accepted that mass persistent standing is very difficult to tackle and that efforts were moving to managing the issue unofficially.

While arguably progress, it is accepted though that such a quiet acceptance of standing is not as good as proper designated and advertised Safe Standing areas, particularly as problems arise for those who prefer not to, or are unable, to stand and may not know the unofficial rules.

2.3.4 New terraces

There is increased recognition of the desire of many to stand. Morecambe & Hereford are both foregoing Football Foundation funding and building new terraces. The negatives are:

- a) That these will have to be seated over if the clubs reach the Championship & remain there 3 years.
- b) Few clubs will voluntarily forego funding.

2.3.5 Variositze

CH explained the position on Football Foundation (FF) funding of new lower league stadia. They were reluctant to fund new terraces in case clubs were successful and these needed to be seated.

However, he had had discussions with the FF regarding Variositze. The conversion cost to/from standing & seating is practically nil and FF were seemingly happy with this; albeit they had not put this in writing.

2.4 New Campaign Aims & Objectives

- 2.4.1** Aim 1 - A change in the rules so that supporters have the choice to stand.
- 2.4.2** Aim 2 – Support for better management of existing standing within all-seated stadia (arguably we could not put this in print as an aim).
- 2.4.3** Aim 3 – Retain existing terraces (encompassing challenging the 3 year rule and dissuading the needless destruction of terracing by clubs outside the top two divisions).
- 2.4.4** Aim 4 – To get standing areas within new stadiums. For those within the Football League, Variositze is the most promising design, rather than new terracing.

2.5 Lead Campaign

CH outlined a lead campaign encompassing two broad areas:

- 2.5.1** Information. This would include:

2.5.1.1 A new website

2.5.1.2 YouTube video.

2.5.2 Convincing stadium/club owners that it was in their interests to offer Safe Standing. CH outlined the method at Bradford. He had worked with MD on a 2-stage campaign,

2.5.2.1 Flyers/online petition to show the local demand for Safe Standing

2.5.2.2 Discussions with the club about implementation

Other methods may also achieve the same ends.

2.6 Distribution of responsibilities & tasks

While some tasks already had owners, others are 'up for grabs'. Please can everyone think about their own skillsets and take ownership of tasks accordingly.

2.6.1 TASKS ALREADY ALLOCATED

2.6.1.1 CH is to draft a mission statement & circulate.

2.6.1.2 PJ is to speak to his friend about putting together a website.

2.6.1.3 PJ is to look at putting together a Youtube video explaining Safe Standing.

2.6.1.4 CN & PC are to put together database of existing terraces within the FL/Top levels of NL, with view to meeting club supporters/officials to discuss plans for them. This is with reference to aim #3 above.

2.6.1.5 CN to put together list of clubs that FSF/SUSD members have visited to discuss standing, with a view to revisiting those clubs and retaining important links.

2.6.1.6 All were going to contribute to putting together club database with key club contacts, addresses of main web forums/fanzines etc. ½ league allocated each. CN to send templates.

2.6.2 TASKS UP FOR GRABS

2.6.2.1 Recruitment of local activists

2.6.2.2 Recruitment of celebrity fans

2.6.2.3 Research on history of Hillsborough/How all-seater ruling came about. AJ suggested Hansard.

2.6.2.4 Ideas for web content, including FAQ's. (nb. In anticipation of a new SUSD website, CN wrote a number of articles – propose that these are a first draft of articles for new website).

2.6.2.5 Putting together info packs to go to clubs, explaining why the provision of standing areas is in their interests.

2.6.3 *Note – Aim is for launch date in the new year. We must therefore work to this timetable.*

2.7 Forward planning & communications

2.7.1 Idea to set up Google group on email. When replying to mail, please click 'reply all' so that no-one is omitted from discussion.

2.7.2 Please can everyone circulate their phone numbers, so that we (esp. Colin) can be in contact with anything urgent.

2.8 AOB

Consideration was given to a big FA Cup game, along the lines of Torquay v West Ham. This might be a chance to hand out flyers highlighting the absurdity that people can stand one week but not the next.

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2010

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – CLUB OWNERSHIP & FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

Report not available at time of publication. Please see external annex.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

FANS' BLUEPRINT FOR FOOTBALL

- 1 The strengthening of strong, independent, unified and co-ordinated governance of the game in England & Wales with appropriate co-ordination and co-operation between the Football Association, Football Association of Wales and the leagues.
- 2 Enhanced revenue sharing and redistribution to support the game, the development of football's playing and coaching infrastructure, improved grounds and other spectator facilities and to promote competition at all levels of the game.
- 3 Minimum standards of governance, administration and financial control for all clubs to be enforced by the governing body as a condition of membership and league entry, including an appropriately enforced and managed prospective "fit and proper person" test for all persons owning or directing a football club.
- 4 Clear and appropriately enforced standards of club governance and management to be introduced over a five year period covering ownership, financial and other management standards such as ground safety and development.
- 5 The approval by Parliament of a Sports Law granting governing bodies appropriate and sufficient authority to properly regulate and manage their sports subject to minimum standards of transparency and fairness having particular regard to the impact of competition and employment law on sport.
- 6 The development of clear guidance on the scope and decisions of independent appeals panels and commissions in consultation with supporters to prevent any recurrence of the decision of the FA appeals tribunal decision to permit the former Wimbledon FC to move to Milton Keynes.
- 7 The development of clear legally enforceable rules to prevent clubs selling or moving from grounds without the explicit prior agreement of their supporters and another ground being developed on a site acceptable to the fans of that club. Consultation on such moves shall be by properly supervised secret ballot after a period of debate and discussion amongst all stakeholders in the club including fans. Those eligible to vote and other matters associated with such consultation to be set out in an enforceable code of conduct covering proposed ground moves.
- 8 The Government to permit safe standing areas at stadia where clubs and their supporters so wish.
- 9 A reduction to constant fixture changes to suit television or policing.
- 10 Prior consultation with supporters on broadcasting contracts to ensure a fair deal for the match going fan and an end to TV "overkill".
- 11 An end to bans on away fans and an increase in away ticket allocations.

12 A comprehensive review of the structure of all domestic league and cup competitions and the structure of the season involving supporters at every stage.

13 Consultation with supporters on the structure of all European and international club and national team competitions and how they relate to domestic competitions.

14 Involvement of supporters in initiatives to combat racism on the field and in the stands.

15 An end to discriminatory treatment of away supporters in terms of ticket prices and allocations in both domestic and international competitions and club levels.

16 The development of a regular TV free midweek evening with no live broadcast Premiership, Football League or Champions' League games for midweek fixtures to encourage live attendance.

17 An end to the constant above inflation increase in ticket prices, particularly for lower priced tickets.

18 Discount ticket prices for younger and retired supporters with national standards on age criteria.

19 The development of disabled supporters' facilities at all levels of the game including minimum standards.

20 Involvement of supporters in all policing and stewarding policies affecting them .

21 Encouragement and adequate funding of supporter organisation and involvement in the game at all levels.

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE FSF FANS' BLUEPRINT FOR FOOTBALL

The FSF National Council has resolved that items 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 18 should be reviewed at the 2010 Fans' Parliament with a view to updating and amendment, as below

Clause 7 – Ground Moves/Sales

Current:

7 The development of clear legally enforceable rules to prevent clubs selling or moving from grounds without the explicit prior agreement of their supporters and another ground being developed on a site acceptable to the fans of that club. Consultation on such moves shall be by properly supervised secret ballot after a period of debate and discussion amongst all stakeholders in the club including fans. Those eligible to vote and other matters associated with such consultation to be set out in an enforceable code of conduct covering proposed ground moves.

Proposed new clause:

7 The development of clear enforceable rules in league and association rules to prevent clubs selling to a third party including another "group" or subsidiary company their registered stadium/ground (where that club currently owns same) and/or moving to a new ground without the explicit agreement of a clear majority of that club's supporters. The procedures for supporter consent to ground moves and/or sales to be set out in an enforceable code of conduct on ground sales/moves.

Clause 8 – Safe Standing

Current:

8 The Government to permit safe standing areas at stadia where clubs and their supporters so wish.

Proposed new clause

8. The Government to permit safe standing, including standing in formally seated areas, where their clubs and supporters so wish in all professional football divisions in England & Wales.

Clause 9 – Fixture Changes

Current:

9 A reduction to constant fixture changes to suit television or policing.

Proposed new clause:

9 Clear rules governing minimum notice periods and compensation/refunds (for both home and visiting supporters) for fixture changes whether initiated by broadcasters, the police or involvement of competing clubs in other competitions.

Clause 12 – Structure of the Domestic Season

Current:

12 A comprehensive review of the structure of all domestic league and cup competitions and the structure of the season involving supporters at every stage.

Proposed new clause

12. A comprehensive review of the structure of all domestic league and cup competitions involving supporters at every stage, including cup replays, play-offs, “neutral site” or overseas games in domestic competitions, mid-season break, length of close season and size of leagues.

Clause 13 – European and International Competitions

Current:

13 Consultation with supporters on the structure of all European and international club and national team competitions and how they relate to domestic competitions.

Proposed new clause:

13 Working with the FSF’s partners in Football Supporters Europe (FSE) consultation on the structure of all European and international club and national team competitions and how they relate to domestic competitions.

Clause 14 – Racism

Current:

14 Involvement of supporters in initiatives to combat racism on the field and in the stands.

Proposed new clause:

14 Involvement of supporters in initiatives to combat all forms of discrimination and to promote equality and diversity on the field and in the stands.

Clause 15 – Ticket Allocations/Pricing

Current:

15 An end to discriminatory treatment of away supporters in terms of ticket prices and allocations in both domestic and international competitions and club levels.

Proposed new clause:

15 An end to any form of discriminatory treatment in the pricing of visiting supporters’ ticket allocations for all domestic and European competitions. A “new deal” for supporters’ allocations for European and international tournaments, working with our partners in FSE.

Clause 18 – Younger/Older Supporters’ Ticket Price Discounts

Current:

18 Discount ticket prices for younger and retired supporters with national standards on age criteria.

Proposed new clause

18 The promotion of best practice in the application of discounted ticket prices for younger, older and unemployed supporters.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Policy leads are indicated where appropriate but other members have contributed to the various areas and all NC members have made a positive contribution in the last year for which the Chair offers his grateful thanks.

1. Membership, Finance, Services to members and Communications

Membership

Last year's Fans Parliament took the very significant step of introducing free membership for both individuals and affiliates. The objectives of this were to rapidly increase the rate of membership growth to both demonstrate our claim to be a truly representative organisation for football fans and also increase our attractiveness to potential sponsors. It also removed any competition between us and club-based supporters organisations for membership subscriptions. The Football Supporter became a subscription magazine rather than one issued free to members.

After one year it can fairly be said that those objectives are largely being met. The individual membership now stands at 41,910 and the affiliate membership at 132 with the total membership being estimated at 180,000. Although almost all of the existing individual members were happy to convert their membership subscription to a TFS subscription, the number of new TFS subscriptions has been disappointing so far (perhaps an indication of the power of the electronic age). However, we are actively exploring the potential of TFS as a free magazine as a vehicle to drive sponsorship.

The FSF Office

The Office and our administrative, communications and commercial activities are run on our behalf by A19 Ltd., a dedicated Company run and staffed by FSF members, and set up for that purpose. The office oversaw the conversion to free membership, the introduction of TFS subscriptions, the introduction of online direct debits for both subscriptions and donations and the administration involved in informing members of this change. This proved a more complex task than might be imagined but careful planning saw the processes mapped out and executed successfully.

The Office provides day-to-day support to the FSF membership, enquiry answering and dealing with press, etc. There has been a welcome increase in telephone & email inquiries due to the increase in membership, web traffic and general awareness of the FSF. The introduction of Royal Mail press stream service to help reduce postage cost of The Football Supporters' magazine by more than half.

Statement by A19

The A19 team are grateful and excited about the opportunity to support the FSF for the next two years. The responsibilities involved are not taken for granted and indeed the team will continue to strive to work beyond expectations. A19 welcomes the optimistic targets for FSF membership recruitment and are already closely measuring performance against these.

The past 12 months have been transitional but the team is settled and the balance feels right. A19 are committed to playing a central role in the growth, presence and sustainability of the FSF for the long term. As well a sense of professional pride, the team believes strongly in the aims of the FSF.

Communications (P.Daykin)

The website is regularly updated with news stories. Website hits has shown a rise of 31% (unique) and 42% (total) on last year's figures. We have also experimented in emailing members when a story on their club is published to drive interest and traffic. This has proved successful and will be factored into the website redesign, which will shortly be taking place. We have set up @The_FSF Twitter account to help publicise our work, news stories and publications. Fan Mail had previously been sent once per month but we have increased this to sending fortnightly, together with some special issues, driving traffic to the website and meaning that we can include more topical items as well as opening up new revenue streams through advertising. We have increased the frequency of E-Lions to coincide with the World Cup. One was delivered prior to every England game. We also set up links with the MoD which should see E-Lions sent to troops all over the globe.

The World Cup website provided fans with up-to-date information in South Africa, as did the FSF_FreeLions Twitter account. Press releases on key news and issues have been regularly distributed. We have established new fanzine and blog networks which allows us to react quickly to any media queries on club specific issues, either by passing on to a fan rep at a particular club or getting a brief from fan rep before giving an FSF media line.

We have delivered team of the month for Sunday Mirror and managed the fans' panel, made up of fans from each Premier League side. This has given good "brand association" for the FSF, effectively a free ad in a national paper.

We are developing a FSF FAQs section, to be fully launched with new website. This is intended to act as a database for fan queries.

The Domestic Ground Guide has been streamlined to offer more concise and user-friendly access to relevant information for travelling supporters. A major systematic review was undertaken to ensure information on each club was up-to-date and accurate, and consultation is ongoing with supporters as more information is added. The launch of the new website will see a re-designed ground guide section taking this process one step further, ensuring accurate and pertinent information is easily accessed by fans at the same time as maximising the potential commercial revenue streams. It will also include an interactive element, improving the 'by fans, for fans' feel as supporters will be encouraged to leave their own comments and recommendations on-site.

The International Ground Guide continued its work in supporting fans travelling to Champions League and Europa League fixtures in the 2009/10 season. The take-up of the advice and information offered resulted in the busiest season on the website to date. The guides reached comfortably in excess of 50,000 hits across all fixtures, including more than 10,000 for the Europa League Final alone. 57 foreign clubs are covered so far and the number is ever increasing.

The FSF's Facebook Fan Page, launched in late January 2010, now has well in excess of 6000 followers. This has helped us improve communications and interaction with football fans across the UK and beyond, and our presence on social media has engendered greater engagement with people who may otherwise not have heard of us, whilst at the same time positioning us as media savvy and technically advanced. It has provided content for features in The Football Supporter, as well as proving a lively ground for debate and interaction between the fans themselves. It also allows a different communications outlet from the main website and TFS, allowing us to comment and interact with fans, and to promote the FSF and our events, much more easily.

Finance (C.Clark)

The full statement of accounts and balance sheet are in the Conference papers. During the year we had to make an exceptional payment of Vat arrears of some £34k. This was

because of a liability for VAT of which we unaware. We, of course, paid it as soon as we became aware of the problem, unlike many football clubs!

We receive substantial annual grants from the FA, the Premier League and the PFA on a three-year deal which ends this summer. We are very grateful for the support from the football authorities and the PFA which is in line with the recommendations of various independent reports over the years, and is entirely appropriate given the financial contributions our members make to the game's income.

However, at the moment, we have not been given a further deal for three years to coincide with the new TV deals, but only for one year, i.e. until Summer 2011. This is obviously a cause for concern and we are continuing discussions with the FA, the PL and the PFA.

Regardless of the outcome of those discussions, it would in any case be wise to continue our efforts to diversify our income streams, which was one of the objectives of the introduction of free membership, because a larger membership makes us more attractive to commercial sponsors. This is covered elsewhere in this report.

To this end we have renewed our contract with A19 Ltd for a further two years, and also intend to proceed with the appointment of a caseworker. Whilst we will always be prudent with decisions on our cost base, and have retained a relatively high level of reserves because of the uncertainty of our existing income streams, we do not believe that it would be sensible to enter into a 'spiral of decline' by cutting back on our core business which is developing so successfully. On the contrary, a successful and developing organisation is more likely to be attractive to commercial sponsors and advertisers.

On the International side, for the provision of our fans embassies, Free Lions and the international website we have had funding from Nationwide, central Government and sponsorship deals which saw us through the World Cup Finals. Future funding is a concern with cut-backs in expenditure in all Government departments and Nationwide's withdrawal of their sponsorship of the England team. Discussions and negotiations are taking place to ensure that we can continue to provide our help and advice fans in the future at an appropriate level. To that end, during the last month we have again secured grants from the Home office to continue fans Embassy work for the next two years (2010-2012 European Championships qualifying) and we have already started preparing for the game in Switzerland this autumn.

Commercial and sponsorship

Our total Advertising revenue in the last year has been almost £25k. This has been the first 12 months of structured commercial activity, and has therefore been an interesting learning experience for us. The lessons learned have formed the basis of the re-design of the Ground Guide. It is hoped this will provide a steady income stream by providing a platform for hotels and bars to reach match going football fans.

Email newsletters have proved a valuable income stream and again lessons have been learnt that will hopefully see this providing regular revenue throughout the season. We have worked hard to improve the general quality of "The Football Supporter" and reach more readers than ever before, beyond the membership of the FSF. A number of avenues have been explored to set up a distribution network that will increase awareness of the FSF and TFS. This has resulted in an initiative that will see TFS distributed in over 90 pubs around football grounds up and down the country next year. The long term aim is to continue to increase ad revenue to become cost neutral, and exposing the FSF to thousands more fans with each issue. Currently each issue brings in net advertising of around £2300. This is after four issues of sustained commercial activity.

Efforts have been made to attract sponsorship directly and indirectly. Although the recession has made it a very difficult time for us to enter this area, a number of brands are showing interest. Again, the last 12 months have been a learning process and it is apparent third party agencies play a huge part in presenting pitches to brands.

We have promoted increased commercial awareness of the FSF through participation in surveys, market research and providing occasional comment on various brands' press releases. This has resulted in some excellent exposure in trade press releases and national media. Obviously the more brands that are aware of the FSF the better but crucially they will now see real examples of the angles a partnership can offer.

The use of Social Media is in its infancy as far as the FSF are concerned and as such commercial opportunities are limited. However it has been a useful "add on" to persuade a few businesses to part with their cash. Long term this could play a big part in developing income streams. It has already been a great source of canvassing immediate fan opinion. The same will be true for surveys and polls to provide market research.

