



# The Third Annual Conference and AGM of the Football Supporters' Federation

Quality Hotel, Cardiff  
Saturday 4th June 2005



## The Fans' Parliament 2005

ANNUAL REPORTS & CONFERENCE AGENDA

INFORMING · SUPPORTING · CAMPAIGNING



# The Football Supporters' Federation

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**Midland Division Secretary**  
Muriel Bates

**Northern Division Secretary**  
Jeff Taylor

**Southern Division Secretary**  
Julie Beattie

**South West Division Secretary**  
Steve Darke

**Welsh Division Secretary**  
Carroll Clark

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# Elections

**Chairman** (Two Year Term)  
 Malcolm Clarke  
 Nominated by Manchester & Northern Stoke City Supporters Club and Mark Longden (individual member)

**Deputy Chairman**  
 No election. Alan Bloore elected for two year term of office in 2004

**Secretary** (One Year Term)  
 Michael Williamson  
 Nominated by Carroll Clark (officer) and Official Morecambe Football Supporters Club

**Treasurer** (Two Year Term)  
 Carroll Clark  
 Nominated by Wrexham AFC Supporters' Association & Manchester United (Chester & North Wales)

**Honorary Officers**  
 No elections. Rt Hon Lord Pendry PC and Ian Todd MBE both elected for three year terms of office as Patron and President respectively in 2003

**Vice Presidents**  
 The Federation shall have power to elect vice-presidents.

**NC Members from Divisions**  
 NC members elected by Divisions at their 2005 AGMs are:

**Midland** Muriel Bates & Ash Connor

**Northern** Ian Lyon & Jeff Taylor

**Southern** Ian Blacklidge & Pam Wilkins

**South West** AGM yet to be held

**Wales** AGM yet to be held.

**NC Members Elected at Conference**  
 Up to eight additional NC members are to be elected/re-elected at Conference. Supporting statements - and voting papers if necessary - will be distributed to delegates at Conference.

# National Council Attendance 2003-2004

Six meetings of the National Council have been held since the last Fans Parliament, in Walsall (twice), Llangollen, London (twice) and Doncaster. The figure against each name indicates the number attended and the figure in brackets denotes apologised absence(s) as far as known due to other football-related matters.

<b>Chairman</b>			
Malcolm Clarke	6	Peter Daykin	6
<b>Deputy Chairman</b>		Gary Deards	1 (1)
Alan Bloore	6	Phill Gatenby	4 (2)
<b>Secretary</b>		Nicole Hammond	3
Michael Williamson	6	Graham Kelly	3
<b>Treasurer</b>		Rick Keracher/Dave Boyle	3 (1)
Carroll Clark	5	Mark Longden	2 (2)
<b>Council Members</b>		Ken Malley	4
Mark Ashfield	1 of 2	Eddie Mansell	4 (1)
Muriel Bates	1	Geoff Ollerton	4 (1)
Norman Beverley	4 (2)	Jeffrey Taylor	5
Ian Blacklidge	5	Pam Wilkins	4 (1) of 5
Ash Connor	6	Paul Woodhall	5
Angela Cox	1 (2)	Mick Hewson	-
Steve Darke	5	<b>Ex-Officio</b>	
David Davies	4	Kevin Miles	4 (2)
		Steven Powell	6
		Mark Agate	6

Pam Wilkins (who subsequently replaced Mark Ashfield) and Martin Hamilton both attended one meeting as a substitute for Southern Division.

Muriel Bates of Midland Division was given leave of absence and Dave Harrison attended four meetings.

Mick Hewson is PFA Football Quiz portfolio holder in a non-voting capacity and is not required to attend meetings.

# Motions

## MOTION 1 MK Dons Supporters' Association Membership Application

Conference notes the membership application from the Milton Keynes based MK Dons Supporters Association. It reaffirms its total opposition to football franchising and the decision to move the former Wimbledon FC away from its community. It believes that those in Milton Keynes who wanted a Football League Club in their City should have put their energy and resources into supporting Milton Keynes City FC, which has now ceased to exist, in an attempt to rise up the football pyramid, just as the old Wimbledon FC and other clubs did, and as AFC Wimbledon are now attempting to do.

It believes that acceptance into FSF membership at this time of a new Milton Keynes based MK Dons supporters organisation is likely to be used for publicity purposes by that Club and its Chairman in a way which is damaging to the interests of the FSF and would send out completely the wrong message about the acceptability of football franchising before we have won the battle to ensure that this can never happen again. It further believes that such acceptance would be highly divisive within the FSF and would not show appropriate support to the valued member organisations who have been heavily involved in the fight against football franchising, some of whom have directly been the victims of it. Therefore, in line with objectives (a),(b) and (e) of the FSF, it declines the membership application at this time.

Conference notes that in their own minority report to the Football Task Force, the football authorities said (para.4.1) "In recognition of the key role a club plays at the heart of the community, the football authorities should introduce rules to prevent a club from disposing of a stadium, or any interest in a stadium without the consent of the FA and/or the relevant league. Consent should only be given to a sale where the football authorities have been satisfied that a suitable alternative has been secured as a long-term home for the club within the community". It deeply regrets that, notwithstanding the above statements, the authorities have not introduced such rules, nor made any other rule changes since the approval given to move Wimbledon FC to Milton Keynes, to ensure that there can be no further cases of franchising.

However, Conference also recognises that if MK Dons FC survives, there may come a time when it would be appropriate to draw a line under this matter and move on, but it believes that this can only occur when the rule changes referred to

above have been introduced. It hopes that the MK Dons Supporters Association will actively support the FSF's campaign for such changes, and expresses its willingness to reconsider an application for FSF membership from that supporters association after such rule changes have been implemented.

*Proposed by FSF National Council*

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## MOTION 2 The Football Licensing Authority

Conference believes that the powers, functions and membership of the Football Licensing Authority should be the subject of review and consultation with key stakeholders including supporters as part of the Government review of Arms Length bodies

*Proposed by FSF National Council*

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## MOTION 3 Minimum Number of Home-Grown Players in Club Squads for European Competitions

Conference endorses the decision of the National Council to support UEFA in its moves to specify a minimum number of home grown players in club squads for European competitions, and believes that similar rules should be introduced for domestic competitions.

*Proposed by FSF National Council*

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## MOTION 4 Implementation of FSF Development Plan

This conference receives and adopts the following summary points from the FSF Development Plan approved by the National Council on 12 December 2004 and instructs National Council to continue to implement them:

1. Continue to pursue core funding from the Government with the support of the football authorities.
2. Set a goal of doubling individual membership every year for five years with a plan for achieving this being presented to National Council meetings, Divisional

- meetings, and future Fans' Parliaments. Each National Council member to commit her/himself to an agreed monthly recruitment quota.
3. Roll out registered supporter recruitment campaign, such as trades unions aimed at funding organising staff for the FSF.
  4. Develop membership benefits packages available to individual members and members of FSF, if necessary using an incentivised partnership arrangement.
  5. Undertake a review of divisional boundaries and Divisional funding and launch at least two conurbation-based open FSF membership groups
  6. Undertake a mapping exercise of potential FSF affiliates as a basis for targeted affiliate recruitment drives employing divisions but co-ordinated nationally with clear recruitment targets.
  7. Target FSF News and the FSF website for incentivised partnership agreements aimed at expanding the reach and depth of these publications, attracting advertising and sales income, and using them as vehicles to increase membership. All such agreements to be transparent, in writing, to observe FSF rules on disclosure of interest in contracts, and endorsed by the National Council.
  8. Continue to promote incentivised membership recruitment whereby affiliate and individual members can retain 50% of the first year's membership fee of new members who pay by Direct debit and 33% of others.

*Proposed by FSF National Council*

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### **MOTION 5** Standing in Designated Areas of Existing All-Seater Stadia

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.

*Proposed by FSF National Council*

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### **MOTION 6** Parachute Payments

That the object of football club parachute payments - a soft landing for the favoured few, at the expense of the rest - be recognised as inherently unfair and thus phased out.

*Proposed by Monica Hartland*

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### **MOTION 7** Licensing of Football Club Directors

This Conference believes The Football League's "fit and proper persons" test for prospective Directors to be ineffective.

We therefore call for the licensing of football club Directors for fixed periods, with provision for supporters to register objections to the issuing of such licenses where appropriate.

*Proposed by Wrexham AFC Official Supporters Association*

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### **MOTION 8** Retention of Football Club Names and Community Identity in the Face of Corporate Sponsorship

The FSF urges the Football Authorities to ensure a football club's name and community identity is preserved and not lost as a result of Corporate Sponsorship.

*Proposed by Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters Club*

*Amendment proposed by National Council: Add: "...and all sponsorship be the subject of consultation with supporters".*

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### **MOTION 9** Easing of Fixture Congestion

The recurring threat of abandoning some or all FA Cup replays is partially due to fixture congestion caused by the success of Premiership teams in European competitions. Federation reaffirms its opposition to the abandonment of FA Cup replays and urges the FA Premier League to ease fixture accommodation problems by commencing its season on the same week-end as the Football League.

*Proposed by Ian Todd*

## **MOTION 10** Manager to be Penalised for Player Misbehaviour on the Field of Play

Due to increased bookings of players for lack of self-discipline, we the FSF call on The Football Association, The F A Premier League and The Football League to set an example by fining the club manager for every dismissal and caution their players receive for ungentlemanly conduct, dissent, violent conduct and anything else where the player loses control.

*Proposed by Stoke City Supporters Club*

## **MOTION 11** Maximum Radius of 60 Miles for Mid-Week Fixtures

We the FSF call upon The Football League, The FA Premier League and The Football Association to think of the football clubs, players and fans when they are compiling the new season's fixture programme. We feel it would benefit the aforementioned if wherever possible mid-week fixtures had a radius of 60 miles. We believe by doing so it would not only be beneficial to the fans as following your team is expensive enough without having to take extra time off to travel long journeys or to recover from one. The players would benefit with less time away from their loved ones. It would be less of a financial burden on the football clubs with less overnight accommodation. Last but not least it would have less interference with training schedules.

*Proposed by Stoke City Supporters Club*

## **MOTION 12** Lifting of Ban on Alan Liptrott

Conference notes that the first Gillingham home game in season 2005/6 will be the 100th game for which Alan Liptrott has banned from the Priestfield stadium for a dispute over the ownership of a web domain name. It notes that both the reason for the ban and the lack of natural justice or right of appeal in the process by which it was imposed are totally contrary to FSF policy on bans from grounds. It calls upon the football authorities to take action to rectify this injustice, so that Alan can return to watching his team's home games. It instructs the National Council to publicise this ban on the occasion of the 100th game, and to initiate a national campaign to have it rescinded.

