



## FSF NEWS IN LIVERPOOL: Football fans to debate safe standing [IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

The Football Supporters' Federation (FSF) has re-launched its Safe Standing Campaign and will hold an open meeting in Liverpool on Thursday 23rd June. The democratic national fans' organisation represents more than 180,000 individual and affiliate members throughout England and Wales.

The meeting will see a panel take questions from the floor, explain precisely what the FSF is campaigning for, and address the concerns of those who have reservations about its proposals. The FSF's campaign coincides with Don Foster MP's Safe Standing Bill which is due to be heard in the House of Commons in October 2011.

The meeting is open to all interested parties and the FSF has invited the various groups representing the Hillsborough families, MPs and councillors, community leaders, fans' groups, the local Safety Advisory Group, and representatives from Liverpool FC and Everton FC. Individual football fans are also welcome to attend.

The panel includes:

- Malcolm Clarke - chair of the FSF;
- Tony Evans (event chair) - football editor at the Times;
- Professor Steve Frosdick - Birmingham City University and founder member of the UK Football Safety Officers' Association;
- Paul Jones - season ticket holder on the Kop.

Those attending will also have the opportunity to view a life-size model rail seat area built to Green Guide safety specifications. The FSF believes that clubs in the top two tiers should have the option to install rail seating in their ground, if they so wish. Surveys regularly show that nine out of 10 supporters back the choice to sit or stand.

The rail seat model has already made its first public appearance at Wolves' Molineux and will be visiting a variety of other clubs over the coming months as part of the Safe Standing Roadshow. In recent days Arsenal's chief executive Ivan Gazidis also said he was "open" to the possibility of safe standing areas: "Why would you be against that, if you can do it safely? It is not something I am close minded to."

Amanda Jacks, of the FSF, said:

"We do not underestimate the sensitivities on Merseyside and have nothing but respect and compassion for those who lost loved ones at Hillsborough. We know that some minds can never be changed but we hope to offer reassurance to those who

believe standing areas are inherently unsafe.

"The FSF would never back anything which puts fans at risk and safe standing areas work perfectly fine in Germany, Canada, and the USA. We'd encourage people to come along and listen to what we have to say with an open mind."

Safe Standing: An Open Meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd June (6.30pm) at The Sandon, Oakfield House, 166 - 182 Oakfield Road, Anfield, Liverpool. The event is free but registration is required, simply email [register@fsf.org.uk](mailto:register@fsf.org.uk).

- ENDS -

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

- There are many misconceptions around standing at football with safety and design the most common. See the FSF's "Myth buster" for further information: <http://tinyurl.com/66bgjx4>
- Read more on the FSF's Safe Standing Campaign: <http://www.fsf.org.uk/campaigns/safestanding.php>
- The FSF is the national supporters' organisation for all football fans from England and Wales comprising more than 180,000 individual fans and members of local supporters' organisations from every club in the professional structure and beyond. For more info <http://www.fsf.org.uk/about-the-fsf.php>
- Fans can join the FSF free of charge and it only takes a few minutes, simply visit: <http://www.fsf.org.uk/join.php>
- For more information on the Safe Standing Roadshow, see: <http://www.safestandingroadshow.co.uk/>

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