International incl Cymru (K.Malley, K.Miles,P.Corkery, V.Alm)

Fans' Embassies

England's trips abroad throw up a variety of challenges for the Fans' Embassy team and the last twelve months have probably been as unusual as we have seen. Dutch hooligans intent on trouble in Amsterdam were well policed and our own fans ignored their disruptive efforts and continued their party in the sunshine. Most of our work was the usual assortment of ticket queries, directions and lost and found.

The trip to Dnipropetrovsk in Ukraine was a step into the unknown. For the first time fans took refuge at the Fans' Embassy vehicle when being chased by locals. We took the precaution of covering our colours whenever we were away from the Embassy. Again the English supporters were well behaved and keen to avoid trouble.

A friendly against Brazil in Doha was a different experience! Lack of pavements, heavy traffic, no bars and no town square meant that we operated from the comfort of our air-conditioned hotel foyer rather than from an outside base with people on foot. A Nationwide-organised event with an out-of-hours drinks license at our hotel led to us having to take names and passport details from all who wished to attend. We took the opportunity to sign them up for the FSF at the same time – some 400 in total.

The last away game before the start of the World Cup was again a friendly in a neutral venue, against Japan in Graz, Austria. This was a refreshing contrast to previous trips with few questions other than re-uniting an owner with his passport.

And so to South Africa. Great efforts had been made to ensure that this was a trouble-free tournament for the travelling English supporters. Kev Miles had done more advance reces than ever before; he and other NC members attended meetings with numerous authorities as well as fans' forums and our Embassy team of ten had a training day with presentations from the FA, Foreign Office and a security company.

Our advice to the supporters was apparently taken to heart as incidents were few and far between, in fact fewer than one would expect on many European excursions. There were very few arrests amongst English fans. Our help was sought on an unusually wide range of subjects ranging from a lad who was stopped from flying by police at Heathrow – with the help of our solicitors this was overturned, he travelled within 36 hours and he received compensation – to someone who had locked his car keys in the boot of his car.

Based in Johannesburg, we put on Fans' Embassies in Rustenburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein; driving a total of about 3,400 miles in the process. Ten to fifteen thousand copies of each edition of FreeLions were printed and distributed at every venue. These, along with the free guide book distributed by the FA and Nationwide and the free text messaging service, won much praise and gratitude from the travelling fans. The website, Facebook and Twitter proved popular at home as well as with those in Africa.

We had sponsorship deals that gained us the use of two vehicles for our travels there including a liveried Land Rover as the main Embassy vehicle. We also negotiated a quantity of free SIM cards and a free text messaging service for fans in South Africa.

Although England had no representatives at the Champions' League Final, we ran a successful Fans' Embassy for Fulham supporters at the Europa League final in Hamburg in May 2010. A team of excellent volunteers, coupled with FSF staff, distributed around 18,000 copies of our Away Goals fanzine and offered support and advice to fans on the ground, as well as a 24 hour helpline. The feedback from those who encountered FSF staff and volunteers was excellent.

As always a vote of thanks must go to all those volunteers that helped throughout the year, both in research, updating our information channels, handing out fanzines and generally giving advice to the fans in what has been a more challenging than usual period.

Free Lions

The game at Wembley on March 3rd saw our 100th edition of FreeLions. We felt this should not go unrecognized and so a guest list was prepared for a buffet dinner after the match. As well as helpers past and present, guests included people from the FA, the police, the Government and the Premier League.

Media

Media work is an important part of our relationship with our commercial sponsors as well as a way of promoting the Football Supporters' Federation. Each year brings many more requests for statements about our work and our view of England followers especially around the time of tournaments.

FSF Cymru

During the last twelve months FSF Cymru provided fans embassy services for Welsh fans in Finland, Lichtenstein and Croatia. We continue to source information by doing our own reconnaissance trips, working with the British consulates abroad and the Football Association of Wales. The information we gather is put together, published and delivered to every Welsh supporter that buys a match ticket to away games, this is in the form of information booklets, and these are also made available to all fans on the main FSF website in the FSF Cymru section.

We have continued a regular dialogue with the staff at the FAW. Many topics are discussed in these meetings and during June 2010 FSF Cymru achieved compromises on the new Welsh supporters' club membership scheme, with three important changes which will benefit Welsh fans. We feel it is important to meet regularly with the FAW and the Welsh police liaison officers

We maintain our "Wear red for Wales" campaign which encourages supporters to wear national colours to games rather than domestic team colours. From July 2010 we are intending to introduce a new FSF Cymru webmail service to all FSF members based in Wales or those fans that follow Welsh football. We hope this e mail magazine will encourage

more individual members not only to join the FSF but to actually interact and put their views forward.

We want fans to have a voice and get it heard, if there are issues in Welsh football that affect the fans, either domestic or national, we want our members to know these issues will be listened too and hopefully acted upon and resolved. It is important to see FSF membership growing because then it becomes more representative of the fans opinions and more powerful to solve problems that individuals sometimes see get ignored.

2. External representation and liaison with other supporters organisations

We meet regularly with the various football authorities and other relevant agencies including central Government. The Chair, Malcolm Clarke, is the supporter representative on the FA Council.

Ian Todd represents Federation as a co-opted full Board member of Supporters Direct and Malcolm Clarke, also attends each Board meeting briefly to report on his involvement on the FA Council where he represents supporters, including SD and NADS, both of whom have co-opted members on the FSF National Council.

The Supporters Trust movement continues to flourish, and it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of its policy and to cement the close relationship between the respective organisations. A statement of accord defines the respective roles of the two organisations.

The third Annual Congress of the FSE (Football Supporters Europe) was in Barcelona last weekend and was attended by 5 FSF members. At last year's event, the FSF nominee, Kevin Miles, topped the poll in elections to the Committee, and Dave Boyle from SD was also elected. They both attended a meeting in Nyon with Michel Platini as part of the FSE Committee and Kevin has been involved with advance planning for the provision of Fans' Embassies at the Euros in 2012.

FSF members have all been guest panel members at forums organized by the regional branches of England fans' groups.

The FSF supported the Internet Football Association's (IFA) 'WorldNET 2009', the largest independent annual fans' tournament in the UK. We provided a programme/fanzine free of charge to all competitors and spectators of 78 teams from across the UK, who competed in the two-day event in Leeds. More than 1,000 players supporting clubs from Manchester United and Arsenal to Whitby and Welling United received the fanzine, while FSF members were present on-site across the weekend promoting the organisation. The feedback, from players and tournament organisers, was overwhelmingly positive, and we will be returning to the tournament this year (on the same weekend as Fans' Parliament). This link with the IFA has already had an impact in terms of increased membership, and we will be co-operating with them ahead of next season to ensure ever-greater take up of FSF membership among the players of the 100+ clubs who compete in the IFA league.

3. Policy areas

TV Contracts and Wealth Distribution (J.Keen)

These are both very contentious areas for supporters but also the areas where the FSF has the least influence, so our aim in these areas is to increase our influence stakeholders. We have attended several meetings, including the Westminster Media Forum, contributing to discussions with broadcasters and politicians on the future of free-to-air sports broadcasting and the Annual Reception of the All-Party Parliamentary Media Group. We also attended a meeting with Ian Watmore, at that time new to post as CEO of The FA, where we had open

discussions on what were important factors in TV contracts for England and FA Cup matches to supporters.

We have advised supporters on their rights (or lack of them!) regarding the late rescheduling of matches for TV – this season's prize for most ludicrous rescheduling goes to Sky for making Newcastle play at Plymouth on a Monday evening! But as always, the TV companies play a dead bat to all protests, and the leagues are too financially dependent on TV money to pay more than lip service to the needs of travelling supporters. There is still much to be done to persuade television companies not to add to supporters' leave and travel plans by moving long distance games away from the traditional Saturday kick-off time. The problems that late rescheduling of matches causes supporters has been raised wherever possible in meetings with the football authorities, in furtherance of our two main policy aims :

First, a published cut off date, after which matches should not be rescheduled for TV, with supporters able to claim compensation for any non-refundable and bona fide travel or accommodation costs lost as a result of matches being rescheduled after this deadline. Ian Todd on the Fixtures Working Party has tried, and failed to get published the dates upon which each batch of TV fixtures will be released. It is hoped that as a minimum more clubs will identify, at the start of the season, those games which will automatically be moved to Sunday if their opponent that weekend has been involved in a Europa League game the previous Thursday.

Second, much more considerate and common-sense scheduling policies – for instance, televising matches on a Sunday which have already been moved due to the Europa League, rather than rescheduling other matches.

Wealth distribution is a related area where we continue to publicise the issues and try to influence the Leagues, particularly the Premier League. In this year there were two major developments. This first of these was the new set of TV deals for 2010-2013. Whilst the domestic Premier League TV deal is worth £1.782bn, slightly higher than the previous £1.7bn, the new overseas TV contract is now worth more than £1bn, a substantial rise from the previous £625m – this equates to an extra £7-8m per club. Each place in the Premier League table is now worth around £750,000 on top of a minimum payment of £13.9m to each club, and a minimum of 10 TV "facility fees" per club each worth £480,000. This means that the minimum revenue for each Premier League club each season will be £40m.

Coupled with this is a radical change the way in which "solidarity payments" are distributed to the Football League. Parachute payments for clubs relegated from the Premier League have changed from £16m a year for two years to £48m over 4 years – two annual payments of £16m followed by another two of £8m. This package also increases the money distributed to Tier 3 and 4 clubs – clubs in League One will receive £325,000 per year (currently £108,000) and those in League Two £250,000 (currently £72,000).

This will obviously change the financial dynamics of relegated clubs. Whilst it may mean that more clubs at any one time have parachute payments and that there is more money outside the Premier League, it will further tip the financial advantage towards relegated clubs, to the disadvantage of all other clubs. Interestingly, this proposal was initially blocked in a concerted effort by Tier 3 and 4 clubs to stand-up to the Premier League, as they feared that this move would create a Premier League 2 in all but name. But once the Premier League presented this as an "all or nothing" offer, support crumbled and the deal went through.

As our policy is to oppose parachute payments and in favour of the smallest financial gap possible between each division and the maximum wealth distribution from the top downwards this has got to be a worrying development. Yes, more money is coming to clubs outside the Premier League, but the vast majority of it is being given to the favoured few who

have recently had places at that top table, rather than being distributed equally to benefit clubs at all levels.

Pricing and ticketing (A. Bloore)

This area continues to give rise to many complaints from supporters with rarely a week passing without some complaints. In the Premier League the main complaints are about the pricing levels, where the huge amount of money going into the League has still not significantly benefitted the match-going fan. Some middle-ranking clubs who have had problems filling the ground have introduced some good deals for low-profile games, but prices at the top clubs and for high-profile games remain scandalously high. For example, the price rises at Man Utd imposed since the Glazers took over and the prices charged at Chelsea are a disgrace.

The categorisation of games means that the away supporters (who in many respects are the game's best customers) of high profile clubs have to pay 'top whack' which can be almost £50 wherever they go.

We also have a continual stream of complaints in the Football League. Many of these relate to what is called in the Community Days rule that allows clubs to charge less to their own supporters for four games a year. For example, Sheffield Wednesday on the last day of the season dropped home prices to £10 but charged Crystal Palace Supporters the full price. Maybe this was a reaction to losing a complaint about price differentials between home supporters and away supporters on Boxing Day following which they had to refund the entire extra revenue they had taken by doing this.

We will be working to try to stop these abuses of the principle that away supporters should not be charged more than home supporters. It already looks as though next season in the Championship complaints about match categorisation will shoot up, as it appears already a large number of clubs in that league have introduced categories for every game. In some cases the price differentials are between £35 & £10.

In one case there will be an increase from £15 two years ago to £28 - and that's been in a period of recession.

We will continue to talk to the Football League on these issues and to encourage them to change their rules. The FSF also needs to review our policies and look at options such as a fixed price for away fans. Pricing is a big issue and we need all the help we can get to monitor clubs. If you see anything you feel is wrong please get in touch.

There are also pricing issues in the Conference. Some stadia in the Blue Square Premier are all-seater. Half of the division is formed by clubs who were once in the Football League. Minimum admission prices range as high as £18 for adults, £13 for seniors and £10 for children (step forward Cambridge United). Compare this with Fulham where Premier League prices start from £10 for adults, with FA Cup and European matches from £15. No wonder some BSP clubs find it difficult to attract a crowd, although attendances often compare very favourably with League 2.

Cambridge United advertised prices for their away terrace on their website, then closed that area on matchday forcing away fans to pay to enter the away stand. For a parent with two children the difference amounted to £13. If away fans had chosen to enter the home terrace to save a few quid, the potential segregation problems are obvious.

However, it seems that pricing regulations to be introduced next season by the Football Conference means that whenever only one area of accommodating away support is offered then it must be at the lowest price charged in other areas of the stadium. This will not apply however where visiting supporters are offered a choice of sitting or standing

Policing (A.Jacks, A.Connor)

On the policing and legal front, this past season has been exceptionally busy for the FSF as word continues to spread among supporters of the expert legal advice we are now able to offer. We have also forged some excellent new contacts in both the legal and academic world as well as our partnership with Liberty.

Even before the season had started we had one of the most serious cases the FSF has dealt with. On return from a friendly game against Hearts, a large group of Sunderland AFC supporters, on police advice, took a train back to the north east that they were under the impression would take them back to their home town. This transpired not to be the case with the service terminating at Newcastle Central Station; once at the station, these supporters were held on the train for a period of time and then 'corralled' back through the station by police some of whom had dogs. At some point, a violent melee was triggered in which at least three supporters suffered head injuries which required hospitalisation and others suffered dog bites. We were alerted to this by a supporter who contacted us for advice, and in the following days spoke to and took statements from countless supporters who were either directly involved or witnessed events. The media portrayed the incident in the most lurid terms, labelling the supporters involved as "yobs" and "hooligans" who'd violently attacked both police and their dogs. Suffice to say, the accounts we heard could not have been further from the media portrayal that largely relied on police press releases.

We gave assistance to fans and put them in touch with solicitors, gave media interviews, put together appeals for information, liaised with SAFC and perhaps most importantly we voiced our extreme concern at the IPCC absolving the police from any blame in the incident without speaking to a single supporter involved! A massive police operation saw the arrest and charging of many supporters involved and at the time of writing they are awaiting their trial date. All of the fans charged intend to plead not guilty to charges against them and the FSF continues to lend support to these supporters. There are also major data protection issues about the police giving information on people arrested but not charged, let alone convicted, to SAFC.

The festive season again saw the FSF swing into action to assist supporters of both Everton and Portsmouth who were arrested for pitch encroachment following late goals against SAFC. None of these fans had actually entered the field of play, merely the track between the stands and the pitch and some were carried there through sheer momentum. In a situation where we'd have liked to have seen common sense instead saw many fans charged and put before the courts. We successfully assisted supporters in their criminal cases and helped another supporter in providing him with a solicitor who specialises in civil cases with a view to him taking action against the club for their actions on the day.

In between these major incidents and since, many more supporters of clubs across the leagues have come to us for help following an arrest or harsh treatment at the hands of the police or ground stewards; many of these fans ordinarily would not have taken professional legal advice either due to financial reasons or simply thinking the easy option would be just to turn up at court and plead guilty.

We are in the very fortunate position of being able to refer these fans to the excellent Melanie Cooke, a criminal solicitor the FSF came across by chance early last year after advising a young Man Utd fan arrested for a public order offence after being mistakenly identified by a steward. Melanie has now assisted many supporters either by just offering free advice in her own time or by formally representing them. It is safe to say that without her, and her colleague David Nicholson, it is entirely possible many fans would have faced conviction for offences of which they were not guilty.

We have also secured a partnership with a London based firm, Deighton Guedalla who specialise in civil cases and like Melanie, they too are prepared to give initial advice free of charge. We've referred several supporters to them after they got in touch with the FSF following cases of harsh treatment by either the police or a football club. Our relationship with Liberty continues and we are pleased that Shami Chakrabarti is speaking in the workshop on policing issues today, demonstrative of how far we've come in a relatively short period of time.

We would never condone in any way football-related violence or disorder. However, for too long now, the mentality among supporters has been "expect and accept"; it seems that many fans take for granted how they are policed and stewarded and with the support of Melanie and her legal colleagues we are now in the position where not only can we educate supporters about their rights but assist them in their complaints by putting them in touch with professionals and most importantly provide them with appropriate representation or by advising them ourselves. We have helped supporters in writing letters on their behalf to various authorities; more and more we're doing something very simple but effective - giving fans a voice and making it clear supporters do have rights and that watching football is not a crime! Finally, we should also mention Dr's Mark James and Geoff Pearson, experts in the field of supporter related law; they have a particular interest in the application of banning orders and their effectiveness and we'll be working closely with them in the forthcoming season.

Perhaps the highlight of a busy season was the very successful event held in London in March - "Sit Down, Shut Up: Are Football Fans Discriminated Against?" This was a lively evening of debate and discussion with a panel of speakers including CPS and police representatives. Thanks to the efforts of the office in advertising the event, we attracted over 120 fans, many of whom were new to the FSF. We hope this will be the first of many such evenings.

A recent report to the Greater Manchester Police Authority revealed that they had to pay a total of £184k to 78 Stoke City Supporters on whom Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act was illegally used in December 2008. This was as a result of the judicial review taken out by one of the supporters, as a result of the partnership between the FSF and Liberty. This was also made possible by the decision of Stoke City FC to underwrite £20k legal costs, the first time a football club had done anything like this.

The FSF and Stoke City were jointly nominated for one the annual awards given jointly by Liberty and Justice for work in the cause of civil liberty. We didn't win – the Gurkhas campaign did – but it was a great honour to get as far as the shortlist.

Stewarding, Customer Charters and complaints (A.Jacks, J.Keen)

We have continuing concerns about the standards of stewards training, believing that the NVQs involved may not be robust enough, and the quality of the service provided by stewards at many clubs.

Far too few supporters are aware of club's customer charters, which some clubs keep well hidden and which in some cases haven't been reviewed for years. In some cases club employees don't even seem to be aware of what their charters say.

We would like to see proper complaints procedures and proper procedures for where a club is considering taking sanctions against a supporter. These latter should be in line with principles of natural justice i.e. they should include the right to present a defence or mitigation at a proper hearing, including the right to challenge evidence and cross-examine witnesses. The person(s) taking the decision should be independent of those bringing the charge. To our knowledge, only one PL or FL club has a procedure anywhere near that standard.

Fans should only be banned for misbehaviour in the ground, and never for disagreements with the club as continues to happen, with Walsall being the latest example of this shameful practice. We have recently drafted such a model procedure.

Safe Standing (C.Hendrie,P.Gatenby)

Most of the work in this area in the last year has been behind the scenes. We are developing an improved relationship with the Football Licensing Authority. We had a major success in getting an alteration to their presentation of injury statistics following a complaint to DCMS and the UK Statistics Authority.