*Proposed by Malcolm Clarke*

For every hour that  
you're supporting your  
team a man dies  
of prostate cancer



Prostate cancer is the most common male cancer in the United Kingdom.

27,000 men are diagnosed and nearly 10,000 die every year- that's one every hour.

1 in 11 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lives.

The Prostate Cancer Charity provides support and information to those affected by prostate cancer. We also fund vital research into the causes of, and treatments for, the disease. Our confidential Helpline is staffed by specialist nurses, who can be contacted on **0845 300 8383**. Information about prostate cancer and the Charity is available on our website at [www.prostate-cancer.org.uk](http://www.prostate-cancer.org.uk)

To find out more or to help raise money, please contact Lesley McGinty, Community Fundraising Manager on **020 8222 7632** or email [lesley.mcginty@prostate-cancer.org.uk](mailto:lesley.mcginty@prostate-cancer.org.uk)

The message is simple - We need **YOUR** help both to raise awareness of prostate cancer and to raise funds for The Prostate Cancer Charity to help us continue our vital work.

THE  
PROSTATE  
CANCER  
CHARITY 

# Reports - Officers & NC Portfolio Holders



**MALCOLM CLARKE**  
Chairman  
Regulation/Campaigns

**This report will be mainly concerned with the future development of the Federation, rather than our progress on policy issues, which will be covered by my colleagues on the National Council and which members are well aware of through the magazine and other avenues.**

Early in the year we considered the report which CAPITA had done for us (for free) on how we are perceived from both within and outside the organisation. It identified some strengths including

- An external perception that the FSF is run by committed and passionate people
- An internal perception that our core strengths include dedication, credibility and knowledge

However, some of it made less comfortable reading, including the following conclusions:

- Within the FSF there is no consistent view of what our core purpose is
- External stakeholders are often unable to see what we are trying to achieve, or what our priorities are
- There is no consistent view of what added value we give to our members
- Meeting agendas are unfocussed and too long and too much time is wasted debating minor issues
- The current Divisional structure is not working because Divisions are too big, do not have appropriate boundaries, are poorly attended and are not a good shop window for potential new members
- An external perception that we could achieve

more if we had a less combative style

- An inability to attract new members, despite the fact that a large membership base is crucial
- An external questioning of whether we really represent fans

Members will have different 'takes' on the extent to which individual comments are accurate and fair, and I do not completely buy into all of them myself. But this was an objective, externally-commissioned piece of work and we would be very foolish not to take its conclusions seriously.

National Council has acted on this in two ways. Firstly, we revised the agenda structure of our own meetings, which has undoubtedly resulted in a much greater time being spent on the important issues. Secondly, we asked Steve Powell to produce a Development Plan. This was approved by Council in December, and has resulted in some new approaches to developing the Federation. There is a resolution on this on the Conference agenda.

The long term objective has to be to develop Federation into a high-profile, professionally-run, respected organisation, with a large membership of both individuals and affiliates, which becomes an even more effective campaigning organisation working for the interests of fans and fighting to reclaim the game. This would require employed staff to supplement the dedication and commitment of the voluntary input. Only by achieving this can we expect to operate as major players on the national football stage.

Two of the main inter-related thrusts of this have to be the need to increase membership, individual, affiliate and associate with the need to develop alternative sources of income. We currently receive generous support from the PFA, but the current arrangement comes to end in Summer 2006, and we do not know the level, if any, at which the PFA will be able continue that support after then.

The transition from an organisation largely run by volunteers to one with more professional staff is one which other voluntary organisations have undergone and is always difficult. Both of our predecessor organisations had already started this. The National Federation paid a large honorarium to its National Secretary, and the FSA had a part-time self-employed Development Officer.

It may seem unfair that some people are paid, whilst others put in a great amount of voluntary effort, and in a sense it is. But there is no alternative if the Federation is to develop. If we said that no-one should receive any remuneration, other than expenses, from Federation until such time as we have the finances to employ a proper complement of permanent staff, we would never develop to reach the latter position, and we would disengage our current staff. Part of the solution lies in developing incentives for individuals and/or affiliates to both benefit the Federation and, if they so wish, themselves.

We have introduced an incentive system for the recruitment of new members, whereby an affiliate or individual can keep 50% (if paid by Direct Debit) or 33% of the first years membership. We have also introduced a new category of "registered supporting organisations" whereby an organisation can register itself as supporting our aims, and pay us a fee in return for certain non-membership rights. We have started by targeting Trade Unions.

An area we particularly wish to develop is our communications. I am sure members will agree that FSF News, now re-branded "The Football Supporter", has been of outstanding quality and that Peter Daykin has maintained and improved upon the very high standard set by his predecessor, Paul Matz. Similarly, the new website is im-

pressive, and is achieving an increasing number of hits. This is being done through voluntary input from Peter, but there is a limit to how far that can take us. We need to further develop these as sources of income.

That is why the National Council has agreed a new communications strategy. We want to develop "The Football Supporter" as a magazine for a wider audience than just our membership, and use it to promote Federation. We want to start getting it on some shelves to generate sales income, and become an attractive proposition for advertisers. We are offering it on a 50/50 basis to fazine sellers and, eventually, newsagents. We want to develop the website as a source advertising revenue, and the first port of call for supporters looking for directions and details about away grounds.

We are therefore entering into an agreement with A19 a Company set up by Peter Daykin. We will loan the Company £10k from our Development Fund to develop the website. This will largely be used to employ someone to work on it. The first call on any income generated will be repayment of the £10k. After that there will be a joint decision with A19 on whether to re-invest any income in the site, or distribute it on a 50/50 basis to the FSF and A19. The proposals for the magazine are similar, the main difference being that we already spend a sizeable proportion of our recurrent income on producing it. The first call on income generated will be covering that cost, after which any "profits" will be split 50/50 between A19 and the FSF.

I firmly believe that arrangements like this are the only realistic way in which we can develop income from these sources. There are other areas, apart from membership and publications in which we can develop this principle. A prime one might be identifying commercial discounts for members of the FSF, be it in travel, insurance, hotels, catering or whatever. So if you want to develop a proposal to tackle that area, we'd love to hear from you.

We must also move on to developing a viable and attractive regional structure, as previously agreed by Conference and recommended by CAPITA,

to make the FSF an organisation which fans can relate to at a more local level, and is attractive to potential members. Above all, we must all pay our part in trying to recruit new members.

During the year I have continued to supervise the work of Steven Powell who is contracted on a freelance basis to the FSF as Development Officer. Steven is contracted to us on the notional basis of two days a week. During the past year he has continued to work to raise funds for our work, through sponsorship for this Conference, selling the 5 boxes at major finals which the Football League have made available to us, and approaching potential Registered Supporter Organisations.

Steven has also undertaken research and written papers on a variety of issues. He also undertakes some media work for us. All the fees he receives are paid to the FSF so this represents a small source of income to the organisation.

Steven has also helped with our developing work with supporters of the Wales national team. He ran the Cymru Fans' Embassy for the Wales qualifier in Azerbaijan last year. This work is now undertaken by a committee of Wales supporters.

Steven also continues to work on our campaign to preserve the FA Cup. He was also responsible for our successful first contacts with UEFA which

resulted in our international co-ordinator Kevin Miles being invited to attend the annual UEFA Congress in Tallinn, Estonia in April this year.

I have continued to undertake media and representation work for Federation, which has involved attendance at a range of events. For example, this year, for the first time, I addressed the two Police Match Commanders Conferences and the Football Intelligence Officers Conference. I also attended the National BBC Sports Summit, as well as meeting a range of Authorities and key people in football on your behalf. These invitations are a measure of our progress in being recognised as a significant and important organisation on the national football and sporting scene.

During the year, we also agreed a memorandum of understanding with Supporters Direct, which defines the respective roles of the two organisations and the relationship between us.

I would like to end by thanking my fellow officers, the other members of the National Council and our three contractors, Steve Powell, Kevin Miles and Mark Agate, for their support and great work throughout the year on behalf of Federation. Without all their efforts we would be nothing. We are making progress, but we still have a way to travel before we have become the type of organisation we need to be.



**ALAN BLOORE**  
Deputy Chairman  
Ticketing & Pricing

**Immediately after the last conference I started work on Motions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, & 15, These concerned varying issues on pricing with the differing authorities.**

I sent letters to the Football Association, Premier League & Football League. I also made contact with the Football Conference.

As a result a joint meeting was suggested. Unfortunately this has been difficult to arrange. Instead individual meetings took place with the FA, P/L and F/L.

The FA has responded to Motions 1, 2, 5, 6 & 15, although mostly negative at this stage, they will be willing to discuss these further as and when the issues surrounding the reopening of Wembley as the National Stadium comes nearer.

Initial discussions with the Premier League were in a similar vein. They have though set up a Task Force to look at pricing issues. We are scheduled to meet with them on 10th May; unfortunately this report has to be prepared before then. I will though give an update at Conference.

The initial discussions with the Football League indicated a willingness to change the rules and strictly enforce them. Lately though, there seems to have been a slight change in this position and we have recently received a letter which includes the following:

“There is no requirement for clubs to advise us of their prices until they register their details in June. However clubs charging more for better facilities is a subject for debate. The FSF needs to look at both sides of the situation. If clubs are investing money in better facilities for supporters, is it not reasonable to suggest that clubs may charge a slightly higher price for using these facilities? If a club charges away supporters the same or more for worse accommodation then this is unreasonable.”

This is a move away from our stance and we see it as open to abuse. I would welcome your views on this philosophy.

The biggest success in this area was in someways thanks to Mark Agate picking up a newspaper article after which we were able to submit complaints on five different areas, these being:

1. Credit/debit charges
2. Categorising of games, leading to an increase in prices
3. The year on year above inflation price rises
4. Price differentials for International games
5. Price differentials when compared to European Games



**MIKE WILLIAMSON**  
Secretary  
Constitution/Admin/Football Authorities

**The role of the secretary of the FSF has changed during the past year, as our contacts with the football authorities and others have become less systematic and regular.**

The trend is for individual FSF National Council portfolio holders to seek ad-hoc contacts as required with relevant authorities on the specific issues in which they are involved. Regular meet-

This received widespread coverage, including numerous radio interviews. Unfortunately though sympathetic to our complaint, the OFT was unable to rule in our favour on any of the issues raised. Basically they all fell due to the term Market Forces which should be allowed to determine prices and that we cannot use comparisons with our European/World neighbours to justify a wrong.

On a general note, it has been a season where pricing, particularly in the Premier League has become an issue, hence the Task Force.

Complaints in the Football League through the FSF have risen slightly, but here is where I am slightly critical of supporters. I have only become aware of most of these through my own Club, Barnsley. Very few feed through to us from supporters of other clubs.

An example of this concerns Peterborough, who joined the likes of Swindon & Stockport in shutting an area behind the goal and moving the away supporters into a stand at an increase cost of £5.00. This happened I believe in early November. I was not aware of this until we played there in March. Too late really to do anything about it.

So please please make our complaints procedure known to all your supporters and ask them to keep check on away prices and let us know if they feel something is wrong. This could be particularly important next season with possible new rules coming into place.

ings with the main authorities (usually at FA headquarters in London) to discuss what was often a long and involved agenda of concerns, have largely been discarded.

However, soon after the last Fans Parliament, I did write to the authorities to advise them formally of FSF members' views as expressed in the motions passed. The issues covered were, as I suggest

above, then largely taken up by the relevant portfolio holders.

Work has continued on preparing contracts for FSF paid staff, who are not employees but 'contractors', the former giving different rights to our staff and involving tax deductions and so-on. It has been this distinction that has made the matter more problematic, with the need to take all steps to avoid possible difficulties with the tax authorities in particular, who may choose to regard our staff as employees. Recently, professional advice has been sought from a solicitor which it is felt should enable the matter to move to an early conclusion.

The FSF view has in recent times been that there should not be a designated 'Pyramid Officer' on the National Council concerned with non-league football matters. Instead portfolio holders concerned with specific matters will deal with problems etc. as they arose. For example, the portfolio holder concerned with customer charters has been taking steps to obtain what are the very poorly publicised charters of Football Conference clubs. This approach does, it is felt, avoid non-league football being treated as something different or inferior to the 'higher' level game. I did, however, contact the Home Office regarding the designation of football in the Football Conference and League of Wales from 11 October last year. Several offences relating to Conference games now become 'football related' and punishments may now include bans from football. This measure demonstrates that Conference football, especially with increased promotion and regulation between the Conference and the Football League, is moving much closer in standards, both on and off the field, to the League, and the designation must be felt to be a good thing in standardising the way in which the non-league game is controlled.

However, the designation of that level of the game was very poorly publicised, the only national coverage given to the steps being in the 'Non-League Paper' almost three weeks after the designation order was signed. My contacts with the Home Office were a little difficult as they jumped to the conclusion that I was objecting to the designation, whereas I was in fact asking for

much greater publicity on the matter, so that fans would know what is required of them in future.

My other efforts regarding the non-league game were to attempt to make contacts with supporters clubs not in membership of FSF to persuade them of the benefits of membership.

Similarly, I have taken steps to try to get members of my own supporters club to take out individual FSF membership with a small degree of success. Arrangements to encourage FSF affiliates to do likewise are to be announced shortly.

More a form of sponsorship, a scheme drawn up by the FSF Development Officer and involving much work by the National Administrator, has been contacting Trade Unions to ask them to become 'Registered Supporter Organisations'. They will pay a fee to FSF for this in return for various benefits (not of course including an FSF vote) and will be encouraged to persuade their members to join FSF.

An additional facility which is to be made available to football fans is to be a 'Fans Hotline' – a telephone line which fans can call to seek help with their problems, complaints, and queries. Steps will be taken to publicise this, including through the 606 radio programme on Radio 5 Live.

My role within FSF, working with the National Administrator, has continued with weekly contacts between meetings to discuss his work and formulation of his approach as required. I effectively act as his supervisor.

The Administrator continued his essential role of preparing for meetings of the National Council, including a considerable amount of work arranging venues, circulating necessary papers to Council members as necessary, and acting as the minute taker for the meetings. Of interest regarding the meeting venues for Council has been our use during the year of a supporters club rather than the usual hotel function room. This is usually much cheaper than using a hotel and it also means that the money spent goes to a member affiliate club rather than to a commercial concern.

Recently, of course, the National Administrator has had much to do in coordination with the Development Officer and South West Divisional officers in preparation for this Fans Parliament. Again papers have had to be prepared and circulated, together with work alongside the Communications Officer to put together the Conference booklet.

As members should be aware, the FSF official address is now the Kingsmeadow ground i.e. the Fans Stadium of AFC Wimbledon, to which all our mail is sent. The Kingsmeadow staff collate our mail and forward it mostly to the National Administrator for attention. This avoids the possibly dangerous use of private addresses for our mail. This has involved the Administrator in coordinating some of his work with the staff at Kingsmeadow. The facility has also provided us with a place to keep our archive material i.e. older documents etc. which it is necessary to retain. Steps are also being taken to provide a proper home for some of our documents which have a historical value, recording the activities, problems and ways in which football supporters have organised their activities from the early days of the game.

Much of the National Administrator's work continues to be the processing of FSF membership – new members applications, renewals etc, for individuals and groups. The considerable amount of work necessary includes updating the membership records, the processing of payments received, and handling the large amount of mail involved.

The Administrator also responds to enquiries from potential members obtained from the FSF website, the FSF magazine (now 'The Football Supporter') and other sources, and it is as a result of his helpfulness to enquirers that some progress is being made in getting new mem-

bers. As most organisations experience though, a frequent problem is the failure of members to renew membership after the first year. The National Administrator does do much towards persuading those slow to renew membership to continue with FSF.

Considerable effort has also been put towards the maintenance of the FSF database. This records contact and other details of members and the very large number of other contacts which we have both inside and outside the game. It is a very large collection of extremely useful information, which assists us in our work. It has great potential as a 'saleable' asset which we could offer to other organisations, but the nature of those organisations and the ways in which we could distribute information from the database would need to be very carefully handled.

Other activities involving the National Administrator have included contacts with the 'When Saturday Comes' magazine. It has of course been possible for members to obtain the magazine at a reduced subscription along with their FSF membership. This has involved cross payments between the magazine and FSF, and the Administrator is responsible for the careful monitoring of these. Further, the Administrator runs the insurance schemes which are available with affiliate membership, including handling the insurance premiums and the processing of claims under the policies, in coordination with the insurance company.

Another task has been the forwarding of back copies of the FSF 'Free Lions' fanzine, aimed at England supporters. The fanzine is much sought after by collectors and others, and much time and effort is expended on behalf of the International group in dealing with enquiries for back numbers, and mailing them out.



**MURIEL BATES**  
Charter/Merchandising

**I apologise for no input on this portfolio over the last 12 months due to family illness and**

**was given leave of absence. I look forward to a better 2005/2006!**



**NORMAN BEVERLEY**  
Supporters' Rights

**It was an honour to be elected onto the National Council at last season's AGM. To be given the portfolio of Supporters Rights was equally something I am proud to represent. Football supporters are the lifeblood of the game, it is important that football clubs treat them with dignity and integrity.**

I am surprised at the relatively few complaints I have received from supporters. This can only be because football clubs are either treating supporters in a fair and even manner, or we at the FSF are not getting the message out onto the terraces that the FSF are willing to help.

I hope it's the former, however as members of the FSF we all have a responsibly to ensure that our message reaches every football supporter. The FSF is here to help and assist and when necessary, help to mediate.

I believe that we should strive to ensure a code of conduct is established and more importantly followed at every football club. The code of conduct should be written into the fans' charter and that all football clubs, should have a procedure in place, to ensure that all supporters are treated in a fair and consistent manner.

The FSF believe that anybody guilty of Serious Anti Social Behaviour has to face the consequences of their actions and as such they could be barred from attending live football matches. We would support any ban that is correctly implemented through either a court of law, or sanctioned by any football club, providing various criteria is implemented and correctly applied.

To explain the position of the FSF we would support any ban that set in place by a court of Law - providing that due process has taken place within the legal system.

What would the FSF consider to be the correct criteria? Any serious anti social behavior that is either witnessed or captured on CCTV rather than being banned because of disagreements, about other matters.

What do the FSF consider to be the correct procedure? That any individual or group should be told specifically what the allegations are.

Any supporter or supporters group should be given opportunity (if they wish) to defend themselves against any allegations, and if a ban is applied, there should be a right of appeal as with the due process of law of this country.

rather than the planned mid-week evening slot.

Whilst we cannot tell you to go back to your clubs and prepare for Football Government, forcing those who hold the power to listen to what the vast majority of supporters wanted on this particular issue was no mean achievement.

The FSF's Football Supporters Survey should be

appearing in the next issue of The Football Supporter. The reason for delay in its publication is that happily some members also came on board to help with their ideas etc, hence the longer than

anticipated compilation. Please take the time to complete it when received to enable us to campaign more effectively on your behalf on the issues that really matter to you.



**ASH CONNOR**  
Police/Stewarding/Ticket Touting/Stadium Communities

**Once again twelve months seem to have flown by. Whilst not making the amount of progress I anticipated or would have liked, we have indeed carried on from where we left off last season with regards to improving communications links between Club's supporters' representatives and their relevant contacts in the Police.**

With the help and guidance of Supt. Maurice Mason of Staffordshire Police, I introduced the idea of holding forums across the Country whereby FSF members and affiliates could meet with the Police Officers and Match Commanders that would normally be involved in Policing the matches that concerned them.

Under the expert supervision of Sgt. Nick John of Bramshill Police Training College these forums took the format of trying to establish what perceptions we have of one another, what was right and wrong with football policing and how both parties could improve that policing to ensure an enjoyable match day experience for the vast majority. The findings of these forums will be considered by Sgt. John and where he thinks fit some of our ideas will be used in next years football policing manual.

The above was all done with the blessing of DCC Swift (the ACPO Lead on football for the Home Office) and I'm sure that anyone who attended one of the forums would testify to their benefit to our cause.

I'm pleased to report that the regional forums will become an annual occurrence, so when they

are in your area please attend and contribute. If anyone would like contact details for the Police at their particular club don't hesitate to ask either myself or Mark Agate.

On the stewarding front I am pleased to report that football will not be affected by any new legislation regarding private security companies.

Another avenue of Police work I have got involved with this season is the work that Dr. Clifford Stott of Liverpool University is currently doing which revolves around public order policing and crowd dynamics in the context of football. I would urge everyone to get involved in this work by visiting the newly launched website, [www.footballfans.org.uk](http://www.footballfans.org.uk) and filling in the surveys and questionnaires. We will receive a more in depth insight into Clifford's work when we witness his presentation to the Match Commanders' Conference to be held in Liverpool in July.