In this context the General Election result is interesting. The Lib Dems had become the first political party to support repeal of the regulation prohibiting standing in the top two divisions, and the Conservatives had promised a review, so we will be expecting some movement on this from the new Coalition Government.

We have given support to fans of various clubs including Swansea, Spurs, Oldham and Manchester City with issues over standing.

The website Stand Up Sit Down (SUSD) will be merging into the FSF's website to bring a single strong voice to the campaign, which can only be a good thing.

Club Governance (M.Clarke)

This continues to be a major area of concern. The fiasco at Portsmouth and the appalling way that club has been run illustrate that the regulatory regimes are insufficiently strong even at the top of the game.

Lower down clubs continue to have insolvency events. Chester City finally went into liquidation after years of abuse by an owner who had plenty of 'form' and the fans there have had to do what others have done in the past and create a new fan-owned club playing lower down in the pyramid, but they shouldn't have to do that.

Other clubs such as Kings Lynn and Farsley Celtic suffered similar fates. Lewes raised over £50k at the last minute from supporters to avert a long running crisis.

Salisbury City were excluded from the Conference and suffered demotion to the Southern League (2 divisions) under Appendix E for failure to pay all creditors in full under a CVA by the set date. Northwich Victoria fought Appendix E last year and survived after appeal. This year their troubles could not be overcome and they have also been expelled.

These expulsions mean that only one club has been relegated this season from the Conference on the football field.

All of this is a sorry tale, and it's the fans which suffer most. To be fair to the authorities, the FA, the PL, the FL and the conference have all strengthened their regulatory regimes in different ways and are to be congratulated on doing so.

But we need to do more. We need stronger and co-ordinated regulations ensuring proper financial management with clubs paying all their creditors not just the football creditors (the Conference are to be congratulated on doing this). We need closer scrutiny of clubs accounts and their business plans (and the Football League have made moves in this direction with HMRC). We need a single and stronger fit and proper persons test which looks at the sustainability of future financial plans (the PL have improved this) not just past behaviour and which isn't limited to criminal behaviour. We need the various leagues and the

FA all singing from the same hymn sheet. We welcome the direction of travel of the UEFA financial fair play rules.

Fixture calendar (I.Todd)

Supporter representation on the authorities' Fixtures Working Party, provided by Ian Todd, continues to be valued on both sides in what is a complex process. It remains, as ever, a tight squeeze to fit everything in, which those who favour a mid-season break seem continually to ignore.

Fan concern about long distance midweek fixtures will never disappear as it is simply impossible to avoid such games completely. Our constant promptings on this matter have however generated much greater care in the preparation and a separate report is produced for Ian on these. As a result of our efforts we believe the problem is much smaller than it used to be.

Competition structure (A Fleming)

A fairly quiet policy area this year, which would have been different had the Premier League not decided to reject plans for a two tiered Premier League. It's likely given the noise around Game 39, Premier League 2, European Super League and playoffs in the Premier League that this will continue to be an area to monitor. It seems clear that some clubs in the Premier League are keen to make some changes to the current structure.

Europa League

The Europa League was introduced in 2009/10 and was seen to be quite successful, certainly for Fulham. Games continue to be played on a Thursday night to avoid clashing with the Champions League which meant even more matches being switched to Sunday. Fulham's continued progress did raise a few concerns amongst fellow Premier League teams and supporters. At the start of last season Roy Hodgson was clear that the Premier League had to be the club's main focus, but as the season progressed and it became clear Fulham would secure mid-table there was criticism when players were 'rested' in the Premier League to ensure they could feature in the Europa League. The question this poses for us as fans being are we prepared to accept weakened sides and does this devalue competitions.

Premier League 2

In November the Premier League voted against proposals for a two tier Premier League. Whilst this could be seen as positive news it does not close the matter – at the meeting only certain points were ruled out (such as inviting Celtic and Rangers to join the Premier League). There were plenty of ideas touted in the press regarding changes to the Premier League structure – playoffs to decide final European places in the Premier League being an idea discussed but rejected. This is an area we will need to keep a close eye on given the appetite for change within the Premier League.

Pyramid Structure

Further down the pyramid the league structure continues to change season by season with a number of clubs facing financial difficulties. It is likely the fixtures will again be available late with decisions being finalised following applications to join the pyramid from those clubs who went out of business last year. One of the clear frustrations this year has been the inconsistency in how clubs are being dealt with when they get into financial trouble. Not only have we a number of clubs in administration and getting through on a weekly basis we have seen a number of clubs going out of business and looking to reform – although quite where these clubs drop into the pyramid structure still needs to be addressed and a consistent approach would be something I believe we need to be working towards next year.

Pyramid surveillance (T.Hillyer, G.Butler, A.Fleming)

The key issues in the pyramid, be it club governance, ticket prices or whatever are the same as in the leagues above, and some of those issues are covered elsewhere in this report. Nevertheless, because of the lower media coverage, we consider it appropriate to have NC members with a specific responsibility for keeping abreast of pyramid issues.

Women's football (T.Hillyer)

We were represented at a seminar on the Women's Super League at Birkbeck College. The FA's current Strategic Vision and Women's and Girls Football Strategy identified some specific plans to raise the quality and competitiveness in the women's game further and the FA is investing at the elite level of the game to fulfil various objectives. In March the FA announced that eight teams had met the stringent licensing criteria to become the founding members of the Women's Super League in March 2011. The FA Women's Super League represent a progressive initiative for women's football, but with its stringent club licensing system and salary cap structure it also represents a radical attempt at a new league design.

Travel (A.Connor)

We continue to have discussions with the rail companies about greater flexibility for tickets refunds on advance purchase tickets when games have been moved, and on other issues relevant to football fans.

Technology (P.Wilkins)

At the FIFA/IFAB AGM in March, the decision was made not to introduce goal-line technology and to no longer continue any experiments with GLT. The meeting decided that the "human aspect of football is essential to this sport".

The experiment to use extra goal line officials was used in UEFA Europa League matches during the 2009/10 season and will continue for the next two years.

The Board also approved an amendment in the wording of Law 14 (The Penalty Kick). "Feinting in the run-up to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted, however feinting to kick the ball once the player has completed his run-up is now considered an infringement of Law 14 and an act of unsporting behaviour for which the player must be cautioned."

It was agreed that the IFAB will seek the views of players, coaches and match officials following the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa to discuss Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, which relates to sending-off offences.

Diversity and discrimination (A-M.Mockridge, M.Clarke)

We continue to work, with others, towards greater diversity at all levels in football and the elimination of all forms of discrimination. We have a representative on the Kick It Out Board. We work closely with the National Association of Disabled Supporters who have a co-opted member on our National Council on specific casework and policy issues. We also work with groups campaigning for the elimination of homophobia in football.

3. Divisional structure

At present we have four divisions, although they vary in their attendance, frequency of meetings and ability to convene a quorate meeting. The North East Division has decided it does not wish to continue as a formal Division, but will convene members meetings to discuss specific issues when they arise. The National Council has the responsibility for authorising divisions and their boundaries. We will continue to support those Divisions which

wish to continue but not spend time or money trying to resuscitate a Division where there is little support or willingness on the ground. In this respect, we perhaps have to recognise that the world is changing in the electronic era and the days when people wanted to go to meetings to find out information have largely gone. The great success of the 'Sit down Shut up' meeting or the Game 39 meetings previously shows that where there is an important topic with good speakers it is possible to get a bumper attendance at a meeting. It seems much harder to get people to attend routine meetings discussing internal FSF business in any great numbers.

Statement by the Chair

There has recently been some discussion about conflicts of interest and I wanted to clarify the position. We have a financial control statement which sets out procedures for letting contracts, specifically authorises contracts being let to organisations in which NC members have an interest but also refers to the proper declaration of interests. Each year NC members are required to sign a form declaring any such interests.

Good governance requires that no-one should participate in a decision on a matter in which they have a financial interest and so long as I am chair, I will ensure that doesn't happen. It is very important that we do what is right in this regard and are seen to do so. We cannot set standards for the football industry which we do not apply to ourselves.

That said, we must also recognise the special and unusual nature of our business and that the provision of services to us by people who understand and are committed to our organisation and our aims can be very much in our interest and those of the supporters we represent, both financially and otherwise.

For example, the circumstances of the establishment of A19 Ltd by active members of the FSF for the sole purpose of providing support to the FSF, were well publicised through a lengthy explanatory document from the President and vice-President which was circulated to affiliates and made available to members. The position is completely transparent, and neither of the two A19 Directors who are NC members voted in the recent decision to extend the contract. That is as it should be.

I receive loss of earning for the time spent in my role as Chair, on the basis of evidence which I submitted at the time (2007). The rate of this has not increased since then. I do not claim for any time spent on FSF work in the evenings or weekends. I have only been claiming 80% of my lost earnings so that I am making a voluntary contribution and this year I have decided to reduce that to 67% in view of our less certain financial position.

One of our contracted staff is also currently a member of NC but again would never vote on any issue affecting the terms of that contract. Where appropriate I can ask any individual to leave the room while a matter affecting them is discussed, as I did myself when the above arrangement was determined.

I am quite satisfied that no current member of the NC has ever in any way abused or tried to abuse their position for financial gain. I am aware that some colleagues have actually lost money as a result of their commitment to the FSF.

Nevertheless, I recognise that the situation in the FSF has evolved over time and that it is important to keep such matters under regular review and to not only do the right thing but be seen to be doing it.

I therefore intend to ask a suitable independent external person who is not involved with the FSF to undertake a review of our rules and procedures in this regard and make recommendations to the National Council. I think this would be an appropriate way to address and review this matter.

SECRETARY'S MEETING REPORT

Mike Williamson

The FSF has been involved in many meetings since the last Fans' Parliament. The list below is not a complete list, with many other meetings arranged on an impromptu basis as and when necessary by individual FSF officials and workers. The list does, however, serve to demonstrate the wide range of issues involved in FSF work and the extensive range of people and organisations that we have contact with. The list does not, of course, include the many contacts arranged by telephone, e-mail or by other methods.

Meeting	Date	Subject	FSF delegate/ representative	Notes
FSF Fans' Parliament	20 June 2009	FSF AGM		Newcastle upon Tyne
NADS	25 June 2009	AGM	P Corkery	West Ham Utd FC
FA	01 July 2009	Initial meeting with new chief executive	J Keen A-M Mockridge K Malley	London FA HQ meeting I Watmore
Rail Football Forum	01 July 2009	Working group	A Connor	London FA HQ
BT Police	01 July 2009	Public Order Policing	A Connor A Jacks	London - meeting Supt. A. Ball
High Court	09 July 2009	Court Hearing on Sec 27	A Connor A Jacks	London - L. Edwards v GMP
Virgin Media	15 July 2009	Initial meeting	M Clarke	London
International Fans' Congress	17 July 2009	Football Supporters International	M Clarke, K Malley, K Miles, A Fleming, Garreth Cummins, P Corkery, G Bleanch, M Ogbourne, S Powell	Hamburg 3 days
FSF	22 July 2009	Executive Committee		Worcester
FA Chief Executive	23 July 2009	Liaison meeting	M Clarke	London FA HQ
Supporters Direct	23 July 2009	SD Board meeting	M Clarke I Todd	London?
Liberty	24 July 2009	Liaison meeting	A Jacks M Clarke	London
Supporters Direct Cup	25 July 2009	AFC Wimbledon v FC Utd of Manchester	J Keen	Cherry Red Records Fans Stadium
FSF	26 July 2009	National Council		Birmingham
Community Shield	09 August 2009	Shield game	M Clarke	Wembley
FSF	20 August 2009	Press conference on Newcastle events	M Clarke P Daykin M Rose	Sunderland
Liberty	21 August 2009	Liaison meeting	A Connor A Jacks S Powell	London
FSF	23 August 2009	Yorkshire Division Open Meeting		Ossett Town FC
FSF	24 August 2009	NW/NW Division Open meeting		Manchester
FA Chief Executive	26 August 2009	Liaison meeting	M Clarke	London FA HQ
ACPO	29 August 2009	Policing liaison	A Connor M Clarke S Powell A Jacks	London
Kick It Out	01 September 2009	Anti-racism steering group		London
FSF solicitor meeting	03 September 2009	legal advice on Newcastle events	M Clarke P Daykin A Jacks	
Never Watch Alone initiative	03 September 2009	Steering committee	A-M Mockridge	Wigan A FC
FSF	04 September 2009	NE Division Open meeting		Deptford Sunderland -

				policing of Sunderland game
International match	05 September 2009	England v Slovenia	M Clarke	Wembley - attendance as FA Councillor
FSF/SUSD	06 September 2009	Safe Standing core group	C Hendrie	Walsall
FSF	06 September 2009	Southern Division Open meeting		London
FA	07 September 2009	FA membership committee	M Clarke	London
FSF	08 September 2009	Executive Committee		London
Supporters Direct	11 September 2009	SD Board meeting	M Clarke I Todd	London?
Kick It Out	15 September 2009	Anti-racism steering group		London
FA	16 September 2009	FA Council	M Clarke	London
Football League	17 September 2009	FL supporters survey focus group	J Keen	
FA	21 September 2009	FA Finance sub committee	M Clarke	London
International Football Arena	21 September 2009	International football conference	S Powell	Zurich
Everton exhibition	24 September 2009	Opening ceremony	M Clarke	Liverpool
FSF	27 September 2009	SW/SW Division Open meeting		Newport County FC
ACPO/UKFPU	02 October 2009	Liaison meeting	A Connor M Clarke S Powell A Jacks	UKFPU London
Barclays Premier League	01 October 2009	Barclaycard panel	M Clarke	London
FSF	04 October 2009	National Council		Doncaster Rovers FC
Football League	06 October 2009	periodic liaison meeting	M Clarke M Williamson J Keen G Milton	Preston FL offices
GMP/Stoke City fans	07 October 2009	Sec 27 meeting	M Clarke	
FA	15 October 2009	Working group on crowd control	A Jacks	London
Supporters Direct	16 October 2009	SD Conference	M Clarke J Keen K Malley A-M Mockridge I Todd	FSF stand
FSF	21 October 2009	meeting with FSF Accountant	M Clarke C Clark	
Action for South Africa	21 October 2009	World Cup organisation meeting	K Malley A-M Mockridge	South Africa House London
Sheffield United v Cardiff	24 October 2009	shadowing police match commander	A Connor G Milton	Sheffield United FC
Westminster Media Forum	27 October 2009	broadcast & free-to-air TV sports seminar		London
Kick It Out & Justin Campaign	27 October 2009	One week One Community meeting	A-M Mockridge	Brighton & Hove Albion FC
Battle of Ideas	31 October 2009	Institute of Ideas football issues debate	J Keen	Royal College of Arts London
FA	02 November 2009	FA Membership Committee	M Clarke	London FA HQ
FA	09 November 2009	FA Finance Sub Committee	M Clarke	London FA HQ
FA	11 November 2009	FA Council	M Clarke	

FA CEO	13 November 2009	Meeting on abusive chanting	M Clarke	
FA, Premier League & Football League	13 November 2009	Joint meeting on club governance	M Clarke	PL HQ London
FSF	15 November 2009	Southern division Open meeting		Southend United FC
FSF	17 November 2009	FSF Fans' Parliament Committee		London
FSF	17 November 2009	Executive Committee		London
Barnet FC	21 November 2009	Match guest	M Clarke	Barnet FC
FSF	26 November 2009	NW/NW Open meeting		Manchester
FSF	03 December 2009	Budgetary meeting	M Clarke C Clark	Stoke on Trent
Rail Football Forum	04 December 2009	Working group	A Connor	Arsenal FC
FSF	06 December 2009	National Council		London
Supporters Direct board	08 December 2009	Informal dinner	M Clarke	Manchester
FSF	10 December 2009	Yorkshire Division Open Meeting		Sheffield W FC
Liberty	10 December 2009	Awards Ceremony	M Clarke A Jacks	London
FA	15 December 2009	FA Membership Committee	M Clarke	Wembley
Kick It Out	15 December 2009	Anti-racism steering group	A-M Mockridge A Connor I Todd A Jacks	London
ACPO/UKFPU	13 January 2010	Policing liaison		London
Football League	13 January 2010	Lord Mawhinney interview	P Daykin	London
Hillsborough meeting	13 January 2010	Meeting with Document Release Team	M Clarke	London
Manchester City v Manchester United	19 January 2010	Shadowing police operation	M Clarke	Manchester
FSF	21 January 2010	NW/NW Open meeting		Manchester - police meeting
Premiership	26 January 2010	Informal discussions on steward training	S Powell	London
FA	27 January 2010	FA Council	M Clarke	London
FA	27 January 2010	Discussions on Governance & procedures review	M Clarke S Powell	London
Durham University	05 February 2010	Debate speaker	M Clarke	Durham
GMPA enquiry	05 February 2010	Manchester policing enquiry	M Clarke	
FSF	11 February 2010	Budgetary meeting	M Clarke C Clark	Stoke on Trent
Chester City exiles	11 February 2010	Meeting of exile supporters of Chester City FC	S Powell T Hillyer	
Times Newspaper	18 February 2010	Meeting with paper's football editor	M Longden	
FSF	18 February 2010	Executive Committee		London
FA	24 February 2010	FA Membership Committee	M Clarke	Wembley
FA Wales	26 February 2010	meeting with FSF Cymru		Cardiff
FSF	28 February 2010	Southern Division Open meeting		Millwall FC
Never Watch Alone initiative	02 March 2010	Steering Committee	A Bloore	Wigan A FC