This year I have also attended a meeting of the IFC for an update of their work and what they hope to achieve in the future and I have fielded various questions from the FSF website and also helped a small number of students to varying degrees in their dissertations.

Finally, I must place on record my thanks to the aforementioned Maurice Mason for all his help and assistance over the past couple of years and wish him well in his new position, he really has been a great help to me personally. For football fans this loss is tempered with the news that DCC Swift will remain in his post until at least June 2007.



**IAN BLACKLIDGE**  
Competition Structure/Mid Season Break

**A big thank you to all those members who took the time to sign the FSF's on-line petition in our recent "Save The F A Cup" campaign.**

Thanks to your help the FSF has scored a notable victory in preserving replays in the 5th and 6th round stages of next season's F A Cup competition – and ensured that the 2006 Final will be held on the traditional end-of-season Saturday



## ANGE COX

International Officer England/  
Structure of European/International Competitions

### OVERVIEW

**My apologies for not attending conference but unfortunately my trip to the US following England has taken priority.**

The last 12 months has seen a busy workload with the Euro 2004 tournament followed closely by several world cup qualifiers. Plans are already being discussed for Germany 2006 as the aim is for the FSF to continuously improve the support services provided and build further its involvement in fan led initiatives.

Key areas of work undertaken in the last year to support these aims are detailed below.

### PROVISION OF SERVICES/SUPPORT TO FANS TRAVELLING ABROAD

**For the first time the FSF provided a satellite embassy service away from the host venue for England matches in Portugal 2004. This service was provided on the Algarve and was in addition to the usual fans embassy service provided at the match venue.**

Kev Miles should be congratulated on the smooth running of the embassy operation. To quote the IFC report on Euro 2004 "the FSF has established its embassies as a regular feature, and those leading the fans embassy work as reliable, approachable, well known and respected... supporters trust the FSF in this role..... the FSF is experienced in achieving the right local profile and winning co-operation on the ground..... The IFC was struck by the levels of confidence and trust in the FSF"

Thanks should also go to John Adams, Peg Alexander, Jim Blanden, Alan Bloore, Carl Forrester, Elaine Greenall, Helen Grills, Simon Jose, Ken Malley, Phil Rowley, Fiona McGee and John Taylor who all worked on the embassy.

Further fans embassies were provided in Vienna, Katowice, Baku and Madrid with plans afoot for the impending tour to the USA.

Free Lions continues to go from strength to strength. Four editions were produced in Portugal, one for each game, plus a special edition was published for fans staying in the Algarve in conjunction with the Algarve tourist board. Other editions were produced for the away games in Austria, Poland Azerbaijan and Spain and home games against Wales, Azerbaijan and Holland. Thanks must go to all those who have given up an hour or two to help hand them out.

A new service provided in Portugal was the guide book produced in conjunction with the government and the FA which was distributed to Englandfans members in the run up to Euro 2004. The FSI web site also carried details of all the venues in Portugal. This is a key area for future development to ensure information is provided well in advance of fixtures.

Looking forward to Germany 2006 a further service the FSF is hoping to provide is a free text message service to fans. Kev Miles is currently talking to T-mobile.

### REPRESENTATION OF SUPPORTERS INTERESTS

**Kev Miles has attended many meetings during the course of the year with the FA, the home office, the foreign office and the police authorities. He has also worked closely with the British Council and taken part in many media interviews.**

Due to the sudden death of a very close friend and England fan a week before the Spain game I did not travel to Madrid. However Kev Miles reported back not just on the widely publicised

racism but also on indiscriminate, unprovoked brutal policing aimed at England supporters, men and women alike. Kev immediately became involved in the compilation of a dossier of eyewitness accounts. This was welcomed and praised by the relevant authorities and resulted in letters from the government being sent to UEFA and FIFA urging them to monitor not just the England fans behaviour but also the behaviour of the authorities policing them in the future. The dossier also received positive coverage on 5 Live and in the national media.

Englandfans launched their new membership scheme at the end of 2004. Whilst membership prices have increased the FA do seem to have responded to some concerns. Ticket allocation was a huge bone of contention amongst supporters as it was felt the means of allocation had gone from one end of the spectrum to the other in terms of recognising and rewarding loyalty. Without going into detail it is fair to say that the new system does strike a balance between rewarding loyalty and recognising the need to provide tickets to new supporters.

### INCREASING PROFILE OF THE FSF AMONGST ENGLAND FANS AND INDEPENDENT FAN GROUPS

**Kev Miles and Malcolm Clarke have both attended regional meetings of the increasing number of regional England fan groups. It is important that the FSF continues to maintain and enhance its profile with these groups and it is envisaged that the FSF will once again take a leading role in co-ordinating initiatives between these groups for Germany 2006. Meetings have already begun to take place with specific focus on Anglo German relations.**

Continued dialogue and participation in meetings with our international partners under the FSI umbrella have also helped to maintain the FSF's profile and reputation. As touched upon earlier a key area for development is the web site, which needs to be enhanced for fans travelling to European cup games as well as international fixtures. The web-site development is self-financing.

Support has also been given to fans in Botswana who launched their own version of the FSF.

### FINANCES

**Financial accounts have been provided at each council meeting with respect to funding of the international work and all work has been undertaken within budget.**

Kev Miles has worked tirelessly to ensure we continue to benefit from grants and sponsorship for the Embassy and Free Lions. At the moment a deal has been agreed with Nationwide through to Germany 2006 and we continue to receive support from the government.

### LOOKING FORWARD

I have decided not to stand for the post of international portfolio holder for the forthcoming period. Whilst I am happy to continue to help in an informal capacity, other sporting commitments mean that I am often competing on a Sunday when national council meetings take place. Given this I am no longer able to fulfil the primary purpose of the role. I would like to put on record my thanks to Kev for his hard work, professionalism and sense of humour! His ability to communicate at different levels makes the job look easy but in my view is one of the key factors that has enhanced the reputation of the FSF with fans and authorities alike.



## STEVE DARKE

National Stadium

**A recent visit to Wembley by myself and Alan Bloore revealed the enormous amount of work**

**underway, not just at the Stadium itself, but in the surrounding area.**

Wembley Park tube station is entering phase two of its modernisation and is on schedule to be completed by September this year. Other parts of the transport infrastructure are progressing on schedule.

Many of the old buildings are being demolished to make room for new shops and restaurants. Wembley arena is currently closed whilst being completely renovated.



**DAVE DAVIES**  
FSF Cymru

**The year has been a mixed one for followers of the Wales international side. Euro 2004 came and went, without Welsh representation, and our poor start to the World Cup qualifiers added to the gloom.**

The replacement of Mark Hughes by John Toshack as manager aroused passionate views on both sides. Mark's contribution to Wales has been immense, both as a player and as a manager. Under his leadership we went from being a laughing stock to beating the likes of Italy and Germany – and attracted bigger average crowds than any country in Europe! We all wish John Toshack the very best in his efforts to bring about the success that all Wales fans crave.



**PETER DAYKIN**  
FSF Communications

**Following the standing down of Paul Matz, it has been a year of analysis, planning and setting the foundations for the FSF's communications this season, both in regard to the website and the publications. Given the expense of production of the organisation's printed media and future uncertainties over funding, a great deal of effort has been put into the communications arm of the new development plan, in addition to the setting up of a new website and integrated back end.**

The Stadium itself is now up to its full height, making for impressive viewing with the landmark arch visible on the London skyline.

During the next twelve months FSF will be making more sight visits to monitor progress as work nears completion and the eventual opening next year.

Progress on FSF Cymru activities has been encouraging, and Embassies were provided in Baku and Vienna for World Cup qualifiers. Our strategy of running a "by Welsh fans – for Welsh fans" campaign, with bi-lingual membership forms will hopefully raise the FSF Cymru profile and encourage membership growth.

Much of the credit for this work must go to Mike Bailey, our new International Co-ordinator, whose efforts have been tireless. Thanks also to Steven Powell and to the FSF Cymru committee, particularly Paul Hughes and Patrick Daley. We look forward to a successful 2005/06 season.

## WEBSITE

**Early on in the year it became apparent that there were deep-rooted problems with the first incarnation of the FSF website.**

Even after the formation of a communications group and a day's intensive training in London with the site architects, Scream, it was clear that, without an existing degree of proficiency in web

design, updating the site would be too complex and time consuming.

There was, it emerged, no discernable advantage in maintaining the site through Scream's laborious content management system (CMS), and even the most minor amend or addition of an e-mail address carried with it a cost implication.

This being the case, it was agreed that I be allowed to redesign the site, free from the restraints of the CMS with an integrated back end that gives the Federation full control over e-mail addresses and a host of other features.

The new site attracted a great deal of initial interest, with an initial average of 450 users a day visiting the site. This has settled to around 250 a day, highlighting the challenge we now face in updating the site more regularly to satisfy the demand we know is out there and drive more traffic to the site.

Since its launch I have also developed a couple of scripts to help us in our campaigning - an online poll and an online petition script. The petition was exhaustively researched and constructed to ensure that it is as meaningful as possible, and was extremely successful as a tool in Ian Blackledge's attempts to lobby the FA on proposed amendments to the FA Cup.

The poll was initially introduced at the request of consumer group Which? for their campaign against FIFA's decision to restrict World Cup credit card sales to Mastercard customers only. It was extremely successful in this regard.

Shortly before the conclusion of the season, the National Council agreed to develop an FSF Guide to Grounds on [www.fsf.org.uk](http://www.fsf.org.uk) which, it is hoped, will provide football fans with a truly invaluable resource and stimulate the sort of visitor levels necessary to allow the website to become a viable commercial entity.

The Guide to Grounds will be delivered by a development partner – A19 – a company set up jointly by myself and Kevin Miles. In an arrangement similar to the highly successful Football Supporters' International website, any surplus

generated will be used in the first instance to pay back the loan funding, following which future profits will be distributed evenly between the Federation and the company, or reinvested in communications projects.

## PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

**At the beginning of the year, one of the single biggest drains on the resources of the Federation was the production of our flagship magazine, FSF News. The cost of producing such a glossy, high quality publication means that under the current budget, we are only able to produce two a season, though a third has previously been part-funded from other sources.**

We would like to produce a minimum of four, and use the title as a platform for publicising the work of the organisation to a wider audience.

This matter was considered in great detail during the formation of the new FSF Development plan, and it was decided that we should attempt to turn the magazine into a self-funding, or, preferably, profit-making publication by attracting advertising, sponsorship and developing its retail distribution.

Work has already begun in this area with the title, size and content of the magazine all changing. FSF News has now changed its title to The Football Supporter, is 32 rather than 24 pages (with further expansion planned to take it to 48) and is now more 'fanziney' in style to appeal to a wider football audience outside of the FSF's members and sympathisers.

It is hoped that these measures will bring the activities of the organisation to a wider audience and, in time, alleviate the drain on the Federation's finances.

Elsewhere, I have also produced a members' newsletter and aided in the production of this, the annual report. It is hoped that having set all of the publications up again following the stepping down of Paul Matz, next season we will be in a position to bring out the newsletter more regularly.



**PHILL GATENBY**  
Safe Standing

**The Safe Standing campaign has just completed its fifth year in operation and goes from strength to strength, gaining valuable in-roads and supportive contacts - though at the top end of the scale, those in authority have once again refused to concede an inch over the debate of allowing standing areas to be acceptable in top flight football grounds throughout England & Wales.**

Throughout the year I have liaised closely with the Football Licensing Authority (FLA) and also with the Football Safety Officers Association (FSOA) - whose six monthly conference I attended at Leicester in November.

A new supporters campaign group called 'Stand Up Sit Down' (SUSD) started up. The aim of this campaign is to get the authorities to agree to a common-sense approach to the problem of fans standing in seated areas - ie the formation of 'designated standing areas' within seated areas to improve atmospheres and separate fans currently in conflict with one another where some fans wish to remain standing and others wishing to remain seated or are unable to stand.

SUSD have achieved a great deal in a short time and clearly there are vast overlaps in both campaigns. By working closely - yet remaining separate - we have begun to unlock inconsistencies and contradictions in arguments given against standing up.

Meetings with the FSF and SUSD have taken place with both the FLA and The Core Cities Group (CCG). The CCG is a body made up of local authorities from various cities throughout England. They were charged by the FLA with overseeing the implementation of FLA directives that football fans must remain seated - unless at times of high excitement! (The very time fans are deemed at most risk!) This is the reason why fans in some grounds have seen heavy-handed stewarding and policing during matches.

What is clear is whilst the FLA have not conceded on the issue, members of the CCG, the FSOA and a growing number of football clubs do not fully agree with the all seated regulation or the issue of forcing fans to sit down and are becoming more vocal and public. The FLA are becoming more isolated on this issue.

I have also continued to meet up with Sporting Solutions, whose design was displayed at last years Conference in Walsall. They are still re-designing the model and hope to have it ready for inspection by the FLA soon.

I also approached one of my Euro MP's with the aim of having the regulation overturned by a European Court. This proved to be fruitless as the UK Government are not breaking an existing EU Law by having the regulation and neither are they denying fans any 'human rights' by preventing us from standing.

I have continued to respond to media interest in the subject and I was also interviewed by a member of Liverpool University who have been commissioned by the Premier League to look into all aspects of the issue of fans standing up in seated areas.

I have every confidence that the regulation will change to allow standing areas to be implemented into our football grounds. The question is, 'how long will this take'? My simple answer to that is as follows: If we keep up the current pressure and continue to work strongly with groups such as SUSD and individual fans become more vocal too, then the change will come quickly. But if we lose the momentum and work in isolation of other groups and individual fans then those bodies against standing will be able to ride the slight storm and continue as they are unchallenged.

I am seeking re-election as portfolio holder for Safe Standing with the sincere hope that this coming year is the last one that such a post is

needed and that by the time next years Conference is being held, the regulation has been over

turned or changed to accommodate our aims and objectives.



**NICOLE HAMMOND**  
Protection of Clubs

**After Wimbledon FC was allowed to move to Milton Keynes the football authorities resolved to close the loopholes in their rules which allowed the move to happen despite the opposition of the FA, the Football League, and not least, the club's fans.**

Three years on, we appear to be not much closer to this happening. The FA have worked with the Premier League on changing the relevant part of its rulebook; however on inspection we feel that the new rule simply would not have withstood the arguments that were put forward by lawyers in favour of Wimbledon FC being allowed to move.

We have therefore drafted a new rule that acknowledges the role of supporters' views in ground location, and aim for it to be adopted by the FA and the leagues. We understand that the FA are working towards harmonizing rules across the leagues, and are looking at ways that incorporation of the new rule can best be achieved.

## REGISTERED HOME GROUND

(Numbering to follow rule book rubric)

- 1) a) Upon acceptance into membership each member club shall provide the following information to the Board:
  - i) the location of the ground
  - ii) the ownership of the ground
  - iii) details of the lease(s) that permit the club to play at the ground
- b) Membership shall be contingent upon the provision of such information.
- c) No member club shall play home matches at any location other than its registered home ground. The only exception to this rule is in occasional and exceptional circumstances when a

match is required to be played at an alternative ground for capacity and safety reasons.

2) a) No changes shall be permitted to be made to the circumstances notified in rule 1) until the League Board has approved such changes.

b) All proposed changes shall be submitted to the League Board for approval at the earliest opportunity. The Board shall not approve any changes until and unless:

i) the proposed new home ground, new ownership or lease arrangements provide equivalent or greater length of secure tenure for the member club as its current arrangements.

ii) in the case where a permanent new ground is to be built, the member club provide written evidence, to the satisfaction of the League Board, that all necessary planning permissions have been obtained, that the land upon which the project depends has been secured for use and the finances are confirmed to be in place or agreements signed confirming their release upon acceptance of the proposed move by the League board. The same information shall be required if the club proposes to make temporary arrangements whilst a permanent new ground is prepared.

iii) that the proposed new registered home ground or change of ownership has received the approval of the club's supporters. In the case of a change of lease arrangements, if the League Board shall determine that the change is significant, they shall not allow a change unless it has met with the approval of the club's supporters.

iv) the approval of the club's supporters shall take the form of a affirmative vote in an independently supervised and certified ballot. The conduct and

arrangements of the ballot shall be determined by the League in conjunction with the member club and in accordance with a framework

laid down prior to the commencement of each season in consultation with national supporters' groups.



**MICK HEWSON**  
PFA Football Quiz

**We are again indebted to the Professional Footballers Association for supplying trophies and medals and generally lending support to the Cup and Reg Abbott Consolation Trophy competitions.**

Nottingham Forest (London), Rams Trust, Scunthorpe United and Sheffield United were new entrants this year in a bid to share the prize money of just over £1,000, which kicks-in at beaten quarter finalist stage in both tournaments.

Main point of course is for supporters to enjoy friendly competition with those from other clubs, with two games guaranteed as losers enter the Consolation Cup.

We are at the semi-final stages at the time of writing, with Halifax Town to meet Manchester United (Chester & North Wales) and Barnet "A" and "B" sides playing each other. The Consolation Trophy pits Blackpool against Sheffield United and Nottingham Forest (London) against Gillingham.

Early rounds are regionalised as far as possible for a national quiz; there are ten rounds of questions alternating between individual and team, with written and picture rounds using Sky Sports Football Yearbook as the reference work.

Fancy taking part? Just let Mark Agate or myself know if you can raise a team of four enthusiasts!



**KEN MALLEY**  
FSF Merchandising

**Following National Council's decision to investigate the possibilities of producing our own range of merchandise, I have attempted to consider all angles.**

The first question was 'what do we hope to gain?' The answer "to make a profit for the organisation" and, also, "promote and advertise the Football Supporters' Federation". So, we need products that are of a reasonable quality, that can be sold at a realistic price but still show some profit for the FSF. They must catch the eye, be remembered and prompt questions.

Initial ideas, designs, costings and samples have been approved by National Council and I intend to launch the start of our product range at the Annual Conference.

Product possibilities fall into three categories, collectables, practical items and gifts.

Without doubt, the most collectable items amongst football followers, (other than match day programs) are badges. I have, therefore, identified an independent badge manufacturer and the first three designs are ready to be launched. One badge will be the basic FSF logo, and the other two will have national flavours; one incorporating the Cross of St. George and the other the Welsh Dragon.

By practical items, I mean items that sell throughout the year for daily use. This will include a range of clothing all sporting the Federation's logo of a footballer over FSF. The wording "Football Supporters' Federation", will not, usually, appear for

two reasons. 1] For that many words, the badge would need to be quite large for the embroidery to be legible. 2] Anyone that does not recognise "FSF" is liable to ask what it stands for and is more likely to remember the answer.

Badges on clothing will usually be embroidered, with the exception of T-shirts where the weight of an embroidered badge will cause the material to sag. T-shirts will have a printed badge and will also provide potential space for carrying slogans.

The first range of clothing will also be launched at the Annual Conference. Gift items will include anything from mouse mats to keyrings. In the main, smaller items that might be bought as presents for other people. I hope to launch these in the autumn with the Christmas market in mind.

There will be two price levels, a normal retail price for individual purchases and a wholesale price for member clubs which would allow them to sell on to their members and make a profit of their own.



**GEOFF OLLERTON**  
Club Charters/ Customer Care

**During the past twelve months I have been the Northern Division representative on the NC with the portfolio for Customer Complaints. In that time I have dealt with several complaints from supporters with various degrees of success.**

One was an England fan ejected from Old Trafford at the match v Wales. He found someone sat in his seat as he arrived in the stand and was eventually ejected by a steward for complaining!

Another was ejected from Burnley FC's Turf Moor for persistent standing – he claimed mistaken identity but the case has 'dragged' on and is still not concluded. Suffice to say he has received an apology from the stewarding company - but not from the football club.

A third complaint was from a Hull City fan who was refused entry to Swindon Town's ground for the game between the two clubs. This after being advised where/how to purchase a match ticket

(£23) by a steward and then being turned away for no apparent reason on return to the turnstile.

We managed to get his admission money refunded but he was out of pocket by around £30 after travel costs etc.

These are just three examples of the way football fans are being treated, and why we cannot just sit back and let these things happen. Yes it's all good fun in customer complaints.

I also produced an in depth admission price survey of all football clubs in the English pyramid system, from the Premier League to the Conference and hope that this has been useful to football supporters around the country. This can easily be updated season by season.

I have enjoyed my twelve months on the National Council and would like to thank the other council members and the officers of the FSF for their help and advice during my time with them.



**JEFF TAYLOR**  
Sponsorship & Constitution

**During the year there have only been two occasions where sponsorship opportunities have arisen.**

The major one was with a specialist film company called Bullseye. Bullseye have risen fast in the five years since formation, are classed in the top 50

independent film making companies in the world and have had documentaries and specialist films shown on Bravo, Channel 4, German television etc.