Rail Football Forum	03 March 2010	Working group	S Powell	Arsenal FC
Fixtures Working Party	03 March 2010	Fixture compilation working group	I Todd	London
Sit Down, Shut Up, Are Football Fans Discriminated against?	04 March 2010	FSF Fans' Debating forum		London - with guests speakers
FSF	05 March 2010	Fans' Parliament committee	M Clarke C Clark M Williamson I Todd M Hartland P Daykin	London
Building Bridges 4	05 March 2010	Diversity conference	A-M Mockridge P Gatenby	Manchester
Tackling homophobia in football	05 March 2010	Fringe meeting	A-M Mockridge	Manchester
FSF	07 March 2010	Yorkshire Division Open Meeting		Scunthorpe Utd FC
Kick It Out	09 March 2010	Anti-racism steering group	S Powell	London
Supporters Direct	10 March 2010	SD Board meeting	M Clarke I Todd	London
NADS Level Playing Field	13-28 March 2010	Week of action		
FA Council	17 March 2010	Council attendance	M Clarke	London
Homophobia v Football	19 March 2010	Campaign launch	A-M Mockridge	Norwich
PFA	22 March 2010	Meeting with Gordon Taylor	M Clarke	Manchester
BBC	24 March 2010	Radio 5 appearance	M Clarke	
BBC	25 March 2010	Radio 5 live debate	M Clarke S Powell	
FSF	25 March 2010	NW/NW Division Open meeting		Manchester
FA Regulation	26 March 2010	Teleconference to discuss FA regulation	M Clarke S Powell	
Johnston's Paints Cup Final	28 March 2010	Official attendance	M Clarke	Wembley
PR company	29 March 2010	Meeting with Ruder Finn	M Clarke	
FSF	30 March 2010	FSF general election group teleconference	M Clarke J Keen A Bloore A Connor S Powell J Brockwell	
MP meeting	31 March 2010	Meeting with Hugh Robertson MP	M Clarke S Powell	
FSF/A19	01 April 2010	Preparatory meeting	M Clarke	Sunderland
FSF	08 April 2010	Executive Committee		Manchester
FSF	18 April 2010	National Council		Altrincham
Tackling homophobia in football	27 April 2010	fringe meeting		London
FSF	27 April 2010	NW/NW Division AGM & Open meeting		Hyde United FC
FSF	06 May 2010	Fans' Parliament committee	M Clarke C Clark J Keen M Williamson I Todd M Hartland P Daykin	London
FSF	09 May 2010	Yorkshire Division AGM & Open Meeting		York City FC
Children's' Football Alliance	13 May 2010	Introductory Meeting	T Hillyer	London
Bradford Community Day	16 May 2010	FSF stall	R Duniec M Dominguez A Bloore	Bradford

Kick It Out	18 May 2010	Anti-racism steering group		London
FSF	23 May 2010	Southern Division AGM & Open Meeting		Westminster
NADS	24 May 2010	AGM	S Powell	London
FSF	27 May 2010	SW/SW Division AGM & Open Meeting		Cardiff
FSF	04 June 2010	Executive Committee		Manchester
FSF	06 June 2010	National Council		Doncaster Rovers FC
Liberty	12 June 2010	AGM	M Clarke	Westminster Central Hall
Supporters Direct	12 & 13 June 2010	AGM	M Clarke J Keen	London
Fixtures Working Party	15 June 2010	fixture compilation working group	I Todd	London
IPCC	15 June 2010	Liaison meeting	M Clarke A jacks	London
House of Commons All Party Media Group	7 th July 2010	Reception	J Keen	London
Kick It Out	13 July 2010	Anti-racism steering group		London
FSE	16-18 July 2010	Annual Congress	K Malley P Corkery G Cummins T Hillyer S Powell K Miles A Connor	Barcelona
FSF	24 July 2010	FSF Fans' Parliament & AGM weekend		Wembley Stadium
Homeless World Cup	18 to 28 Sep 2010	Football Tournament		Rio de Janeiro

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)
ATTENDANCE RECORD 2009-10**

		meetings	meetings not attended		
6 meetings held		attended	apologies received	apologies	apologies
			for football related reasons	for other reasons	not received
Mike Williamson	<i>Secretary</i>	6	0	0	0
Mark Longden	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	6	0	0	0
Malcolm Clarke	<i>Chair</i>	6	0	0	0
Jon Keen	<i>Deputy Chair</i>	6	0	0	0
Carroll Clark	<i>Treasurer</i>	5	0	1	0
Peter Daykin	<i>Directly elected NC member *</i>	5	0	0	0
Amanda Jacks	<i>Directly elected NC member *</i>	5	0	0	0
Ken Malley	<i>South West & South Wales Divn. Rep</i>	4	1	1	0
Vince Alm	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	2	0	3	1

** Only elected TO EC after 22 Jul 2009 meeting*

NATIONAL COUNCIL (NC) ATTENDANCE RECORD

6 meetings held		Meetings attended	Meetings not attended		
			Apologies received for football related reasons	Apologies received for other reasons	Apologies not received
Ash Connor	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	6	0	0	0
Ian Lyon	<i>NW & NW Divisional Rep.</i>	6	0	0	0
Ian Todd	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	6	0	0	0
Jon Keen	<i>Deputy Chair</i>	6	0	0	0
Malcolm Clarke	<i>Chair</i>	6	0	0	0
Mike Williamson	<i>Secretary</i>	6	0	0	0
Vince Alm	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	6	0	0	0
Andrew Fleming	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	5	1	0	0
Geoff Milton	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	5	0	1	0
Paul Corkery	<i>FSF Cymru Co-opted rep.</i>	5	0	1	0
Ken Malley	<i>SW & Sw Divn. Rep</i>	4	2	0	0
Anne-Marie Mockridge	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	4	2	0	0
Pam Wilkins	<i>Retired Southern Divisional Rep</i>	4	1	1	0
Monica Hartland	<i>President</i>	4	1	1	0
Peter Daykin	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	4	1	1	0
Tim Hillyer	<i>Southern Divisional Rep.</i>	4	1	1	0
Suzanne Fothergill	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	4	0	2	0
Carroll Clark	<i>Treasurer</i>	4	0	2	0
Amanda Jacks	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	4	0	2	0
Alan Bloore	<i>Yorkshire Divn. Rep.</i>	4	0	2	0
Mark Longden	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	4	0	2	0
Kevin Miles	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	3	2	1	0
Graham Bleanch	<i>North East Divn. Rep.</i>	3	1	2	0
Gavin Butler	<i>NC member –now retiring</i>	3	0	2	1
Phill Gatenby	<i>co-opted NC member – now resigning</i>	2	1	1	0
Martin O'Hara	<i>sub. Yorkshire Divisional Rep.</i>	2	0	0	0
Colin Hendrie	<i>NC member – now resigned</i>	1	0	1	0

Minutes of the Fans' Parliament

Live Theatre, Newcastle On Tyne 20 June 2009

Agenda item 1) 9.50 am - Opening remarks & welcome –

Malcolm Clarke, FSF Chair welcomed delegates

Agenda item 2) Keynote Speaker David Conn, followed by questions from the floor

- Reference was made to the current problems and events in football, in particular to the huge increases in borrowing by clubs – David referred to his background in the game as a supporter of Manchester City – too many owners are making a lot of money from their clubs and the game in general and little of the money earned is reaching clubs at lower levels – he referred to the growing influence of TV – clubs should not be run as normal commercial enterprises and football must be better protected.

Football Writers' Award 2009

Ian Todd, retiring FSF President, presented David Conn with the **FSF Football Writers Award for 2009**.

Agenda item 3) AGM

Absences

Apologies received are listed in Appendix 1.

Agenda item 10)f FSF national elections

- **President**
Monica Hartland proposed by Ian Todd & seconded by the EC, **elected Nem Con**
- **Vice President**
Ian Todd proposed by Malcolm Clarke & seconded by Mark Longden, **elected Nem Con**
- **Chair**
Note – for this item Deputy Chair Jon Keen took the chair
Malcolm Clarke proposed by Carroll Clark & seconded by IMUSA, **elected Nem Con**
- **Treasurer**
Carroll Clark proposed by Mike Williamson & seconded by Ian Lyon, **elected Nem Con**

National Council Directly Elected Representatives

It was explained that as Monica Hartland had been elected as FSF President, her nomination to stand for election as a directly elected NC representative was withdrawn. Her listing on the NC voting papers should therefore be ignored. Voting boxes for this election were declared open at 11.20 am, the election result to be announced later in the day.

Agenda item 10)c

Acceptance of NC Annual Reports –

Report from the Chair, Malcolm Clarke–

Malcolm gave a verbal summary of events in addition to his written report, including the **Club Governance portfolio**, referring to matters surrounding police use of Section 27 orders, FSF objections submitted to FLA use of accident statistics, his membership of the FA Council and related successes achieved – he thanked all colleagues for their efforts.

Competition Structure, written report, Andrew Fleming

Diversity, written report, Anne-Marie Mockridge –

Domestic Games Abroad, Mark Longden – written report with further reference to the continuing Gam£39 issue

Fixtures Working party & Supporters Direct, Ian Todd – written report – there was also a verbal reference to potential causes for complaint over fixtures which would be pursued, though it was believed that fixtures are now being produced on a better basis. There was a call for more publicity over FSF successes here.

Law & Technology, written report, Pam Wilkins

Policing & Stewarding, written report, Ash Connor

Safe Standing, written report, Phill Gatenby (retiring) & Colin Hendrie

TV Contracts, written report, Neil Maskill

International, written report, Ken Malley

Communications & Publications, written report, Peter Daykin

FSF Cymru, written report, Paul Corkery

FSF Divisional reports – written reports received from –

Southern Division, Pam Wilkins

North West & North Wales, Ian Lyon

South West & South Wales, Ken Malley

North East, Thom Bradley

Yorkshire, Alan Bloore

Secretary,

Mike Williamson submitted written reports on –

Action taken on motions carried at Fans' Parliament 2008

Meeting attendance record for National Council & Executive Committee members

List of current FSF officials

Report of meetings attended by FSF officials, NC & EC members in the past year

All reports were accepted Nem Con

(see also agenda item 10)c ii, later - Deputy Chair's report)

Homeless World Cup –

At this point a presentation was made by the organisers of the Homeless World Cup, which is the FSF main charity, giving a brief explanation of their work, with an appeal for support.

Agenda item 9) FSF Awards

Services to Supporters Award

Malcolm Clarke referred to the sad death of Tony Kempster, last year's winner of this award.

Malcolm Clarke presented this year's award to **Liberty**, who were represented by **Anna Fairclough**, for their excellent work in support of football fans seriously affected by the current police use of Section 27 orders and other policing issues.

Supporters' Communications Award

Ian Todd advised that this award now included web sites and fanzines

This year's winner was the "**Oatcake**" fanzine.

Good Practice by clubs

Awards were not presented here but reference was made to the following as being examples of good practice by clubs –

FC United of Manchester – for "Pay what you want season ticket scheme"

Burnley FC – for promising a rebate on season tickets IF they are promoted to the Premiership (as WAS achieved).

Agenda item 10)a

Minutes of last AGM – accepted Nem Con

Agenda item 10)b

Matters arising from last year's minutes

Malcolm Clarke reported that the winner of last year's award for FSF Football Writer of the Year, David James, had been presented with his award.

Agenda item 10)c ii

1. Deputy Chair's report

Jon Keen gave a presentation on the new **FSF Membership Strategy**

Why is change necessary?

For credibility in the number of members we quote

Our membership income is now less significant

Membership is not growing as fast as would be wished

There is a need to raise the visibility of The Football Supporter Magazine (TFS)

What will the changes be?

Zero cost membership fee

TFS will become a subscription membership benefit

Efforts to obtain voluntary donations to FSF will be targeted

Membership benefits will be improved

The voting entitlement of affiliates will be increased from 3 to 5 votes

Individual members will still register as members, agreeing to abide by FSF rules – they will be able to attend meetings, will receive an initial free copy of TFS on joining FSF.

Affiliate members can now recruit their members as FSF individual members. Insurance benefits will be optional for affiliate members.

Increased membership numbers will aid the attraction of commercial sponsors

As per the FSF Constitution, the proposal had been agreed by the National Council – arrangements for the introduction of the scheme will start soon.

In answer to questions from the floor, Jon Keen said that individual membership would be revalidated every two years. Internet Forums could be accepted into FSF Associate membership.

Report Accepted Nem Con

Agenda item 10)c ii

2. Motion 2 FSF Affiliate Group Members voting rights

Motion 2 was taken at this point in the agenda, arising directly from the Deputy Chair's report on the FSF Membership Strategy (see above).

Motion 2 was –

Constitutional Motion to amend Bye Law 18 on Voting

In furtherance of amended arrangements relating to membership of the Football Supporters' Federation, Conference resolves that Bye Law 18 of the Constitution of the Football Supporters' Federation shall be amended, so that whereas the first paragraph of the Bye Law currently indicates that each **affiliated organisation** in membership of the Federation shall have a block vote of three votes, that shall be amended so that each affiliated organisation shall have a block vote of five votes, subsequent to this Fans' Parliament.

Proposed by National Council

There being no comments or questions in addition to those discussed during the agenda item on the Deputy Chair's report (above), this motion was put to the vote.

Motion carried Nem Con

Agenda item 10)f iv.

Announcement of National Council Election Result

Newly elected FSF President Monica Hartland announced that the following candidates had been elected to the National Council–

Vince Alm	88 votes
Gavin Butler	58 votes
Ash Connor	96 votes
Peter Daykin	95 votes
Andrew Fleming	89 votes
Suzanne Fothergill	89 votes
Colin Hendrie	94 votes
Tim Hillyer	82 votes
Amanda Jacks	92 votes
Mark Longden	98 votes
Kevin Miles	103 votes
Geoff Milton	77 votes
Anne-Marie Mockridge	91 votes
Ian Todd	86 votes

The following candidates were not elected –

Richard Duniec	31 votes
Mark Ogbourne	45 votes

As a candidate, Monica Hartland had withdrawn from the election having been elected as FSF President

See Appendix 2 for a breakdown of the voting.

Agenda item 10)c iii

Treasurer's report, including re-election of auditors

Carrol Clark gave a resumé of some aspects of his report

Reported accepted Nem Con

The re-appointment of the auditors Messrs J. Davies & Co. of Wrexham was put to the vote

Auditors re-appointed Nem Con

Agenda item 10)d Motions to adopt the reports of Fans' Parliament workshops

Motion 7 to accept the report of the Fans' Parliament 2009 Workshop on Policing and Stewarding

This assembly accepts the report received from the workshop on Policing and Stewarding, held during the Fans' Parliament 2009 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be accepted as the policy of the Football Supporters' Federation.

Proposals contained in the report were –

- The administration of local club supporter bans should include local assessors and follow due process when being considered
- FSF should oppose the full recovery of police costs relating to matches from football clubs
- The laws related to drinking on football transport and in stadiums should be reviewed
- FSF should press for the inclusion of supporters on local safety committees

Proposed by National Council

See appendix 7 for notes with reference to a report from this workshop

Report accepted Nem Con

Motion 8 to accept the report of the Fans' Parliament 2009 Workshop on Safe Standing

This assembly accepts the report received from the workshop on Safe Standing, held during the Fans' Parliament 2009 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be accepted as the policy of the Football Supporters' Federation.

See appendix 3 for the report of this workshop.

Proposed in the report were -

Campaign to increase awareness of the issue
Including advertising – production of concise summary booklet – stickers
Production of materials bespoke to sitters, standers, club owners, politicians etc
Locally rooted campaigns to follow the timing of the FA Cup rounds

In debate Malcolm Clarke said that most of the above is part of existing FSF policy – examples of safe seating systems put forward by FSF are only suggestions of what could be acceptable. He pointed out that the "Green Guide" included guidelines for standing and this should be followed.

Dani Wurbs said that FSI could assist by pointing out examples of safe standing systems in Germany.

Acceptance of report proposed by National Council

Reported accepted Nem Con

Motion 9 to accept the report of the Fans' Parliament 2009 Workshop on Ticket Prices

This assembly accepts the report received from the workshop on Ticket Prices, held during the Fans' Parliament 2009 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be accepted as the policy of the Football Supporters' Federation.

See appendix 4 for the report of this workshop.

Proposals contained in the report were –

- Away ticket pricing

- Campaign for maximum away ticket price at each tier and for maximum use of reciprocal agreements
- Build Ticket Pricing database
 - Appoint “Ticketing Representative” to accumulate and enter data for every club
 - Appoint co-ordinator at each division to recruit/manage these.
- Continue existing actions to reduce misuse of tickets for FA Cup Final (and other high-demand matches) and ensure maximum distribution of these to supporters.
- Continue to investigate/action problems/complaints as they arise.

Acceptance of the report proposed by National Council

Acceptance of the report carried Nem Con

Motion 10 to accept the report of the Fans’ Parliament 2009 Workshop on Diversity

This assembly accepts the report received from the workshop on Diversity, held during the Fans’ Parliament 2009 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be accepted as the policy of the Football Supporters’ Federation.

Proposals contained in the report were –

- References in the FSF Fans’ Blueprint to “racism” should be changed to “discrimination”
- Contacts should be established with the LGBT gay communities
 - Pressure should be applied for the authorities to draw up guidelines relating to “acceptable” chanting
- Accurate figures should be sought from the police authorities related to the occurrence of arrests related to homophobia

Proposed by National Council

See appendix 6 for the report of this workshop

Acceptance of the report carried Nem Con

Motion 11 to accept the report of the Fans’ Parliament 2009 Workshop on Club Governance and Ownership

This assembly accepts the report received from the workshop on Club Governance and ownership, held during the Fans’ Parliament 2009 to debate and discuss that issue, and directs that proposals contained in that report shall be accepted as the policy of the Football Supporters’ Federation.

Proposed by National Council

See appendix 5 for the report from the workshop.

Proposals contained in the workshop report were as follows -

1. The strengthening of strong, independent, unified and co-ordinated governance of the game in England & Wales with appropriate co-ordination and co-operation between the Football Association, Football Association of Wales and the leagues.
2. Enhanced revenue sharing and redistribution to support the game, the development of the game’s playing and coaching infrastructure, improved grounds and other spectator facilities and to promote competition at all levels of the game.

3. The establishment of an expert panel jointly convened by the FSF and Supporters Direct to develop a detailed strategy and plan for revenue sharing and redistribution as described in the previous clause.
4. Minimum standards of governance, administration and financial control for all clubs enforced by the governing bodies as a condition of membership and league entry, including an enhanced and appropriately enforced and managed “fit and proper person” test for all persons owning or directing a professional football club.
5. An annually renewable professional club licence to be introduced over a five year period governing ownership, financial and other management standards such as ground safety and development.
6. The approval by Parliament of a Sports Law granting governing bodies appropriate and sufficient authority to properly regulate and manage their sports subject to minimum standards of transparency and fairness having particular regard to the impact of competition and employment law on sport.
7. The development of clear rules in consultation with supporters to prevent any recurrence of the FA appeals tribunal decision to permit the former Wimbledon FC to move to Milton Keynes.
8. The development of clear, legally enforceable rules to prevent clubs selling their grounds without the explicit prior agreement of their supporters and another ground being developed on a site acceptable to fans of that club. Consultation on such moves shall be by properly supervised secret ballot after a period of debate and discussion amongst all stakeholders in the club including fans. Those eligible to vote and all other matters associated with such consultation to be set out in an enforceable code of conduct covering proposed ground moves.

In debate the view was expressed that the above was a lot to take in and there were quite significant changes to existing FSF policies. There would be a need to reappraise the relationship between FSF and Supporters Direct.

Amendment to motion 11 proposed –

Conference notes, with approval, the report but refers it to the National Council for final authority, after consultation with members.

Acceptance of the report, as amended above was carried with only 1 individual vote against

The above being the last of the workshop reports Chair Malcolm Clarke expressed the thanks of delegates to those guests who had assisted in the workshops.

Agenda item 10)e

Other motions for debate

Motion 1:

Constitutional Motion to amend FSF Standing Order 5 on CONFERENCE VOTING

Recognising the conflict that exists in the Constitution of the Football Supporters' Federation between Bye Law 18 and Standing Order 5, Conference resolves that Standing Order 5 shall be amended as follows –

Currently reading as follows –

“5. Voting shall be by show of appropriate voting cards. The agenda committee shall appoint persons to count votes and organise any ballots required.”

Standing Order 5 shall be amended to read –

“5. Voting shall be by show of appropriate voting cards or by ballot as indicated by the appropriate Bye Laws of this constitution. The agenda committee shall appoint persons to count votes and organise any ballots required.”

Proposed by National Council

Secretary Mike Williamson explained the need for this motion to be carried through to resolve the conflict found in the Constitution of the FSF.

Carried Nem Con

Motion 3:

FSF National Council Code of Conduct

Motion relating to a Code of Conduct for the manner in which National Council carries out its responsibilities

In furtherance of the introduction of a Code of Conduct to govern how National Council's work is carried out, Conference resolves that Bye Law 14 of the Federation Constitution, concerning **NATIONAL COUNCIL BUSINESS AND AUTHORITY**, shall be amended as follows –

The first sentence of the second paragraph of Bye Law 14 which currently reads –

“Between annual conferences the general management and control of the Federation and the handling of its whole affairs shall be vested in the National Council.”

Shall be amended to read –

“Between annual conferences the general management and control of the Federation and the handling of its whole affairs shall be vested in the National Council, such general management, control and handling to be carried out in accordance with a Code of Conduct to be prepared by National Council, to which all persons elected to membership of the National Council shall be required to sign in acknowledgment of, using the appropriate form prepared for that purpose. “

Proposed by National Council

Malcolm Clarke, as Chair, explained the need for this motion. National Council had decided that its actions should be guided by a Code of Conduct, but that would necessitate its members being required to signify their acceptance of that code by signing in acknowledgement of its conditions and rules.

Carried Nem Con (2 Abstentions)

Motion 4:

FSF Financial Control Document

Motion concerning the use of a Financial Control Document to govern the financial management of the Federation by National Council

To enable the financial management of the Federation, Conference resolves that Bye Law 16 **FEDERATION FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS** be amended so that the second sentence of the first paragraph of that bye law be amended to read -

“The National Council, or the Executive Committee acting on the authority of the National Council, shall determine the rules and procedures for the payment of FSF monies. These will be set out in the current version of a Financial Control Document”.

Proposed by National Council

It was explained that the effect of this motion would be to make the Financial Control Document a part of the rules of the FSF, so that its use would be mandatory.

Carried Nem Con with 1 abstention

Motion 5:

Conduct of debate

Motion to ensure that debate in the FSF will be carried out in a right and proper manner

Recognising the right and proper manner in which all debate within the Federation should be carried out, Conference resolves that Standing Order 23, which currently reads as follows –

“23. The chair shall ensure that debates are conducted in a spirit of mutual respect. Any delegate disobeying, or attempting to defy, the ruling of the chair may be suspended for the remainder of conference.”

should be amended to read as follows –

“23. The chair shall ensure that debates are conducted in a spirit of mutual respect. Any delegate disobeying, or attempting to defy, the ruling of the chair may be suspended for the remainder of conference. The Chair shall call attention to continued irrelevance, repetition, unbecoming language or any breach of order on the part of a member, and direct such member to discontinue their speech.”

Proposed by Ian Todd

Seconded by Mike Williamson

Ian Todd explained that this motion emulated what had been resolved for other organizations and it was desirable that FSF debates were also carried out in a proper manner.

Mike Williamson spoke briefly in support.

Carried Nem Con

Motion 6:

Divisional Representation on the FSF National Council

Motion to amend the number of persons each FSF division appoints to represent them as members of the FSF National Council, and further, to amend the number of FSF members which may be directly elected to the FSF National Council.

Conference agrees that the current structure of the National Council is not democratically representative of the members of the FSF.

Conference further agrees that FSF Constitution rule 3 be amended to read as follows:

The Federation shall be governed by a National Council consisting of chairman, deputy chairman, secretary, treasurer, and two members, or their appointed deputies, nominated as representatives by each division of the Federation, together with individual members directly elected at an annual general meeting of the Federation, so that there shall be a total of twenty

divisional and directly elected members, in addition to the four officers, subject to there being a minimum of two directly elected members. All members of the national Council shall be members of organisations or other groups affiliated to the Federation, or they shall be an individual member of the Federation.

Further, Conference agrees that the second paragraph of FSF Bye Law 10 be amended to read as follows, other paragraphs of this Bye Law not being amended:

In addition to the four officers of the Federation, there shall be a total of twenty National Council members, with two such members, or their appointed deputies, being nominated by each division of the Federation, the remainder being directly elected at annual general meeting, subject to there being a minimum of two directly elected members.

Proposed by Barnsley FC Supporters Trust, Seconded by Martin O' Hara
P Gallagher spoke proposing this motion suggesting that the current structure of the FSF was not sufficiently democratic.

I Todd and J Reid spoke attempting to refute that viewpoint

A Bloore spoke in support of the motion. He was followed by P Gatenby, C Hendrie and S Powell who spoke strongly against the motion.

Lost by a significant majority

Motion 12:

Motion calling on FSF to establish an ongoing relationship with the refereeing fraternity

This assembly directs the National Council, on behalf of the FSF, to establish an ongoing relationship with the refereeing fraternity and with those involved with the management of match officials.

Proposed by Monica Hartland

Seconded by Pam Wilkins

Monica Hartland said there was a need to establish this relationship as there were many issues which are of mutual interest to both supporters and match officials.

Pam Wilkins spoke in support.

Carried with only 3 votes against

Motion 13:

Treatment of Injured players

This conference calls upon the footballing authorities to remove the requirement for an outfield player to leave the pitch, when the physio has been called on, unless it is for further treatment.

Proposed by Pam Wilkins for Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters' Club

Seconded by Mike Williamson

Pam Wilkins asserted that the current rules, requiring players who have received treatment during a match to leave the field of play, are unfair to that player's team, and are an unwarranted interruption of normal play.

Mike Williamson supported that viewpoint.

Carried as follows

**For the motion, 3 affiliated members and 5 individual members, totalling 14 votes in favour
Against the motion, 2 affiliated members and 1 individual members, totalling 7 votes against.**

Agenda item 11

Close

Chair Malcolm Clarke thanked delegates for their attendance and the Fans' Parliament 2009 closed at 6.15 pm.

Mike Williamson

Secretary FSF

20 June 2009

Appendix 1:

Apologies for non-attendance were received from –

Mark Agate	individual member, vice president and representative of Gillingham ISC
Mrs. Agate	individual member
J Paterson	individual member
A Turvey	individual member
I Stirling	individual member
D Harris	individual member
P Martin	individual member
D Corrigan	individual member
M Brady	individual member
G Deards	NADS representative
J Samuel	individual member
Gavin Butler	Halifax Town SC
Brighton & Hove Albion	SC

Appendix 2:

Fans Parliament National Council elections 2009

Votes given in the election for directly elected National Council representatives break down as follows

Name	A Number of affiliate groups voting for this nominee	B affiliate votes Gained (A x 3)	C Individuals voting for this nominee	TOTAL VOTES (B+C+D)	Result
Kevin Miles	17	51	52	103	Elected
Mark Longden	16	48	50	98	Elected
Ash Connor	15	45	51	96	Elected
Peter Daykin	15	45	50	95	Elected
Colin Hendrie	15	45	49	94	Elected
Amanda Jacks	14	42	50	92	Elected
Anne-Marie Mockridge	15	45	46	91	Elected
Andrew Fleming	12	36	53	89	Elected
Suzanne Fothergill	15	45	44	89	Elected
Vince Alm	13	39	49	88	Elected
Ian Todd	13	39	47	86	Elected
Tim Hillyer	14	42	40	82	Elected
Geoff Milton	14	42	35	77	Elected
Gavin Butler	9	27	31	58	Elected
Mark Ogbourne	9	27	18	45	Not Elected
Richard Duniec	6	18	13	31	Not Elected
Monica Hartland		0		0	Withdraw

Note: No FSF Associate Group members (voting entitlement 1 vote each) chose to vote in this election.

Appendix 3:

Report of the workshop on Safe Standing

1. FANS' BLUEPRINT

Our workshop recommends the following deletions and/or amendments to the Fans' Blueprint.

We reaffirm that we are campaigning for the introduction of choice to use safestanding areas not the reintroduction of old style terraces in those grounds that no longer have them.

2. ACTIONS/INITIATIVES FOR 2009/2010

Our workshop recommends that the FSF undertakes the following actions and/or initiatives in 2009/10.

Campaign to increase awareness of the issue

Including advertising – production of concise summary booklet – stickers

Production of materials bespoke to sitters, standers, club owners, politicians etc

Locally rooted campaigns to follow the timing of the FA Cup rounds

3. RESOURCES – PEOPLE & MONEY

Our workshop identifies the following persons/groups to undertake the actions and initiatives outlined in section 2:

PEOPLE/ORGANISATIONS

Skilled individuals to produce advertising material – printers – webskills for example

4. MONEY

The approximate level of money required is £10,000 plus

Detailed list of anticipated expenses as time allows but to include production costs, rental of space to advertise, travel to meet local organisations and travel to Germany for fact finding/photography trip

Appendix 4:

Report on the workshop on Ticket Pricing & Distribution

1. FANS' BLUEPRINT

Our workshop recommends the following deletions and/or amendments to the Fans' Blueprint:

- Add to Point 2 : “These concession tickets to be available in all areas of the ground.
- Add to Point 3 : “Any match categorisation not to apply to away supporters”
- Add additional points below :
 - Point 4 : “Leagues and clubs to participate as much as possible in reciprocal away ticket schemes or similar offers which are available to both sets of supporters.”
 - Point 5 : Any ticket booking surcharges from third-party agencies to be fair and proportionate.
 - Point 6 : Clubs to use facility fees from televised matches to subsidise away tickets.

2. ACTIONS/INITIATIVES FOR 2009/10

Our workshop recommends that the FSF undertakes the following actions and/or initiatives in 2009/10. Please list no more than five, in priority order:

- Away ticket pricing
 - Campaign for maximum away ticket price at each tier and for maximum use of reciprocal agreements
- Build Ticket Pricing database
 - Appoint “Ticketing Representative” to accumulate and enter data for every club
 - Appoint co-ordinator at each division to recruit/manage these.
- Continue existing actions to reduce misuse of tickets for FA Cup Final (and other high-demand matches) and ensure maximum distribution of these to supporters.
- Continue to investigate/action problems/complaints as they arise.

3. RESOURCES – PEOPLE & MONEY

Our workshop identifies the following persons/groups to undertake the actions and initiatives outlined in section 2:

PEOPLE/ORGANISATIONS:

- Divisional Representatives (co-ordination)
- Local Club representatives
- Ticketing Policy Group – Campaign leadership etc

MONEY

Please give an approximate level of money required and on what it would be expended.

- Database Design : £10,000
- Campaign Materials : £8,000

Appendix 5:

Report on the workshop on Club Governance & Ownership

Steven Powell reported back on the workshop. It had been an interesting and productive session. He thanked David Conn of The Guardian and David Boyle of Supporters Direct who had been panellists and to all those delegates and visitors who had participated.

He then summarised the recommendations of the workshop which involved changes to the FSF Fans’ Blueprint for Football as follows:

We seek to work in partnership with Supporters Direct towards achieving the following objectives:

1. The strengthening of strong, independent, unified and co-ordinated governance of the game in England & Wales with appropriate co-ordination and co-operation between the Football Association, Football Association of Wales and the leagues.
2. Enhanced revenue sharing and redistribution to support the game, the development of the game’s playing and coaching infrastructure, improved grounds and other spectator facilities and to promote competition at all levels of the game.
3. The establishment of an expert panel jointly convened by the FSF and Supporters Direct to develop a detailed strategy and plan for revenue sharing and redistribution as described in the previous clause.

4. Minimum standards of governance, administration and financial control for all clubs enforced by the governing bodies as a condition of membership and league entry, including an enhanced and appropriately enforced and managed “fit and proper person” test for all persons owning or directing a professional football club.
5. An annually renewable professional club licence to be introduced over a five year period governing ownership, financial and other management standards such as ground safety and development.
6. The approval by Parliament of a Sports Law granting governing bodies appropriate and sufficient authority to properly regulate and manage their sports subject to minimum standards of transparency and fairness having particular regard to the impact of competition and employment law on sport.
7. The development of clear rules in consultation with supporters to prevent any recurrence of the FA appeals tribunal decision to permit the former Wimbledon FC to move to Milton Keynes.
8. The development of clear, legally enforceable rules to prevent clubs selling their grounds without the explicit prior agreement of their supporters and another ground being developed on a site acceptable to fans of that club. Consultation on such moves shall be by properly supervised secret ballot after a period of debate and discussion amongst all stakeholders in the club including fans. Those eligible to vote and all other matters associated with such consultation to be set out in an enforceable code of conduct covering proposed ground moves.

Appendix 6:

Report from the Diversity workshop, Fans’ Parliament, June 2009

The workshop focus was on homophobia and was run in conjunction with the Justin Campaign and support from the Gay Football Supporters Network

The workshop opened with a video showing a match between 2 local teams in Brighton having a game of football on a Sunday morning, like many other teams up and down the country. It showed footage of both teams getting prepared in the changing rooms, managers talking to both their respective teams and to individual players, the support on the touchlines, the game itself including interaction with the ref... all usual and familiar sights.

The only thing that wasn’t apparent in the video is that this game was played by teams that represented the LGBT community. And why should it be?

After the video, Darren from the Justin Campaign opened the debate by and several issues were discussed in depth

Topics included who is affected by homophobia? We’ve all heard the chants towards certain heterosexual players; does it affect the way players perform? Does it have an effect on officials of the game, and if so, how? Does it have an effect on the supporters? Do they feel intimidated? What messages is it giving to younger fans? Does it have an affect on supporters who may be dealing with their own sexuality issues? How do fans feel that have LGBT friends and family?

Why is homosexuality accepted in most parts of society except in football? Why do you think this is? Is it because the first and only openly-gay footballer Justin Fashanu was treated unfairly by the media, his manager and subsequently committed suicide? Are players afraid of what the consequences would be for their friends and family? Will it have an adverse effect on their game? How much say do clubs and Agents have in these issues?

Other issues debated included women's football. Why does women's football get very little coverage? Social perceptions dictate that if a woman wants to play football she must therefore be a lesbian or seen to be 'butch'!

It was discussed that professional clubs are quite happy to promote their work in the community, but do any of the clubs actually do any work and make links with the local LGBT community and support football in this community? If clubs don't support their local LGBT community football teams, shouldn't we be asking why not?

Another issue covered was why do the police and other authorities not publish specific figures for homophobic arrests at football grounds when it is an actual offence to us homophobic chants and gestures? They issue specific numbers for racial abuse so surely the same can be done for homophobic issues. Do they see it as less of an issue than racism?

Discussions also included if issues such as sectarianism be included in discriminatory chanting and if so, should these figures be also address as a separate entity in released figures

OUTCOMES FROM DEBATES

It was agreed in the debates that our main blueprint document needed to be changed to accommodate all issues of diversity; therefore we will be requesting that the Fans' Blueprint changes the reference of 'racism' to read 'discrimination'.

It was recommended that the FSF establish links with teams within the LGBT communities as this will give us a wider perspective of homophobic issues that are faced among players and supporters in these communities.

What constitutes acceptable or offensive banter and chants? Are there guidelines? If not, why not? How are clubs meant to take action against offenders if they are not sure what is classed as offensive chants?

Finally, it was agreed that authorities should be asked to publish specific figures for homophobic arrests at football games.

Appendix 7:

Report from the Policing & Stewarding workshop

This workshop consisted of an informal discussion on several aspects of this subject area and no notes were compiled of the many issues covered.

However, the following recommendations were drawn up to be presented to the Fans' Parliament assembly for acceptance as Federation policy –

- Consideration of local club bans should include the involvement of local assessors
- FSF should oppose the recovery of full policing costs at matches from football clubs
- Drinking laws related to stadiums and on football transport should be reviewed
- Supporters should be fully involved on local safety committees.

	Seconder Ken Malley
Christopher Nash	Proposer Peter Daykin Seconder Amanda Jacks
Martin O'Hara	Proposer David Beverley Seconder Anthony O'Hara
Pete Swanson	Proposer Amanda Jacks Seconder Mark Longden
Ian Todd	Proposer Sunderland AFC Supporters Association Seconder Pam Wilkins
Stuart Wood	Proposer Phill Gatenby Seconder Amanda Jacks

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Candidate's statement – Peter Daykin

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected.

My professional background has been of great assistance in performing my role as communications and publications officer for the FSF. From my early teenage years I produced and edited fanzines at my club, the all-conquering Sunderland AFC, gaining valuable practical knowledge of all types of publishing as well as a feel for the supporter landscape.

I have written for a number of local and national newspapers and magazines, resulting in a grasp of written English that is geet canny by anyone's standards, like y'knaa. Meanwhile, my experience in marketing, PR and graphic and website design, through which I earn my living, has hopefully been a useful resource for the Federation.

As a member of the National Council since 2004 – a brief spell compared to certain colleagues – I now feel that I know enough about the history, machinations, and personalities of the FSF to start to play a more active role in shaping and leading it. Hopefully I can use my experience in managing my own staff to aid me in this.

What makes me most qualified to represent football supporters on the FSF's NC – hopefully as Deputy Chair – is that I've been paying to watch football since 1981, and whilst I have derived much enjoyment in that time, there are certain aspects of the way the game has changed that I don't like.

In my statement last year I also admitted to playing the game to an appallingly low standard. This year, however, I'm delighted to report that my team finally won a trophy – our first in 17 years – so the way I see it, I'm pretty much Pelé now.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as Deputy Chair.

Having overseen the creation and development of our magazine, The Football Supporter, created the FSF's website, been central in turning it into a revenue-generating resource and set up the FSF's Sunderland office through A19, I hope colleagues think the application of my professional skills to the FSF's work has been of benefit. (I am, of course, being disingenous: I rely heavily on the support of a tremendously diligent, talented and effective team).

I consider my skillset to be flexible, and try to get involved in as wide a variety of the FSF's activities as possible: on-the-ground campaigning with fans in the Northeast; day-to-day support for members and colleagues through the FSF office; commercial sponsorship and revenue generation; the FSF's Fans' Embassy service, for whom I helped deliver the Guide Book and designed Free Lions in South Africa this summer; administrative planning through the Executive Committee; helping to plan and deliver the annual Fans' Parliament and, of course, editing/producing tfs and overseeing editorial direction of the Federation's many communication streams.