Their commission from Bravo was to stage amateur matches between the supporters clubs of Premiership over the season on a 'home' and 'away' basis. They wanted the FSF to basically do the organising and that would leave them free to concentrate on the filming and presentation matters.

I visited them at their premises to talk through principles and requirements. Apart from the fact that we would almost certainly not have got involved as it would mean a clash against our tenets of promoting football across all divisions and spectrums, not just the Premier League, it became apparent that it would not fly as they only envisaged using supporters clubs based in London. They also could not get the use of any title including Premiership in the wording. Bravo would not give them the commission without our involvement and Premiership usage rights. So it all came to a full stop.

The only other 'opportunity' was from a company that worded their approach in a way that suggested they wanted the FSF to market a football opportunity. When I looked into it, it became obvious that what they really wanted was for us to use them to market the FSF. This, plus the fact that they were based in New Zealand, meant an



**PAM WILKINS**

Rule/Technology Changes

**Since the last Fans' Parliament the Football League has asked FSF's views on two separate on field initiatives, experimenting with Sin Bins and Goal-Line Technology.**

The idea of Sin Bins is that a cautioned player is punished by a temporary suspension for a short time - eg 10 minutes - while the game continues. Several options have been suggested:

1. Caution = Yellow Card + Sin Bin. Further Cau-

end to this particular approach.

I am always available to discuss and explore any window of opportunity that comes our way either by a direct approach to us, or a suggestion or idea from any of our members, for me to contact possible sponsors. If we can get a steady and regular flow of funds by assisting anyone with the vast range of knowledge and skills available in our membership base, then this would be a welcome extra source of revenue plus the increased exposure and reputation accruing to the FSF.

## CONSTITUTION

**The FSF constitution is a 'best fit' of the constitutions of the old National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs and the Football Supporters' Association constitutions. This was adopted at the June 2002 annual general meeting.**

I was asked to review this for any anomalies, omissions, areas of conflict or suggestions for improvement.

After many, many hours of perusal I came to the conclusion that the constitution was well worded, would cover any and all theoretical, imaginable or actual scenarios.

I have held myself ready to answer any constitutional problems but have not yet had any questions referred to me.

tion punished by Red Card.

2. Caution = Yellow card + Sin Bin. Further Caution punished by additional Yellow Cards and Sin Bins. Red Card used only as ultimate deterrent.

3. Caution = Yellow Card. Second caution = Sin Bin. Third caution = Red Card.

Goal-Line Technology would judge accurately whether the ball had fully crossed the goal line, preferably without interrupting the flow of the

game. The debate on this technology increased after Spurs "goal that never was" at Old Trafford and more recently, Liverpool's goal against Chelsea at Anfield in the Champion's League Semi-final.

A further consideration with both these initiatives is whether, if introduced, they could be used at all levels of the game, right down to grass roots level.

In a reply to my letter asking if the Football League had a deadline for receiving fans' opinions, Director of Operations, Andy Williamson stated:

"In order to progress any potential changes to the Laws of the Game we have to get the support of the FA who are members of the International FA board, i.e. the body which has authority over the Laws. In order to achieve the FA's support, proposals have to be approved by their Referee's Committee.

Our paper was duly submitted to the FA's Referee's Committee but their response was unhelpful. With regard to Goal-Line Technology, they felt that because there was no recognised technological solution this proposal could not be taken forward to IFAB. However, they were prepared to take forward the proposal regarding Sin Bins but only on the basis that any player receiving a caution should be sent to the Sin Bin (in other words, the Sin Bin punishment would sit alongside the caution).

As you may know, our preference was for players receiving a second caution to be Sin Binned. We feel that if every player who receive a caution was

sent to the Sin Bin this would have too great an impact on a match and have an adverse effect on the integrity of real competition. Some matches might even have to be abandoned if a team was reduced to less than 7 players!

Consequently, we felt that our clubs would not be prepared to support a Sin Bin experiment with the caveats required by the FA. Regrettably, therefore, we were forced to abandon our plans in this respect.

You will be interested to know, however that the IFAB will receive a presentation of a potential solution for Goal-Line technology when they next meet in Cardiff on 26th February 2005. The League will obviously be very interested in the outcome and remains keen to be involved as a testing ground for this concept."

Following the presentation to the IFAB by Adidas, it is believed FIFA has agreed to experiment with a football containing a micro-chip, in the Under 20s World Championships to be held in Peru in September.

The micro-chip inside the ball would alert the referee by a bleeper type system when it crossed the goal line, rather than using a video replay, so there should be no interruption to the flow of the game.

I am continuing to collect feedback from Supporters to pass to the League. So please take the opportunity to have your say. Reply to my article in The Football Supporter. Fill in the questionnaire or take part in the online survey on FSF's website.

# Reports - Divisions



## MIDLAND DIVISION

Muriel Bates

**The Division managed four meetings all at the same venue for easy access (FP2004 venue at Walsall); delegates therefore had a choice of Sunday lunch before the meeting.**

At the 2004 AGM Ash Connor was elected Chairman and National Council member, Dave Harrison Vice Chairman with myself Secretary/Treasurer and to National Council.

Attendance from clubs and independent members has been disappointing but we hope to put things right by sending a questionnaire out with tick and comment boxes. We hope we will have positive feedback.

We welcomed new members in Halesowen Town SA, Rams Trust, Sky Blues Trust and Warwick University Football Fans Society. Sorry to see Kidderminster Harriers, Mansfield Town, Northampton Town SC and West Bromwich Albion SC not renew.

The Police Commanders question & answer session was the highlight of the year. The most important thing that came out of the meeting was that better communication between supporters and police is needed. Thanks to Ash and the police for organising the meeting.

Items discussed at meetings:

- Safe Standing
- Ticket Pricing
- Fair Shares
- Discrimination & Diversity
- Running Football
- Stewards & Policing
- Ever-changing kick off times

- Ideas to put bums on seats
- Publications should feature Divisions in turn
- Votes taken on Sin Bins and Goal-line Technology: Sin Bins – No, Goal-line Technology - Yes.
- Are meetings too long and boring – allied with that is the content important enough to attract delegates to attend ?
- Are delegates interested in the politics of football?
- Stephen Smith's family (a Wolves fan who was stabbed in Portugal) have already raised £25,000 for a baby unit; in the address at his funeral the FSF was thanked for all its help. A floral tribute was sent.
- A big "thank-you" to Stoke City SC for donating £250 to the Division.

## SORRY TO SEE YOU GO:

Ron Thomas (Kidderminster Harriers SC). Retired after 30 years attending meetings for NFFSC and FSF. He served as Deputy Chairman for the last 12 years and was presented with a clock with his wife Joyce receiving a basket of flowers. Midland Division wish them every happiness in their retirement.

Bob Crockett (Wolves Supporters Trust). Bob has stood down as WST chairman and we wish him well.

My thanks to Ash, Dave and my husband Albert who have supported me over the last 12 months due to family illness. Dave has attended recent National Council meetings on my behalf.

I look forward to seeing you in Cardiff and hope the weekend goes very well for you.



## NORTHERN DIVISION

Jeff Taylor

**This was my first year as Northern Secretary. My predecessor had the position for 35 years and that has to be a difficult act to follow! My thanks and appreciation to Jeff Mortimer who has been ever ready and willing to give me advice and the benefit of his experience whenever I have called him.**

We had a meeting of the Northern Committee as soon as the National Council meeting dates had been announced. At this we decided inter alia the dates of our Division meetings and the venues. We were very fortunate in that we had four 'volunteers' for the four projected meetings.

I spent many hours on the computer with the lists sent to me by Mark Agate, the National Administrator, in order to maximise the spread of information from the division so that we made full use of the internet in spreading details of meetings, minutes etc. This enabled us to minimise the use of the mail – with its high comparative costs – and to fully utilise the web for communication keeping the mail costs to a minimum. Although, it has to be said, that I send a mail copy of all the correspondence for each Northern meeting to our most northerly FSF member in Iceland. One of the days we'll have a heart attack when he attends a meeting!

Our first meeting was held in Preston on September 5th. The Northern Development officer for our area, Geoff Ollerton, was to circulate the members to seek their opinions as to how we could make the meetings attractive to all and to ask what they would like to see covered along with venues and dates. There was a swell of opinion that we should hold all meetings at the perceived centre of the region but this was quickly knocked back. The Treasurer proposed that we approach the National Council with a request to seek funding for our postage costs which were a major drain on division funds with our lack of alternative income. An opinion of all members present was sought in respect of our AGM venue and site. We currently

have the meeting in Blackpool on Cup Final day. The consensus of all present was that we should stay as we are.

The second meeting was at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland and we were treated to a wonderful meeting in a superb room, great mouth watering catering, a tour of the stadium with an extremely knowledgeable – and only slightly biased – guide, all at the expense of Sunderland Football Club Supporters Association. Geoff Ollerton reported that he had obtained the services of a match official for the meeting in Macclesfield in March 2005. The Capita report on the FSF was circulated and discussed but this would take a meeting on its own and the Chairman promised to keep all members informed of developments and progress. Admission charges and the wide variation of these around the country was warmly debated and a few thought that that the cover of the current FSF News under the heading of 'How was it for you' was sexist. George Foster the long serving, respected chairman of Sunderland FCSEA wanted it minuted that the high number of arrests at Sunderland represented a zero police tolerance rather than a high hooligan attendance. This was followed by a highly impressive stadium tour.

The Viking Supporters club at Doncaster was the scene of our next meeting on January 16th. Malcolm Clarke the FSF Chair commended Geoff Ollerton on his report on admission prices to every UK ground covering the Premiership and Coca Cola Leagues. Geoff had broken this down into all the different pricing levels and encompassing visiting supporter entry costs. Geoff reported that he was half way through the same exercise on Conference clubs. The Secretary was instructed to seek alternative accommodation for the AGM in Blackpool as some delegates were unhappy with the facilities made to watch the FA Cup Final after the meeting. The meeting closed with a talk from Kevin Lynch a match official trainer. The secretary reminded Kevin that he was at a match

at Wigan quite a few years ago when Kevin was in charge and he sent off five players – four from Bristol Rovers and one from Wigan. Kevin said he recalled the night vividly and the five dismissals still stood as the all time red cards match total. Kevin was very good and answered all questions with more than a touch of humour and everyone agreed that the session had been a great success. The lack of a buffet, through miscommunication, proved less of a success although the Treasurer was not complaining too loudly.