I am a firm believer that there is no substitute for quality, and have worked hard to ensure that everything I have been involved with on behalf of the FSF has been of a standard that befits the organisation.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

Over the course of the last three year contract between A19 and the FSF, I have focussed much of my attention on delivering a long-term plan to improve the FSF's membership services and communication systems. In these times of economic uncertainty, all of us at A19 are extremely grateful to the National Council for their decision to extend our contract, in doing so ratifying the work of the team.

The inception of A19 and its subsequent development as an efficient and effective supporting partner for the Federation has been a long, challenging and at times difficult process for both Kevin Miles and me; we have both learned a great deal. In David, Michael, Nina and Garreth we now feel that we have an exceptional team in place, and the levels of input required from us have been dramatically reduced. As a result I now feel able to turn my attention to other areas.

With question marks over funding, the key area the FSF must improve on in the immediate short term is campaigning. The case work carried out by Amanda Jacks and the policing group over the past two years highlights the importance of effective campaigning work in enhancing the visibility and reputation of the FSF. Unfortunately, despite considerable efforts from many individuals in other campaigning areas, I feel we have failed to make rapid enough progress across the board, and would benefit from more structured management of our campaigns.

With the FSF Chair rightly concentrating his efforts on external relationships through the FSF's seat on the FA Council and liaison with the football authorities, I would like to see the role of Deputy Chair given responsibility for the Federation's campaigning work. In my view, an inward-looking Deputy, overseeing campaigns by supporting policy holders and facilitating NC participation, would complement Malcolm's role and form the core of an effective Executive body.

This year we suffered a startling situation where we had work waiting to be done, colleagues wanting to do it but nobody able to match the two together. I raise this not as criticism; we all bring something different to the FSF party and each of us has our own way of doing things. Nevertheless, I feel that with the support of my friends and colleagues on National Council I am capable of contributing towards a rapid improvement in this vital area. I hope you will consider voting for me as Deputy Chair.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Candidate's Statement – Jon Keen

About Me

I have been a Reading supporter since the mid-seventies, back when we were “Biscuitmen” instead of “Royals.” My first involvement in the supporters’ movement was in 1983, when I was one of thousands marching against Robert Maxwell and the spectre of merger with Oxford United into the Frankenstein “*Thames Valley Royals*”. I became active within The FSF in 2003 as a result of my involvement with STAR (Supporters’ Trust At Reading).

I was a member of the steering committee which formed STAR in 2002, and since then as a STAR board member I have managed a variety of successful campaigns and represented STAR at meetings with Reading FC’s Senior Management Board, the local Safety Advisory Group and with the police, football authorities and other bodies. I have also spoken at a number of Supporters’ Trust launch meetings, assisting Trusts in all the top 6 steps of the pyramid in getting off the ground.

I have served as Deputy Chair of the Federation for the past three years, and as Chair of the FSF Southern Division for five years. In this time I have represented the Federation at numerous meetings, including several with the Premier League, the Football League, The FA, the FLA, politicians and broadcast organisations, amongst others. I have also been a National Council member since 2005, and I am proud that in my time with the FSF I have never missed a National Council or an Executive Committee meeting.

I have also been responsible for defining many of the processes which accompanied the Federation’s change from an organisation largely run by volunteers into a professional and credible, mass-membership campaigning organisation – for instance, I wrote the discussion paper which defined the process for the transition to free membership. I also defined and managed the FSF’s first ever National Supporter Survey, and I have also managed today’s Conference.

My Beliefs

I believe that football is at a crossroads, and that the FSF has a greater opportunity than ever to be involved in changing the game for the better. I feel there are now numerous factors leading us to a tipping point where change is inevitable. Not least amongst these is the financial disarray in the game over the past few seasons (when a Premier League club can go into administration despite record TV revenues and ever-inflated ticket-prices), as well as the dismal performance of the England team in South Africa. It’s becoming increasingly obvious to all supporters - and even to some of the media! - that English football’s business model is badly broken.

At the same time, the organisation which should be acting as the “guardian of the game” for us all is also non-functional. Tied in a straightjacket by the Premier League and with anyone who tries to sort the mess out being hounded out of post, The FA is an organisation that’s letting us all down badly. With power comes responsibility, but the majority of those who wield the power in our game do very little to exercise the responsibility they have to protect our game for all of us.

It’s clear to me that the Premier League’s stranglehold of the FA, together with various other vested interests, make reform from inside very unlikely. But I believe the time is coming

when the clamour for change to be forced onto the FA will become impossible for them to resist. Supporters, the media, those within football who do see the problems and, increasingly, politicians will force reform through. Unless those who hold power in football exercise responsible management of the game - for everyone, not just for the few - that power must be taken from them and given to those who will.

Such radical change is the only option, but as it becomes clearer to everyone just how many problems the game has I see that change becoming more likely – with the FSF acting as a vital catalyst in making that change happen. I am standing again for the post of Deputy Chair because I feel so strongly that this change is necessary to save our game and that, as the voice of supporters, we have a vital role in helping bring it about. It will be a long and painful struggle, since our enemies have immense power and influence, but when that change does come I'd like to feel that my contribution helped make it happen.

What I can offer the FSF?

In my years with the FSF so far I believe I have built up a extensive knowledge of how football works and how it is run, with in-depth knowledge of who hold the power and who pulls the strings. Whilst my main areas of interest are club governance, fair financial distribution across the whole game and safe-standing, I have shown I am capable of getting involved in all aspects of the issues affecting supporters. Amongst other activities, this includes working on ticket-pricing initiatives and defining processes for due-process for club bans of supporters.

A Senior Project Manager by profession, I have numerous commercial and negotiation skills and experience, as well as people and process management abilities. I also have the ability to take a high-level, strategic view as well as a detail view. I believe these skills have all been of benefit to the FSF over the past few years, and I hope to be able to carry-on using them in an FSF role. I also have served as a local councillor which has given me valuable and relevant experience, including a good knowledge of how politics works and decisions are made.

As well as the skills and experience outlined above, I also offer a perspective and independence few others can offer. I have supported my team in each of the four top tiers of English football, which gives me first-hand experience of being a supporter in the Premier League as well as in lower leagues, as well as a detailed view of what happens to club finances with promotion and relegation.

I also became involved in the FSF after it was merged from its two founder organisations, which leaves me free from any of the loyalties and frictions which inevitably surface occasionally after any such merger. Crucially, also, I have no financial links, directly or indirectly, with any organisation which has a commercial relationship with the FSF. This means there is no possibility of any potential conflicts of interest existing or being suggested. For me it is a vital principle that we govern ourselves properly and without any suggestion of commercial vulnerability – otherwise how can we preach good governance and transparency to the football industry? This is doubly important in the Deputy Chair role, where a key part of that role is to deputise for the Chair when they are unavailable.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Candidate's statement – Mike Williamson

I became a fan of football on leaving school. That was at the time when the World Cup came home, which hooked me. At work, colleagues took me to Old Trafford and I became a regular watching Best, Charlton and Law, standing on the terraces for 5 shillings!

I also watched my local club Morecambe in the era there of Timmins and Lea. It was cheaper, but I became much more a Shrimps fan rather than a Red Devils one, as they were my local club, and very easy to fall in love with. I have loved the club I live minutes from ever since, and look forward keenly to football in our new ground. I became involved in supporters affairs quite soon, rising to my present exalted position of Shrimps Supporters Vice Chairman.

I was our club rep with the NFFSC, and got to know other clubs' fans well. As a regular at Northern meetings, I became Northern Pyramid Representative, and fairly soon National Pyramid Officer, joining the NFFSC National Council.

It became clear, in time, that a merger of the FSA and the NFFSC was the only way forward, and at the time of the merger I spoke clearly in favour of it. There had to be a unified supporters' organisation, even if our opponents are often divided.

In 2003 FSF decided to have a paid national administrator and a separate national secretary and I was honoured to take up the latter position.

For the record, I am now 61. I am also a part-time football photographer, covering Morecambe games all over the country. I am also the registration secretary for the Lancashire Football League, in which Morecambe reserves formerly played. That task gives a useful insight into football administration.

I support Morecambe FC home and away. Morecambe only recently joined the Football League, and it is not so long since our club was in the Northern Premier League (now the Unibond League). So I am more than familiar with the problems encountered by many non-league clubs and their supporters. I am also more than aware of the problems a club encounters when they make the transition from non-league to League, problems which are often not fully appreciated, but which are often hard for club and supporters to accept and resolve.

However, as a follower of a newer Football League club, I can look at things at "higher" levels with a fresh eye, not hide bound by long standing traditions or prejudices. On the National Council, I have learned that most of the problems are the same at whatever level you are involved – it is merely a matter of scale.

The FSF's work, especially recently, have concerned too many supporters who have been treated unfairly or unjustly by the authorities. That work has demonstrated that with its organisation and willingness to get stuck in, the FSF can make a difference, and we are listened to much more by those in power. However, whatever our work is, I believe we must follow the principle that the football supporter should be accorded the same rights as anyone else, and treated no differently.

It is often accepted that the freedoms and rights of supporters can be limited or even taken away altogether. When a serious problem involving supporters arises, too often blind expediency allows some to accept the suggestion that "Something must be done" as an excuse to do whatever is seen conveniently as effective, whether it is just or not. Far too often the supporter is seen as the cause of problems and not the victim of them, as they frequently are. We must do all we can to combat that attitude.

I believe that the FSF is still in transition from being an association largely organised and run by volunteers, to one where employed staff are an important part, staff who are able to devote all their energies and time to working for the good of our members and supporters in general. However, I believe we must ensure that we remain an organisation which is in close contact with the ordinary football fan, appreciating their needs and wishes fully, and operating on their behalf. To do that we must continue to have elected officials, in the form of the officers and the National Council, to make the key overall policy decisions for the FSF, directing how those policies are put into effect. As elected officials we are still ordinary football supporters.

I believe I can continue to act as secretary of the FSF as well as anyone from any level of the game. I further believe that I have the ability to organise and prioritise work in a methodical and thorough way, and that I have a detailed knowledge of the FSF, its Constitution and the ways in which it operates. I am able to efficiently support the National Council and our other officials, in coordination with the other officers, enabling the Council to effectively manage the Federation.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **VINCE ALM**
Name of PROPOSER **HOWARD MORRIS**
Name of SECONDER **PAUL CORKREY**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

My name is Vince Alm and I support Cardiff City.

I follow my club Home and away and I have been on the supporters club committee now for 12 years I have held social secretary position, which includes organising Children's Christmas parties, presentations, quizzes, social nights. Past 8 years I have held positions of travel officer and press officer, these involve organise transport to away fixtures for Cardiff fans this year at the play off final there were 70 coaches only, to secure contracts with coach companies, take calls from supporters 365 days a year to book travel or any general grievances they have with us (supporters club), the club, or football in general. I also incorporate Police Liaison officer as another role, with me having to attend meetings with my football club attended by the police, stadium manager, ticket office manager, independent supporters groups, and then our opposite numbers for away matches, to sort out arrangements prior to the fixture. I deal with all the press for the supporters club which is very busy due to the lack of large football clubs in South Wales.

I have also organised demonstrations and campaigns including the following; a new stadium at Leckwith, help organise demonstrations in Wolverhampton with the help of the FSF against away fans ban, and West Brom over ticket allocation. Also spent many an hour in court fighting for supporters who undeservedly faced a banning order for alleged minor public order offences, taking on the FLA regarding standing at football matches.

I joined the FSF in 2003 as an affiliate through Cardiff City Supporters Club to help fight issues that were affecting supporters of Cardiff City e.g. Standing, ticket prices, rearranged kick off times, numerous police and stewarding issues to name a few, these issues were also common to many other football clubs so joining the FSF was an easy decision where we could take on the fight as a national group! I am now heavily involved with FSF Cymru who provide assistance to Welsh fans abroad. I have been involved at National Council level for two years with the position of FSF Cymru liaison officer, and Chairman for FSF Cymru.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I have a wealth of knowledge regarding Police, stewarding, and crowd behaviour at football matches that could be put to good use, My experience fighting for the new Cardiff stadium, standing issues etc. enabled me to have dialogue with the authorities like politicians, councillors, safety officers, match commanders, safety advisory groups to such extent that I am now comfortable dealing with any of the aforementioned groups without feeling either intimidated or out of my depth.

Here is a selection of work I've carried out for the FSF during the past year.

- I helped organise and run Fans Embassies in 4 countries
- I have attended meetings with the FAW to discuss various topics including ticket arrangements, and the new membership.
- Assisted supporters in a drive from Cardiff to Baku in Azerbaijan along with 30 fellow Welsh supporters through 8 countries for charity, lending support and visiting 20 orphanages to deliver clothes, toys, nappies etc on route through some of the most deprived areas of Europe.
- I have attended National Council meetings
- I have attended Executive Council meetings

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

My aim is to continue to fight issues that affect supporters of football, and anything that threatens our game. I have particular interest in fighting for supporters rights which continue to affect all supporters even though the police are targeting a small minority. My aim is also to fight for lower concession prices for young adults, and under 10s.

My view of football at the moment is the authorities who currently run and control football, enforce regulations and legislation upon us in the majority do not have the match going football fans thoughts and views in their minds. They are just interested in what money they can make from the game, their finger is no longer on the pulse. I would like to see the passion, excitement, the singing and cheering of our teams return to all levels, also football must be affordable for everyone including food, beverage, and merchandise.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **John Brockwell**

Name of PROPOSER **Monica Hartland**

Name of SECONDER **Ian Lyon**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I am currently Chair of my clubs Independent Supporters' Association having served in various other officer roles over the last seven years. I am the Supporter Director of my clubs Sports & Education Trust (SET) and was co-opted onto the FSF NC last year.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I would seek to work with clubs and supporters to defuse tensions and enhance the supporters matchday experience.

For instance working with my club I've managed to defuse tensions between supporters and stewards. A fans forum was organised and the safety officer publically apologised to several supporters by name for the way that they had been treated by stewards. I proposed that the supporters of the troubled stand were allowed to elect their own stand supervisor from all the supervisors employed by the club. This was accepted and has been highly successful with the supporters now having a genuine "buy in" to the stewarding of their stand. The supervisor is well aware that he was elected to the position by the supporters and regularly works with them to sort out any problems. This is just one of many experiences that I've had that I'm sure will assist with solving problems brought to the NC.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I am interested in removing the barriers to enjoying watching football that have been put up as reactions to various incidents that have happened over the years. Draconian laws need to be revisited and amended or removed.

Many Stewards need to become more supporter focussed instead of trying to live up to a "bouncer" style mentality. Safe standing should be introduced in nominated parts of the ground so that those that wish to remain seated can do so and those that prefer to watch a match standing aren't constantly harassed into taking a seat.

Clubs need to live within their means to enable them to continue serving their communities and adding social value via the various community schemes that the FL/PL encourage.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Raj Chandarana**

Name of PROPOSER **Tim Hillyer**

Name of SECONDER **Sue Maisey**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

A lifelong supporter of Crystal Palace Football Club, I first got involved with the Club and fans in 2000, during its previous period of administration. At this time, I was Croydon's cabinet member for culture and sport, and I worked with fans to found Crystal Palace Supporters' Trust, which was one of the first Trusts to be established on co-operative principles.

Ten years later, and with Crystal Palace back in administration, I turned from being just a fan to becoming an activist again, using my experiences from the previous period of administration to work with the Supporters' Trust. This time the Trust co-opted me to their Board (and I was subsequently elected to the Board at the AGM). Since becoming involved with the Trust, I have combined working behind the scenes with the club administrator, local authority and politicians on a cross-party basis, and also with ordinary fans, working alongside some really passionate people. At the beginning of June 2010, when it appeared that Crystal Palace was about to disappear, I joined over 1000 fans who spontaneously rallied at the club's ground, where I ended up being a spokesperson for all Eagles fans to the media and world at large, first at the ground, then the following day, alongside over 200 fans outside the HQ of Lloyds Bank Group, refusing to budge until they saw sense and did the deal which has (hopefully) seen our club live to fight another day.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I have several skills that I feel would be of benefit to the National Council. As well as my experience of Crystal Palace and two periods of financial unrest, I have a vast amount of experience in sports politics, as a past councillor and cabinet member for culture and sport, and as a member of the Local Government Association Culture Executive. Professionally, I worked for over two years as Director of Operations at Liberty, and was a strong advocate at Management Team for Liberty's closer working relationship with FSF – something that spurred me to become an individual member of FSF. In the mid-1990s, as a policy manager at the CRE, I contributed to the early strategy around racism and football, prior to the Kick It Out / Kick Racism Out of Football initiatives. As someone who attends most games (home and away), I have direct experience of articulating the views of away fans, and becoming involved in making representations when the away fans' experience has been poor.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I have a wide range of interests within football. These include:

- community involvement in football, including having a more diverse fan base
- ownership / governance of football clubs, including European models such as Germany
- finance / money in football

- the away fan's experience

Some of my views on current issues include:

- Fans should have a much greater say in the running of their football club, and should have a controlling interest, along the lines of German clubs
- The FA should be independent of Club Chairmen, or a separate Football Commission, with a strong Commissioner, should be introduced. A new FA / Commission, should have fan representation, as well as clubs, but the majority on such a body should be non-owners.
- There should be greater checks on football finance and debt, once again following on from good practice abroad.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE Ash Connor

Name of PROPOSER Amanda Jacks

Name of SECONDER Mark Longden

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I have been a football supporter for 40 years and have served on the National Council of the FSF since its inception in 2002.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I have been representing fans views and concerns regarding policing of football matches at the highest level for 10 years.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

Although the policing of football supporters has improved greatly during recent years, I still feel there is room for improvement. If elected I will endeavour to continue fighting the corner of the match going supporters.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE Peter Daykin

Name of PROPOSER The Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association

Name of SECONDER Newport County AFC Supporters' Club

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected.

My professional background has been of great assistance in performing my role as communications and publications officer for the FSF. From my early teenage years I produced and edited fanzines at my club, the all-conquering Sunderland AFC, gaining valuable practical knowledge of all types of publishing as well as a feel for the supporter landscape.

I have written for a number of local and national newspapers and magazines, resulting in a grasp of written English that is geet canny by anyone's standards, like y'knaa. Meanwhile, my experience in marketing, PR and graphic and website design, through which I earn my living, has hopefully been a useful resource for the Federation.

As a member of the National Council since 2004 – a brief spell compared to certain colleagues – I now feel that I know enough about the history, machinations, and personalities of the FSF to start to play a more active role in shaping and leading it. Hopefully I can use my experience in managing my own staff to aid me in this.