We had a general meeting, again at Doncaster, in February when we had a discussion with the police division that polices all games. This was a very informative meeting, quite well attended, at which the police spelled out their strategies for dealing with spontaneous and organised hooliganism and their plans for the development of the intelligence, received and given, to all forces in the North. Many constructive suggestions and experiences were passed on to the police from

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## SOUTHERN DIVISION

Julie Beattie

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**During the past season, Southern Division has met at Wickford (courtesy of the Football Programme Directory), Brighton & Hove Albion, Aldershot Town and West Ham United. I would like to thank our hosts for those meetings for making us all so welcome.**

One of the highlights of the season was our February meeting at Aldershot, the focal point of which was a Football Policing Forum, run by Superintendent Maurice Mason, Sergeant Nick John and Andy Brown of the Football Crime Intelligence Service. There was a very good turnout for this meeting and delegates were able to give their views on the way football games and supporters are policed and how this can be improved. What came out loud and clear amongst all the views and comments was that GOOD COMMUNICATION is vital. I believe that it would be useful to have more of these “themed” meetings in the future as this one certainly generated a lot of interest and a larger than usual

the supporters side of the forum. These meetings would be mirrored in other venues over the region in the coming months.

The final meeting of the season was at Macclesfield on March 13th. It was agreed that the clubs’ directory be brought up to date and issued as soon as possible. Ideas for content at next season’s meeting was solicited. The secretary reported that he had visited three hotels in Blackpool to check them for suitability for the AGM and had come to the conclusion that our long standing venue of the Boston Hotel was the best, but only after they had agreed to some fundamental changes in order to make the Television more readily viewable to a greater number of attendees. It was proposed that the officers of the division serve for a period of two years instead of the one at present. A question and answer session was then held on refereeing topics hosted by George Riley a match official.

attendance, including several “new faces” and I think we signed up a couple of new individual members on the day.

Once again our member clubs have had their fair share of problems over the season. It seems incredible that Brighton’s quest for approval for the new stadium at Falmer is still unresolved whilst the football club struggles with the cost of enquiries and the financial burden of playing at Withdean. If they manage to retain their Championship status it will be a great achievement considering these constraints. Likewise, Barnet are still striving to make progress with their local Council with regard to their proposed ground redevelopment. I only hope that their terrific achievement of winning promotion back to the Football League will make people sit up and take notice and assist them in their endeavours.

At our November meeting, we were updated on the financial problems facing Dover Athletic and

at that time, there was some doubt as to whether the club would still be in existence at the end of the year. Thankfully, the worst did not happen and although they have had the disappointment of relegation, at least there is still a club to support and I wish them well for the future.

The above are just a few examples of club problems which have been brought to our attention. Sadly, they are not alone and it is vital that we remain vigilant and continue the good fight.

I would like to pay tribute to Mark Ashfield, our former Chairman and Deputy Chairman for season 2004-2005, who stepped down at our AGM in April this year. Mark has served Southern Division admirably for many years, whilst also being heavily involved

in campaigning for his own club, Barnet. On behalf of everyone in Southern Division, I thank Mark for his tremendous efforts and wish him all the best for the future. Pam Wilkins from Portsmouth will be taking over from Mark as Deputy Chair next season and will be an excellent replacement.

Our Chairman, Ian Blackledge, has also done a fine job since taking over from Mark Ashfield last year. Ian will be continuing in this role next season. It is good to have this continuity but equally nice to have some new faces on board.

I wish you all an enjoyable and successful Fans’ Parliament, a relaxing summer break after the stresses and strains of the season and look forward to meeting again in September.



## SOUTH WEST DIVISION

Steve Darke

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**The SW Division has met three times this season, twice in Cardiff, and once at Weston Super Mare’s new ground. Attendances at meetings are up on previous years, which has made for some interesting debates on football matters.**

The priority for the Division has been the organisation of Fans Parliament 2005. Hotel bookings are

down on last year’s numbers and is something National Council will be looking at.

Thanks to Ken Malley and Vince Alm for organising the entertainment and local logistics for the weekend. We feel that we have a good package in place, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone at Cardiff in June.



## WELSH DIVISION

Carroll Clark

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**The Welsh Division committee has met regularly during the past year, dealing with matters both local and national as appropriate.**

The Division is particularly pleased to have had the go-ahead to organise the 2006 Annual Conference, which will take place at The Wild Pheasant Hotel, Llangollen over the weekend of June 2nd 3rd and 4th 2006. The Division is aware of and respects the reservations expressed as to the suitability and accessibility of the venue but will, as usual, pull out all the stops to ensure that the weekend is a success.

The Division has been working closely with the revamped FSF Cymru committee of which David Da-

vies and myself (as Treasurer) are members. There will be a separate report for FSF Cymru but I cannot miss this opportunity to congratulate those personnel involved in setting up and operating the Embassies for the recent Wales away games.

We now have FSF membership forms printed in Welsh which hopefully will aid our efforts with recruitment, as we are a bit thin on the ground.

My usual thanks go to Chairman Eddie Mansell as well as David Davies and Phil Davies for their support during the year and anticipated efforts during the next 12 months towards the 2006 Conference.

# Minutes of the 2004 Fans' Parliament

**Minutes of Fans Parliament 2004, the second Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Football Supporters' Federation, held at The Quality Hotel, Walsall on Sunday 6 June 2004 commencing at 10.07am**

## 1/04 Attendance

Details of those attending are recorded in the attendance database and available on request.

## 2/04 Apologies

Apologies for Absence were received from Reg Abbott (Vice President), Frank Horrocks (retiring Northern Division Chairman), Jeff Mortimer (retiring Northern Division Secretary), National Council Members Dave Boyle, Ange Cox, Phill Gatenby (Manchester City Centenary Association), Ian Gilmour (Independent Newcastle United SA), Nicole Hammond, Paul Matz and Fiona McGee; Julie Beattie (Aldershot Town Supporters Club / Southern Division Secretary, David Stacey (The Football Programme Directory), Maureen Robinson (The Official Preston N E Supporters' Club), Pam Wilkins (Portsmouth Supporters' Club) and Raymond Wynn (York City SC); individual members Graham Kelly and Eileen Rigby; Kevin Miles (International Officer)

## 3/04 Chairman's Opening Remarks

Chairman Malcolm Clarke referred to the current celebrations of the 60th anniversary of D Day, that football fans had lost stalwarts of their organisations during the year and many clubs had attended Friday's dedication of a memorial headstone to the principle co-founder of the present day supporters' movement on the anniversary of his death. The Chairman added that what unites us is more important than any else and the meeting stood in silent tribute. Mr Clarke apologised for the change of date from Saturday due to our commitments with England

which are funded by the Home Office now complicated by an international forum scheduled for today.

Additions to the Agenda were detailed.

## 4/04 Minutes of the 2003 AGM & Annual Conference

Acceptance proposed by Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters' Club, seconded by Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association and carried unanimously. The Chairman asked that matters arising be raised under the appropriate reports from portfolio holders.

## 5/04 National Council Reports

The Chairman thanked those standing down.

Additions were made or on behalf of the portfolio holders for Web Site, Safe Standing, Policing & Stewarding, Football Quiz (including presentation of the new PFA Quiz Trophy to Barnet "A" and display of the new PFA Consolation Cup) and Football & Television. Discussion took place on the Anti-franchising and Anti-racism reports. The Reports were approved.

## 6/04 Financial Report

Treasurer Carroll Clark referred to the circulated explanatory Notes which, together with the published Accounts, presented the complete picture. He commented that we are still largely dependent on sponsorship by The Professional Footballers' Association reported that an extension of the £50,000 has been agreed for a further two years and asked that efforts continue to raise funds. The Chairman stated that the £12,373 profit for the financial year shown was somewhat illusory as the surpluses shown for our international work for England and Wales approaching £8,000 are ring-fenced.

The Accounts were unanimously approved and it was agreed appointment of Auditor be remitted to National Council.

## 7/04 Election of Deputy Chairman

There being no other nominations received in accordance with the Constitution Alan Bloore was unanimously confirmed as Deputy Chairman for a further two years.

## 8/04 Election of National Council Members

Ten elected Councillors from the Divisions are:

Muriel Bates and Ash Connor (Midland)  
Geoff Ollerton and Jeff Taylor (Northern)  
Mark Ashfield and Ian Blackledge (Southern)  
Steve Darke and Ken Malley (South West)  
Dave Davies and Eddie Mansell (Wales)

There were eight nominations for the remaining eight places on National Council, all of whom had submitted election statements.

All were elected individually as follows: Norman Beverley, Ange Cox, Peter Daykin, Phill Gatenby, Nicole Hammond, Graham Kelly, Mark Longden and Paul Woodhall.

## 9/04 Motions

Motions 3 and 12 were changed round in the running order so that the first six Motions which were all price related could be debated as a whole and then voted on separately.

## 10/04 Motion 1

Away supporters' admission prices

Conference notes that away supporters (i) spend more on supporting the game than other supporters *because of travel costs* (ii) contribute greatly to its atmosphere (iii) unlike home supporters have no choice on the part of the ground they go in (iv) suffer violations by some clubs of both the letter and the spirit of existing regulations that they are charged the same as home fans for comparable accommodation

It instructs the National Council to campaign on this issue, asks FSF members to undertake "price watches" to provide evidence for the campaign, and endorses the proposed rule change:

"Visiting supporters should always be charged the lowest admission price applicable to home supporters no matter what area of the ground the visitors occupy.

If the visiting supporters have use of the only standing area in the ground, the admission prices charged for this area must be at least 10% lower than the price charged for the cheapest covered seats. These arrangements do not apply to designated family sections. Concessionary admission prices for membership schemes, senior citizens and children discount special promotions for one match only, if available to supporters of the home club must also be available on a similar basis to visiting supporters"

*Proposed by Alan Bloore on behalf of National Council and seconded by Wycombe Wanderers Independent SC with the addition of the italicised wording in (i). Carried unanimously.*

## 11/04 Motion 2

Prices for high-profile Cup games

Conference notes the practice of some clubs in increasing admission prices for high profile cup games, to increase revenue. It notes that this is an understandable response to the current maldistribution of income within the game. However, it believes that it should only be done after meaningful consultation with the club's regular fans, and should not, in any case, apply to the away supporters who should pay the normal admission fee for away fans at that ground.

*Proposed by Alan Bloore on behalf of National Council and seconded by Workson Town SC.*

An amendment to delete "and should not, in any case, apply to the away supporters who should pay the normal admission fee for away fans at that ground" was proposed by Shareholders For Albion and seconded by Fulham Supporters Trust and defeated following application of affiliate and individual members voting rights by 35 votes for (eight individual, nine affiliates) to 75 against (15 individual, 20 affiliates) with three abstentions.