What makes me most qualified to represent football supporters on the FSF's NC – hopefully as Deputy Chair – is that I've been paying to watch football since 1981, and whilst I have derived much enjoyment in that time, there are certain aspects of the way the game has changed that I don't like.

In my statement last year I also admitted to playing the game to an appallingly low standard. This year, however, I'm delighted to report that my team finally won a trophy – our first in 17 years – so the way I see it, I'm pretty much Pelé now.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

Having overseen the creation and development of our magazine, The Football Supporter, created the FSF's website, been central in turning it into a revenue-generating resource and set up the FSF's Sunderland office through A19, I hope colleagues think the application of my professional skills to the FSF's work has been of benefit. (I am, of course, being disingenous: I rely heavily on the support of a tremendously diligent, talented and effective team).

I consider my skillset to be flexible, and try to get involved in as wide a variety of the FSF's activities as possible: on-the-ground campaigning with fans in the Northeast; day-to-day support for members and colleagues through the FSF office; commercial sponsorship and revenue generation; the FSF's Fans' Embassy service, for whom I helped deliver the Guide Book and designed Free Lions in South Africa this summer; administrative planning through the Executive Committee; helping to plan and deliver the annual Fans' Parliament and, of

course, editing/producing tfs and overseeing editorial direction of the Federation's many communication streams.

I am a firm believer that there is no substitute for quality, and have worked hard to ensure that everything I have been involved with on behalf of the FSF has been of a standard that befits the organisation.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

Over the course of the last three year contract between A19 and the FSF, I have focussed much of my attention on delivering a long-term plan to improve the FSF's membership services and communication systems. In these times of economic uncertainty, all of us at A19 are extremely grateful to the National Council for their decision to extend our contract, in doing so ratifying the work of the team.

The inception of A19 and its subsequent development as an efficient and effective supporting partner for the Federation has been a long, challenging and at times difficult process for both Kevin Miles and me; we have both learned a great deal. In David, Michael, Nina and Garreth we now feel that we have an exceptional team in place, and the levels of input required from us have been dramatically reduced. As a result I now feel able to turn my attention to other areas.

With question marks over funding, the key area the FSF must improve on in the immediate short term is campaigning. The case work carried out by Amanda Jacks and the policing group over the past two years highlights the importance of effective campaigning work in enhancing the visibility and reputation of the FSF. Unfortunately, despite considerable efforts from many individuals in other campaigning areas, I feel we have failed to make rapid enough progress across the board, and would benefit from more structured management of our campaigns.

With the FSF Chair rightly concentrating his efforts on external relationships through his seat on the FA Council and liaison with the football authorities, I would like to see the role of Deputy Chair given responsibility for the Federation's campaigning work. In my view, an inward-looking Deputy, overseeing campaigns by supporting policy holders and facilitating NC participation, would complement Malcolm's role and form the core of an effective Executive body.

This year we suffered a startling situation where we had work waiting to be done, colleagues wanting to do it but nobody able to match the two together. I raise this not as criticism; we all bring something different to the FSF party and each of us has our own way of doing things. Nevertheless, I feel that with the support of my friends and colleagues on National Council I am capable of contributing towards a rapid improvement in this vital area. I hope you will consider voting for me as Deputy Chair.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Andrew Fleming**

Name of PROPOSER **Pam Wilkins**

Name of SECONDER **Peter Daykin**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I have been involved in Football throughout my life from playing at grass roots to following my local football team (Halifax Town and latterly FC Halifax Town) Home and Away for the last 22 years. Over the last 10 years I have attended most England home games and since 2004 the majority of away games. Throughout my time following football and indeed other major sports I have gained first hand experience of the issues we all face as supporters and am passionate about making a difference.

Over the last couple of years I have contributed to the FSF by volunteering to support the FSF Fans' Embassy at both home and away matches and by the time of the election will hopefully have spent 5 weeks in South Africa providing support at the 7 England games Well full of hope at this stage. Over the last year I have taken on a more active role being part of the recce to Amsterdam prior to the Holland game and covering a number of both radio and TV interviews primarily regarding England – this is an area I am keen to continue to gain further experience in.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

As a supporter of a lower league football team I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge of many levels of football which allows interaction with supporters of all clubs from the lower non league's through to the premiership, and I can appreciate the issues supporters face at all levels of the game. Indeed it's the inconsistencies in treatment throughout the footballing pyramid which are sometimes most frustrating for Football fans.

I have a wealth of experience both in professional occupation and in being a football supporter; I believe I can draw these together along with my youth, enthusiasm and hard working approach to help the FSF develop and move forward. Working with the National Council over the last year has helped me develop in new situations such as TV interviews and campaigning influencing whereas my work background supports strategic thinking and influencing skill which are clearing important supporting the FSF.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

Whilst many clubs announce price freezes for the coming season this is simply not enough, the bigger clubs continue to pay astronomical wages whilst other teams continue to struggle, be miss-managed with footballing issues settled by point's deductions – added to which ticket prices continue to rise pricing out genuine football fans to the extent of seeing empty seats at matches. A filled seat is surely better than one empty whilst fans watch on TV.

One of the clear frustration's this year has been the inconsistency in how clubs are being dealt with when they get into financial trouble. Not only have we a number of clubs in administration and getting through on a weekly basis we have seen a number of clubs going out of business and looking to reform – although quite where these clubs drop into the

pyramid structure still needs to be addressed and a consistent approach would be something I believe we need to be working towards next year.

A coalition government would seem to give us an opportunity to address some football issues – Safe standing would be an area I support as a match going supporter who is lucky to be able to choose to stand simply because I watch FC Halifax Town in the lower pyramid leagues – many fans don't have the choice.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE Allison Franklin

Name of PROPOSER Richard Merritt

Name of SECONDER Kath Richardson

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

In November 2005 my fellow supporters elected to me on to the Board of Bees United (Brentford FC's supporters trust) and this position was held for 18 months until my resignation due to health reasons. During my time on the Board, I worked in developing the way in which BU communicated with its members and with the membership system itself.

For the past year it has been my pleasure to serve on the BIAS committee, Brentford FC's proactive independent supporters association. As the Committee's appointed Deputy Chair and the Association's FSF rep, I have contributed to BIAS's input to the FC's customer charter and to address problems such as improving away ticketing and ground improvements as well taking a hands on role with the day to day running such as the distribution of membership cards and manning stalls at numerous fetes. I am also responsible for leading on matchday experience issues for our members.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I can bring project and people management, IT literacy, good time management and prioritisation, good team skills and leadership and excellent communications skills. I enjoy working with my fellow Committee members but have a great deal of drive and focus so I can work equally as well on my own and conclude projects satisfactorily. I have training, facilitation and workshop skills and would be happy to use these to forward the work of FSF.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

My particular interest lies with the funding of football the governance of the game. My opinion is that the current financial state of football in the UK poses the biggest threat to the game that I can recall. The FA's Fit and Proper person test is neither fit nor proper and as the governing body, they need to revise this and sharpen up their act immediately to ensure that Clubs are not at threat from previously bankrupted property developers. I do not claim to be an expert in this field but it is my major concern and interest and I think complete lack of business control of Club affairs and tax evasion directly affect the welfare and interests of supporters.

My aim would be for FSF to undertake a more public role in lobbying the FA to ensure that their governance of football in general and ownership of Clubs in particular is vastly improved. Combined with an information campaign (perhaps including workshops), the FSF could educate and help Supporters' Associations arm themselves with the appropriate information to organise campaigns when they feel their football Club is under threat from potential owners who do not appear to be suitable.

The other area of concern for me is the framing of legislation that particularly targets football fans and discriminates against them. Section 60 of the of the Criminal Justice Act is of particular concern to me given the police's 'kettling' tactics at public events. My aim would be to ensure that football fans are given the information and opportunity to educate themselves about their rights if arrested and for FSF to lobby for a change in the legislation or at least in the way it is currently interpreted and applied by the police.

I would also aim to see the FSF promote itself more effectively and to raise its public profile with supporters. The excellent work it already does needs wider dissemination via Supporters' Trusts and Associations and hopefully will encourage more supporters to form organisations thereby strengthening the FSF further by utilising its 'local branches'.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Amanda Jacks**

Name of PROPOSER **Ash Connor**

Name of SECONDER **Mark Longden**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I was initially elected on the National Council in 2008 and have sat on our Executive Council since 2009. I have also been involved with the Stand Up Sit Down Campaign since 2005.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I have spent the last two years working the policing and stewarding portfolio, helping out with safe standing when I can. I have formed relationships with both civil and criminal solicitors meaning our members can seek legal advice which is initially is offered free over the telephone. These relationships have meant that countless supporters have benefitted from advice in the last year. I've also forged relationships with academics in the field of the policing of football fans and the application of football banning orders. I have also advised many supporters in how to make complaints to football clubs and/or the police if they feel they have been harshly treated.

I organised a one off event earlier this year entitled "Sit Down, Shut Up: Are football supporters discriminated against". We invited prestigious speakers for our panel, including Liberty, the CPS and Henry Porter of the Guardian and over 120 supporters attended what was a very lively and informative evening. I would like to organise similar events around the country.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

If I am fortunate enough to be elected again, I aim to continue my work in the policing and legal fields and also ensure all supporters are treated fairly and reasonably when making complaints to their clubs. While many supporters attend games without ever coming into contact with the police or stewards, sadly the ones that do and feel the need to contact us for support seem to be treated very harshly and too often clubs will take the default position of "we're right, you're wrong, now go away".

I am increasingly interested in the application of Football Banning Orders, particularly those made on application meaning a successful application by police sees supporters not convicted of any crime subject to the draconian terms of an FBO including the surrender of their passport. I would like to work, with our legal and academic partners, in seeing these abolished together with other laws applicable only to football fans.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Mark Longden**

Name of PROPOSER **Ash Connor**

Name of SECONDER **Amanda Jacks**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I first got involved with the Independent Man Utd Supporters Association (IMUSA) in 1995. I took on the responsibility of liaison with other supporters groups three months later. This role led me to become involved with the FSA and later the NFFSC. I was also one of the original CoFS steering group which led to the amalgamation of the FSA and NFFSC to form the FSF we all know and love.

In 1996 I became a committee member of IMUSA continuing my role with supporter liaison. IMUSA continued to campaign for standing, lower prices and a better atmosphere inside Old Trafford, although we failed to get any movement on standing IMUSA were responsible for the introduction of the singing section at OT and the old PLC board were always on their guard when it came to raising prices. IMUSA played an active part in Man Utd's fans forum. Sadly, the Glazer's have upped prices by 65% in the last 3 seasons. They also threw IMUSA off the fans forum and still refuse to talk to us officially.

In 1998 Rupert Murdoch tried to buy Manchester United. IMUSA led the fight against Murdoch and I was then an officer on daily duty to try to STOP MURDOCH. Supporters from all walks of life came to IMUSA's aid from the unemployed to City Lawyers. The pulling together of such a diverse group of people led to like minded small share holders forming SUAM (shareholders United Against Murdoch), now the United supporters trust, this led directly to the formation of Supporters Direct.

IMUSA achieved a widely acclaimed victory and stopped Murdoch getting what he wanted, a first I believe.

In the summer of 2000 I took over the chair of IMUSA and continued the role until 2003, during this time we ran many successful local campaigns the most prominent of which was the 3pm Sat campaign which was aimed at reducing the ever increasing KO time disruption. At this time I met Phill Gatenby and together we started the Safe Standing campaign.

In 2005 the Glazer family bought Man Utd with borrowed money following a fiercely fought but ultimately futile anti Glazer campaign, the highlight of which was a 5000 strong march to the ground on the night of the 2005 Champions league semi final v AC Milan.

Most of the IMUSA committee left to form FCUoM. I took the chair again to keep the organisation as active as possible until the day it is needed again, which is fast approaching.

During this period I have been active at the national level serving on the NFFSC's NC and also the FSF's NC since the amalgamation. I have previously taken the Football and TV portfolio and wrote the FSF's policy document on the subject, although that document should be up for review. I was co organiser of the North West's anti GAM£ 39 group. This year most of my time has been taken up on recruitment initiatives (trade shows) and the section 27 issue.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I like to think I a good communicator and get on well with people generally. I am very experienced at dealing with the media. I am an experienced campaigner and I like to think tactical acumen is amongst my stronger cards.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I think the continuing work with Liberty gives the FSF a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of match going football supporters.

I am really keen to get involved in assisting the preparation of cases which are due to go to court. The link Amanda Jacks has developed with Melanie Cooke, a solicitor, will not only keep the cost of cases down but has ensured and will continue to ensure that a football supporters get a fair deal in the courts.

I will, of course, contintue to contribute in any other area I am required so to do.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Ian Lyon**
Name of PROPOSER **Shrimp Supporters Club**
Name of SECONDER **Ash Connor**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

My roots as a football supporter are firmly in non-league football having supported Morecambe since the 1970's, watching them progress to the Football League. I am currently the treasurer and the FSF Rep for the Shrimps Supporters' Club (Morecambe FC) being on the committee since its foundation. Along with my local supporters' club, in 1993 I became more active and involved with national supporter organizations, serving the FSF Northern Division as treasurer for a number of years and as their divisional secretary, and becoming the treasurer of the merged North & North Wales Division. I've been the secretary and treasurer of the North Wales & North West division since its formation. I have served on the National Council for over five years either as a divisional rep or as a directly elected member, and in those years as a National Council member I have attended **all** meetings. In the past I served as the Pyramid Officer on the National Council. I believe that in recent years the issues involved at Pyramid level have become the same as at all other levels of the game, for example television and its influence on kick off times.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I consider myself to have a useful knowledge of match stewarding having been a steward at Morecambe FC for over 10 years, and completing all necessary NVQ training that was required. Therefore I have the knowledge and background to see the view point of both sides – the supporters and the stewards. However, there is no excuse for poor stewarding. I have good general computer skills which I have in the past put to use on behalf of the FSF, for example, doing research work for the FSF. I am more than willing to do any research that may be needed on a further issues that might arise.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I will be able to give more time to FSF this year. One area I feel needs work is my own division (NW/NW). In this organisation members views are important and divisional meetings can be an important source of these views. The division needs more active members to attend meetings which I hope to work on. I also feel there is a need to review what role divisions can serve within the FSF. Work on the better distribution of television and sponsorship monies to all levels of football, including the non-league and the grassroots game is of growing importance.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **James McKenna**

Name of PROPOSER **Amanda Jacks**

Name of SECONDER **Mark Longden**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I have been part of Spirit Of Shankly, the Liverpool Supporters Union since its inception in January 2008, as a member, and as a Committee Member, in its infancy and remain so presently. I have worked as part of the Committee as Direct Action Officer (responsible for protests) and as Media Officer (Spokesperson).

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

Through my experiences with Spirit Of Shankly, I have developed many skills and increased knowledge about football, the issues fans face, and how football and the politics of it really works, as well as how we want it to work.

I have experience :

- Planning/Organising/Leading demonstrations/protests, working with all relevant bodies and fans.
- Drafting/Producing statements and rallying calls to fans.
- Dealing with all aspects of media work (releases, interviews, briefings)
- Being part of a committee dealing with fan issues
- Meeting with high profile individuals involved in our football club and football – including Senior Management and owners of LFC, as well as the Premier League.
- Liaising with other fan groups to speak about wider fan issues.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

My aim is to make football the game of the people. Get back OUR game. Without fans, football clubs are worthless, the brand that the authorities sell and promote worthless. Let's have all fans, of all clubs, standing together, working together, pulling in the same direction. The authorities win, because it's "Us, and you, and City, and United, and Newcastle, and this lot, and that lot against them". Imagine it was just Us and Them. The game needs us. They need to remember this. We need to remind them of this. It's our game. They are our clubs. We will get it back.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Kevin Miles**

Name of PROPOSER **Ian Todd**

Name of SECONDER **Ken Malley**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected.

I have been a regular match-going Newcastle United fan for some 37 years now, although it seems longer. A season ticket holder and regular attender at away games, I have been active in supporters' organisations at club level, and am currently a member of the Newcastle United Supporters Trust.

Since 1998 and the World Cup in France, I have worked for the FSF (and its predecessor the FSA) in the international sphere, organising fans' embassies at England games. This has involved editing the FSF's England fanzine Free Lions, and developing the international section of the website.

My work for the FSF has involved me in liaising with government departments, various football authorities and police agencies.

I have also had lot of involvement with fans' organisations internationally, and was elected at last year's European Football Fans' Congress to the FSE Executive Committee.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

My time in supporters' organisations, both domestically and internationally, has given me wide experience of working with both volunteers and professionals in the interests of football fans. My previous work as a journalist and broadcaster as well as my current role for the FSF has given me a useful insight into the workings of the media, and I have a good understanding of the workings of both the criminal justice and political systems.

I have a lot of experience of committee work, discussion and debating. I speak fluent German and good French.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I would wish to continue to contribute to the National Council's deliberations on the full range of matters which come up, but I have an obvious commitment to the Federation's international relations and work.

I am also particularly interested in constructive campaigning activities, especially around policing and legal issues, and would like to see an extension of the services that the FSF offers to match-going fans.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Geoff Milton**

Name of PROPOSER **Rick Duniec**

Name of SECONDER **Alan Bloore**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

Branch Secretary of the LUSC for 20+ years. Following Leeds, have experienced full range of issues including, Champions League participation, Top of Premier League, Relegation, Demotion to 3rd. tier, Administration, dodgy chairmen, hooligan issues, standing at matches, pricing at football, policing, organising coaches & away trips. Currently hold position of Secretary of Yorkshire division of FSF.

Now completed my first 12 months as member of National Council. Represented the FSF at a meeting with the Football League, represented the FSF when shadowing the S Yorkshire police at a high profile match, and, in my geographical region, continued to promote, defend and highlight to the great work done by the FSF in all areas of football

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I brought to the NC an extensive knowledge and first hand experience of most of the issues directly affecting football fans today. My role at work includes position as a UNISON rep, which has provided me with experience in negotiating, effective interaction with others, and dealing with high level parties. Was singled out by Ken Bates in his infamous programme notes, which led to one to one meeting to discuss issues, so not intimidated by "names"

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

Issues of most concern to me include the fit and proper person ruling for chairmen, stand up sit down, and policing at football matches.

Consider myself a team player, understand the need for collective unity in an organisation.

My first 12 months in the role have, I believe, been a success, and feel that I am now able to take the next step and become even more active in the running of portfolios and issues within the FSF.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE Anne-Marie Mockridge

Name of PROPOSER Ken Malley

Name of SECONDER Kevin Miles

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I am a Manchester City season ticket holder and a member of England fans, the recognised group of England supporters with the FA.

I was a founding member of the North-West England fans supporters group which meet regularly with various agencies involved with England games including the FA, the Home Office, Police authorities, and representatives and fan groups from the various countries the England team visit. I have also been involved in various fan initiatives in both World Cup and European Championship tournaments since 2004.

Since 2005 I retired from work due to disability. After retirement I became an active volunteer within the FSF including work within the Nationwide FSF Fans' Embassies at England games including the recent World Cup in South Africa - distributing Free Lions, research for the website and producing information for fans travelling abroad, attending meetings etc.

I am currently the Diversity policy holder for the FSF and have held this position since Sept 2008.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

As Diversity policy holder for the last 2 years I have attended meetings with various agencies including the FA, Kick It Out, The National Association of Disabled Supporters, the Gay Football Supporters Network, etc and established strong links with these groups.

As I attend matches both on a domestic and international basis, I am acutely aware of the wide range of issues fans face and issues that have an impact on supporters in general

I like to think I am a strong team member, willing to turn to my hand to most challenges.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

My main aim is to promote the FSF and the work it does for supporters - not just fans of top league clubs, but every fan at every level. Many know the FSF are here but are unaware of what they do, so more needs to be done to get our message and objectives across.

There are constant issues that affect supporters - from ticketing prices, safe standing areas to clubs in crisis and fans need to know we are here to help them in whatever capacity we can, from advice to legal representation if needed, so promotion of the FSF's work is vital as more issues arise each season.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **CHRISTOPHER NASH**

Name of PROPOSER **PETER DAYKIN**

Name of SECONDER **AMANDA JACKS**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I have been involved with FSF/Stand Up Sit Down (SUSD) for around four years, working on various aspects of the Safe Standing (SS) campaign. These include:

- Club work, particularly at Wycombe, where I helped organise an SS day and have met directors with a view to incorporating SS into their new stadium
- Political work, such as providing information to SUSD members to write to MP's in support of Early Day Motion 101 on SS. Nearly 150 MP's signed this.
- Researching and writing a report for the FSF on the FLA injury statistics, leading them to largely abandon the 'safety' argument for all-seater stadiums.

In the past, I was also very active with my own club (Barnet's) stadium campaign ('Keep Barnet Alive'), resulting from the poor relation of the club and council. Our efforts raised the profile of club matters and relations have subsequently improved, such that the club were allowed the land to build a new stand. As a result, Underhill now provides 2,000 covered seats required by FL rules.

I have further served on the committee of the Barnet FC Supporters Association and worked hard on tackling club issues such as inadequate segregation at Underhill.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

My main interest is in Safe Standing and if elected to the NC I would most like to work on this area. I believe I have the organisational skills to lead and raise the profile of this campaign, in order that we can start to achieve our objectives

Having worked on Stand Up Sit Down for the past four years, I have built up a working knowledge of the subject and issues around it. In addition, I regularly travel abroad to watch football (mainly to Germany, but also Austria, Sweden etc) so I have practical experience of many of the technologies (eg. variositze seating) that we are trying to bring to England.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I believe that in certain respects the English game is in a better state than many other countries. The football is good. The stadiums are good. Riot police and perimeter fences are largely non-existent. Attendances are high in England with good reason.

However, for active fans who want to stand, sing and create an atmosphere rather than just watch a game, the situation is poor. Standing is usually banned, drums and flags (especially with poles) are usually banned, drinking in the stadium is banned.

For away supporters, I see late kick-off time changes and a lack of access to cheaper tickets as the key issues.

My main aims would therefore be to support the position of active fans and of away supporters.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Martin O'Hara**
Name of PROPOSER **David Beverley**
Name of SECONDER **Anthony O'Hara**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I have been an active spectator of football for many years and I am well known to members of the FSF and the National Council. I have chaired the Yorkshire England Supporters group since its inception and I have been heavily involved in International matters since that time. I have worked with all the relevant authorities in relation to England supporters for security and promotion of the England groups in many and various formats. I am also well known to the Englandfans organisation at the FA and regularly meet when important competitions and events crop up.

I have also been V. Chair of the Yorkshire FSF division for the last few years and have represented that group on occasions at the regular National Council meetings.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

I have extensive experience of supporter issues and have played an active role in resolving difficulties where they exist both at local and International level. Furthermore I have very wide ranging business and negotiating skills which I use in everyday work life that can be of tremendous benefits as the FSF moves forward and finds its feet in the commercial world.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I am particularly interested in all of the current FSF campaigns but would love to see a successful strategy/policy on the Sit Down/Stand Up issue. Furthermore I do consider the average football supporter to be over policed and subject to very draconian laws which the average member of the public would not face.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Pete Swanson**

Name of PROPOSER **Amanda Jacks**

Name of SECONDER **Mark Longden**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

I have been involved in football for over 40 years, first as a player and then a qualified referee and FA Coach for juniors. I went on to become a football manager non league and have always took great interest in all aspects of the game. I have supported Spurs all my life and I attend all home games and manage to get to most away matches which I feel gives me a good idea of the match day experience throughout the EPL.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

Recognising the need for a disabled supporters association at Spurs, over recent months have worked hard to bring together the Tottenham Hotspur Disabled Supporters Association (THDSA). We held our inaugural meeting at the club in early May, over 35 supporters attended and I was voted as chair.

I have negotiated successfully to get the club to recognise and act on disabled access, viewing and away support segregation for THFC disabled fans, moving complete blocks of home ambulant disabled fans to an uninterrupted view.

Successfully claimed for discrimination and view restrictions against an EPL club this past season bringing about County Court action for compensation for four disabled THFC supporters, this resulted in the un-named club offering an out of court settlement including costs, also and more importantly getting the club concerned to rectify the problems so that no other travelling fans endure poor viewing from disabled areas. I was effectively forced to bring the action as the club failed to acknowledge my correspondence on the issue.

I sit on the Focus Group for the new stadium at Tottenham Hotspur FC, The Northumberland Development Project, advising the club on all aspects of disabled access and all other issues concerning disability amongst supporters at the proposed new stadium.

I am a determined character who does not like taking no for an answer and have the time and energy to invest in the FSF and would be proud to be part of an organisation that is working so hard to ensure all supporters are treated properly by the industry which is football.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

Not only do supporters invest emotionally into their clubs but financially as well and yet they can be too often treated as a problem rather than a loyal fan and paying customer. All clubs have charters and I would like to be part of an FSF that works towards ensuring they become worth more than they paper they are written on. Simply, clubs should adhere to the charters they write and put on their websites. Clubs must not be allowed to get away with just taking the money from fans and then treating them as a nuisance when they complain.

All fans deserve the right to be treated fairly and with respect from any organisation involved on football including the Police on match days, I don't know of any other business that takes your hard earned money and shows such a lack of respect to us the customer and would like to work towards changing this culture.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE IAN TODD

Name of PROPOSER SUNDERLAND AFC SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

Name of SECONDER PAM WILKINS

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

A Sunderland supporter from the age of 7, I moved to London for work reasons in 1961 and, once settled, formed the London Branch of its Supporters' Association 1967. In 1975, as the Supporters' Association's delegate, I attended the Annual Conference of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs in Ipswich and the rest, as they say, "is history". A regular attendee ever since, I was elected to the Federation's National Council in 1980 as its Travel & Crowd Control Officer and, after a series of other portfolios, was elected its Chairman in 1998. In that role, I was a member of the Government's Football Task Force, one of whose recommendations was the formation of a single national supporters' organisation and formed the basis of the positive role I took in the negotiations with the Football Supporters' Association towards amalgamation, which was achieved at the respective AGMs of the two organisations in 2002.

In its first year, 2002-03, the newly formed Football Supporters' Federation had joint Chairmen. I took on the responsibility for Administration and Finance matters whilst Malcolm Clarke concentrated on Policy and Campaigns. At its conclusion, I stepped down as part-Chairman and was honoured to accept the position of President, a role in which for 6 years I remained an active participant in FSF matters in both internal debate and carrying out specific tasks.

In particular, I currently provide the link with Supporters Direct as Federation's co-opted member on its Board of Directors.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

My 40 plus years of involvement in supporter representation at various levels would, I trust, provide Council with the benefits expected.

Having stood down as President, on the basis that I have always felt that this should not be a post to cling to for life, I was delighted to be elected last year as an individual member to the National Council and have taken an ongoing and energetic role in offering Federation the experience, knowledge and skills my long-standing involvement has accumulated. I would hope members would wish that to continue.

I would also submit that my previous Police service, which included operational duty at football matches, is of particular current value in analysing those episodes of alleged fan disorder, and their treatment, which too frequently seem to be drawn to Federation's attention.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

We have a new national government we must lobby to take a more active involvement in the game's administration than their predecessors achieved. Additionally our role on the FA Council is increasing in relevance and credibility and must be capitalised on for the benefit of all supporters and thus be better able to represent fans' concerns and priorities to the game as a whole.

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE **Stuart Wood**

Name of PROPOSER **Phill Gatenby**

Name of SECONDER **Amanda Jacks**

Please give any experience or past involvement in football which you consider may be relevant to your nomination, or which could be useful to the FSF if elected

Home and away match going supporter of Manchester United which includes European club away matches. During this time I've seen issues arise due to stewards, police (home and abroad) and football clubs themselves.

I've been involved in action against the Glazer ownership of Manchester United since they came on the scene in 2004 – this includes; membership of Share Holders United, active participation in protests in 2005 as well as offering support to a number of fans initiatives over the last five years. Long running connection with the Stand Up Sit Down campaign going back to 2005. I'm currently on the FSF safe standing forum since August 2009. I've primarily worked on helping bring together supporters from different clubs to work together on the issue.

Outline how you might be able to use any skills, knowledge or experience you have, as a National Council member.

From my working life I can bring the experience I have from the procurement sector. I have to deal with many different types of people, companies and organisations on a daily basis and try and see through their own agendas to get the information I require to make informed decisions.

As part of my role information gathering is imperative and I have the ability to quickly build up a picture of the company/person I'm dealing with to aid in negotiations.

From football I have first hand experience of crowd control tactics from both stewards and police officers. This has also given me a healthy cynicism to question statements realised by clubs, the police and the media when they are dealing with football supporters.

What would be your aims or interests if elected? What are your views on current issues which affect the welfare and interests of the football supporter?

I believe that the only way anything can be done for the collective benefit of all supporters (ticket prices, club ownership, safe standing etc) is if supporters join forces and act together as a collective voice.

Unfortunately in my opinion the culture of the English supporter is historically to have a reluctance to join forces to work towards common goals. I would intend to work hard on making real inroads into breaking down these perceived barriers when it comes to issues which affect all football supporters. My primary focus would be to concentrate on the safe standing issue, as I believe that this, if successful would open money doors for supporters to make a real difference.

Appendix 1 – FSF Standing Orders

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION



STANDING ORDERS

(as adopted at the Fans' Parliament of the Federation on 20 June 2009)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

1. The National Council shall be responsible for the publishing of the annual report and accounts, which shall include:

- Minutes of the proceedings of the previous annual conference
- Matters arising from the previous annual conference
- Annual reports from the National Council and division secretaries
- Annual accounts
- Appointment of auditors
- Elections of national officers and other posts determined in the rules
- Motions
- Amendments and alterations to the constitution, rules and standing orders.

2. The National Council shall appoint an Agenda committee of three members to assist the smooth running of conference, and act in accordance with these standing orders.

CONFERENCE CHAIR

3. The Federation Chair shall chair the Conference. In his/her absence, or for any matter dealing with his/her own position, the deputy chair shall chair conference, or in his/her absence another national council member nominated by the Agenda committee, will take the chair.

4. The ruling of the chair on any question of procedure arising at the conference shall be final and can only be challenged as allowed for in Standing Order 27.

CONFERENCE VOTING

5. Voting shall be by show of appropriate voting cards or by ballot as indicated by the appropriate Bye Laws of this constitution. The agenda committee shall appoint persons to count votes and organise any ballots required.

6. Voting shall be restricted to accredited delegates, and shall be in accordance with the rules and bye-laws of the Federation. In the event of any dispute the agenda committee shall decide on eligibility.

7. Decisions shall be made by simple majority, except where stated to the contrary elsewhere in these Standing Orders.

8. The chair shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote

CONFERENCE MOTIONS AND DEBATE

9. A motion which is published in the agenda can only be withdrawn with the consent of the conference.

10. Any motion received after the closing date for submission of motions, which shall be determined by the National Council, shall be reported to the conference by the Agenda committee. The Agenda committee shall determine whether the motion shall be heard by conference and what position it shall appear on the agenda. Motions received after the closing date must relate to a matter which has arisen after the closing date for motions, or which requires urgent attention.

11. Motions shall be moved by the delegate in whose name they stand. If the mover is not present the motion will fall, unless conference gives leave for an alternative proposer.

12. All Motions and Amendments shall require a seconder before they are moved. If no seconder can be secured, the motion or amendment will fall.

13. Amendments may be moved by giving notice to the chair, except in the case of procedural motions as referred to in Standing order 27.

14. If an amendment to a motion is moved, a further amendment shall not be moved until the first amendment is disposed of.

15. An amendment shall not be moved while a vote is being taken.

16. An amendment must be related to but may not negate the substance of the original motion.

17. The mover of the motion shall be asked whether he/she accepts an amendment. If the amendment is accepted by the mover it will automatically become part of the substantive motion.

18. The mover of a motion (including an amended motion) shall have the right of reply, after which the motion shall be put to the vote without further debate, except in the case of procedural motions as referred to in Standing Order 27.

19. The mover of an amendment shall not have the right of reply.

20. Speakers shall state their name (and the organisation they represent, where appropriate).

21. If two or more delegates wish to speak at the same time the chair shall decide to whom priority shall be given.

22. Should the chair call for "Order" during a debate, the delegate speaking shall immediately sit down and neither he/she, nor any other delegate, shall speak until the chair invites them to do so.

23. The chair shall ensure that debates are conducted in a spirit of mutual respect. Any delegate disobeying, or attempting to defy, the ruling of the chair may be suspended for the

remainder of conference. The Chair shall call attention to continued irrelevance, repetition, unbecoming language or any breach of order on the part of a member, and direct such member to discontinue their speech.

24. A delegate shall not speak more than once to the same motion or amendment except with the permission of the chair.

25. The maximum time allowed for the moving of a motion or an amendment shall be five minutes; all other speeches including the mover's right of reply, shall have a maximum time of three minutes except at the discretion of the chair.

26. Any delegate may raise a point of order or ask a question but must confine this to the subject before conference at the time.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

27. The following procedural motions may be moved at any time without previous notice:

- That leave shall be given to withdraw a motion or an amendment
- That leave shall be given to refer a motion or amendment to the National Council for consideration
- That the chair's decision or ruling be challenged
- That the question be now put *
- That the conference proceeds to the next business *
- That the speaker shall no longer be heard *
- That the debate be adjourned *
- That conference be adjourned
- That persons present who are not members of the Federation leave the conference for a specified period

None of the procedural motions marked * can be moved by a delegate who has already addressed conference on the motion or amendment under debate. Any procedural motion shall be immediately put to the vote after there is one speech in favour of the motion and one against. No amendment shall be allowed.

CONFERENCE BUSINESS NOT TAKEN

28. Any business not taken at conference due to lack of time shall be referred to the National Council.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS UNDER FEDERATION RULES

29. The proceedings of the conference shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and bye-laws of the Federation (of which these standing orders form a part).

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

30. Any standing order may be suspended by a motion to conference provided that at least two-thirds of the delegates voting vote in favour.

Appendix 2 – List of FSF Officials 2009-10

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION



List of officials 2010-2011

19 July 2010

Patron

President	Monica Hartland	current term ends at the end of 2011-12
Chair	Malcom Clarke	current term ends at the end of 2010-2011
Deputy Chair	Jon Keen	current term ends at the end of 2009-10
Secretary	Mike Williamson	current term ends at the end of 2009-10
Treasurer	Carroll Clark	current term ends at the end of 2010-2011

Vice Presidents

Peter Garret	elected for life
Monica Hartland	elected for life
Tony Kershaw	elected for life
Kevin Monks	elected for life
Sheila Spears	elected for life
Alan Bloore	elected for life
Mark Agate	elected for life
Ian Todd	elected for life

Executive Committee 2009-10

Malcolm Clarke	chair ex-officio
Jon Keen	deputy chair ex-officio
Carroll Clark	treasurer ex-officio
Mike Williamson	secretary ex-officio
Vince Alm	elected annually by National Council
Mark Longden	elected annually by National Council
Ken Malley	elected annually by National Council
Peter Daykin	elected annually by National Council
Amanda Jacks	elected annually by National Council

National Council directly elected members 2009-2010

1 year term

(14)	Vince Alm	
	Gavin Butler	not restanding for 2010-2011
	Ash Connor	
	Peter Daykin	
	Andrew Fleming	
	Suzanne Fothergill	not restanding for 2010-2011
	Colin Hendrie	resigned during 2009-2010
	Tim Hillyer	elected as South divisional rep for 2010-2011
	Amanda Jacks	
	Mark Longden	
	Kevin Miles	
	Geoff Milton	
	Anne-Marie Mockridge	
	Ian Todd	

Divisional National Council Representatives (1 per division from 2008-9)

Midlands	vacant	
NW & N Wales	Ian Lyon	provisonally elected for 2010-11

Yorkshire	Alan Bloore	elected for 2010-2011
South	Tim Hillyer	elected for 2010-2011
SW & S Wales	Ken Malley	elected for 2010-2011

National Council Co-optees

NADS	Gary Deards	
Supporters Direct	one of Tony Taylor or Rob Bradley, as available	
FSF Cymru	Paul Corkrey	
Safe Standing	Phill Gatenby	appointed for 2010-2011 only
Midlands coordinator	John Brockwell	

Reserve Divisional National Council Representatives

Midlands	none
NW & N Wales	none
Yorkshire	Martin O'Hara
South	none
S & S Wales	none

Divisional Officials

Midlands

Co-ordinator	John Brockwell (appointed for 2009-2010)
Secretary	
Div. rep.	

NW N Wales

(provisional appointments for 2010-2011)

Chair	Alan Galley
Dep. Chair	Luke Edwards
Secretary/treasurer	Ian Lyon
Div.rep	Ian Lyon
Minutes Secretary	Luke Edwards

Yorkshire

(for 2010-2011)

Chair	Alan Bloore
Vice chair	Martin O'Hara
Treasurer	Ric Duniec
Div rep	Alan Bloore
Secretary	Geoff Milton
Asst. Secretary	John Marsden

South

(for 2010-2011)

Chair	Pam Wilkins
Dep chair	Jon Keen
Secretary	Julie Beattie
Treasurer	Julie Beattie
Div rep.	Tim Hillyer
Pyramid	Tim Hillyer

South West & South Wales

(for 2010-2011)

Chair	Ken Malley
Dep.chair	Vince Alm
Secretary	Paul Corkery
Treasurer	Vince Alm
Div. rep.	Ken Malley