The original Motion was carried with two against.

## 12/04 Motion 12

### Football Conference Admission Prices

In the light of the growing number of segregated games in the Football Conference, Federation calls on the Conference to introduce clear and unambiguous rules whereby in segregated games its clubs must offer the same prices of admission for equal standards of accommodation to all adult supporters and to those entitled to admission under all concessionary price arrangements, all such concessionary prices to be available to home and away supporters. Where accommodation equivalent to that for which home supporters pay the lowest admission prices is not available to away supporters at any match, then the away supporters should be charged the lowest price available to home supporters.

*Proposed by Mike Williamson, individual member and seconded by Dover Athletic Supporters' Trust.*

The following amendment to the last paragraph was proposed by Barnet FC Supporters' Association and seconded by Dulwich Hamlet Supporters' Trust:

"Where terraced accommodation is not available to away supporters at any match, then the away supporters should be charged the lowest price available to home supporters"

A second amendment proposed by Fulham Supporters Trust to delete the whole of the last paragraph was defeated. The first amendment as reproduced was carried with two against.

## 13/04 Motion 4

### Price Banding

Conference is opposed to structured price banding whereby admission prices are raised according to the profile and attractiveness of the opposition, one of the consequences of which is that the away supporters of certain clubs always have to pay the highest prices.

*Proposed by Alan Bloore on behalf of National Council, seconded by Dover Athletic Supporters Trust and carried with one against (one abstention).*

## 14/04 Motion 5

### Concessionary Prices

That the FSF campaigns for Concessionary prices for FA competitions and England games to be made available in all areas of the ground and not restricted to designated family areas.

*Proposed by Barnsley SC in the absence of Millwall SC, seconded by Sheffield United SC and carried unanimously.*

## 15/04 Motion 6

### Publication of Admission Prices

Federation requests The Football Association and relevant authorities to ensure that all clubs (a) publish details of all their prices for home and away supporters in every match day programme and (b) clearly display admission prices for all parts of the ground at every cash and day ticket entry point for spectators.

*Proposed by Gills Independent Supporters' Club and seconded by Wycombe Wanderers' Independent Supporters' Club with the addition of the italicised wording. Carried with one abstention.*

## 16/04 Motion 7

### Restricted View Seating

Federation requests The Football Association and domestic Leagues to include seats sold with an eye level view less than six feet above the playing area in the restricted view category. Tickets to be marked as such with at least 10% reduction in price.

*Proposed by Gills Independent Supporters' Club and seconded by Wimbledon Independent SA.*

After debate it was ascertained that present regulations on restricted view seating are not being adhered to and it was agreed the Motion be remitted to National Council to widen the matter.

## 17/04 Awards

**The FSF Services To Supporters Award**  
Presented to Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters'

Club to a standing ovation following a citation read by Chairman Malcolm Clarke. Their delegates expressed their thanks.

## The FSF Football Writer of the Year Award

Presented to Paul Kelso of the Guardian, who is en route to Euro 2004.

## The FSF Special Award

Presented in Portugal to the Foreign Office.

## 18/04 The Prostate Cancer Charity

The Chairman introduced Eric Dale, a Director of the Charity which National Council have adopted for the forth-coming year, who gave a short talk on the Charity's achievements and aspirations for the next five years.

## 19/04 Motion 8

### Banning of Supporters

Conference believes that supporters should only be banned from grounds as a result of serious anti-social behaviour and not because of disagreements about other matters. It further believes that bans should only be imposed following due process in line with the principles of natural justice, including a right of appeal.

*The Deputy Chairman took the Chair for this Motion, which was proposed by Malcolm Clarke on behalf of National Council. He outlined three high-profile instances where supporters had been victimised by their football clubs, which are community assets benefiting from public money and called for proper regulation. The Motion was seconded by Gills Independent Supporters' Club.*

Following additional instances from the floor of unacceptable treatment of supporters the Motion was carried unanimously.

## 20/04 Motion 9

### Fixture Changes Due to UEFA Cup Ties

Conference notes the late change in the date of the Spurs v Newcastle match in March 2004, due

to Newcastle's participation in the UEFA cup.

Conference believes that

**a)** Clubs should issue season tickets with the proviso that some fixtures may be subject to alteration

**b)** Where there is a possibility that a match will need to be moved to a Sunday due to one of the clubs playing a UEFA cup tie on the previous Thursday, the change of date must be confirmed at least four weeks in advance of the original date set for the fixture.

Conference mandates the National Council to raise these issues with the Premier League, and if necessary the Football League.

*Proposed by Tim Whelan on behalf of National Council. Seconded by Steve Powell, individual member and carried with one vote against and four abstentions.*

## 21/04 Motion 10

### Elected Places for Supporters on Rule-Making Bodies

That Conference resolves to campaign for Supporters to be allocated an elected place on all relevant Boards/Committees that sit, to make or apply Rules governing the game of Football, initially in this Country.

Once this is achieved to campaign for the same right to sit on UEFA and FIFA Boards/Committees.

*Proposed by Alan Bloore on behalf of National Council, seconded by Brighton & Hove Albion SC and carried unanimously following debate.*

## 22/04 Motion 11

### Ticket Touts

Conference believes that ticket touts should be arrested and prosecuted to the letter of the law. Such cases should be classed as football-related crimes and those found guilty should be subject to football banning orders.

*Proposed by Steve Darke on behalf of South West Division, who agreed to accept the following*

amendment from Steve Powell, individual member, which now became the substantive Motion:

“Conference believes that ticket touts seeking to extract profit the sale of match tickets to football supporters should be dealt with in accordance with the law,

Conference notes that ticket touting for profit is a criminal offence and that offenders should be punished to the full extent of the law. Conference instructs the FSF National Council to develop practical policies to combat ticket touting for profit, working where appropriate with:

- Central Government and local government (including the National Assembly for Wales and the Greater London Authority)
- The football authorities
- The Football Safety Officers’ Association
- The Magistrates’ Association
- The Association of Chief Police Officers with a view to ensuring this issue receives the appropriate priority.

Conference calls on all FSF affiliates and individual members to raise this matter with their club and the police and local authorities”

After debate the revised Motion was carried with two votes against and one abstention.

### **23/04 Motion 3** FA Cup Replays

Conference is opposed to any further abolition of FA Cup replays.

*Proposed by Ian Blackledge on behalf of National Council and seconded by Ken Malley, individual member.*

The following written amendment for inclusion after “...F A Cup replays” was proposed by Official Morecambe Supporters’ Club and seconded:

“...but would not oppose extra time at the first match”

The amendment was defeated with six votes for and the original Motion carried with two votes against.

### **24/04 Motion 13** Statutory Regulation

Conference re-iterates its policy that there should be statutory regulation of professional football. If, however, this is not achieved, it calls for the existing self-regulation by the IFC to be continued and strengthened after the end of the IFC’s current term of office. It believes that this will require terms of reference which are widened to include all aspects of the governance of the game and the use of its revenues and strengthened to give meaningful powers of enforcement.

*The Deputy Chairman took the Chair for this Motion which was proposed by Malcolm Clarke on behalf of the National Council. Seconded by Wimbledon Independent Supporters’ Association and carried unanimously*

### **25/04 Motion 14** FA Cup Semi-Final Arrangements

This Conference welcomes the positive response from The Football Association to joint approaches made to it by Arsenal Independent Supporters’ Association (AISA) and the Independent Manchester United Supporters’ Association (IMUSA) regarding the venue, day and kick-off time of the 2003/4 Arsenal v Manchester United F A Cup semi-final.

Conference notes with disappointment however that the initiative for such discussions did not come from the football authorities nor the competing clubs.

Conference resolves to call on the F A to systematically consult supporters on the issue of F A Cup semi-final venues, days and kick-off times by convening meetings with supporter organisations of all clubs reaching the F A Cup 6th round each season on possible semi-final pairings and venues, kick-off times, matchdays etc and to work with the FSF on compiling a register of “approved” grounds for semi-finals.

Conference reiterates its opposition to F A Cup semi-finals being played at Wembley Stadium when it is re-opened.

*Proposed by the Independent Manchester United Supporters’ Association and seconded by Brighton & Hove Albion Supporters’ Club.*

An amendment was proposed by Barnsley Supporters’ Club and seconded by Fulham Supporters’ Trust to insert “and the relevant policing authorities” after “supporter organisations” in the third paragraph. The amendment was defeated.

A further amendment to replace “...Wembley Stadium when it is re-opened” with “...the same venue as the Final” was accepted by the originators and the amended Motion was carried with one abstention.

### **26/04 Motion 15** Commission on Credit Card Ticket Sales

Conference notes with disappointment the increasing trend for clubs and in some cases leagues and national associations to add a surcharge to tickets purchased by credit card. This adds to the cost of already expensive admission charges and in some cases can discriminate against certain classes of supporter.

Conference calls on the National Council to examine this issue jointly with the football authorities with a view to developing best practise in this area.

*Proposed by Steven Powell, individual member and seconded by Barnsley Supporters’ Club.*

An amendment to include “recoup what it costs to take the card” was suggested from the floor but not supported.

After debate the Motion was carried with three votes against.

### **27/04 Motion 16** Mid-Season Break

Conference believes that any proposal to have a mid-season break should be the subject of consultation with supporters and supporters’ groups in particular The Football Supporters’ Federation.

*Proposed by Ian Blackledge on behalf of National Council and seconded by Dulwich Hamlet Supporters’ Trust.*

After debate the Motion was carried with two votes against.

### **28/04 Motion A** Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bye-laws National Council – Election of Officers and Council Members to Include Secretary and Treasurer

It is resolved that the Constitution and Bye-laws of the Federation shall be amended as follows, these changes to be enacted with effect from the Annual General Meeting to be held during 2005, at which time an election shall take place for the positions of Chairman and Treasurer, together with eight National Council members, not otherwise nominated as Divisional delegates to Council.

Paragraph 3 of the Constitution to be amended to read:

The Federation shall be governed by a National Council consisting of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and two representatives or their appointed deputies elected from each division of the Federation, together with no more than eight individuals elected at an Annual General Meeting of the Federation. All members of the National Council shall be a member of an organisation or other group affiliated to the Federation, or an individual member of the Federation.

Clause 10 of the Bye-laws to be amended to read:

CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, SECRETARY AND EIGHT INDIVIDUALLY ELECTED NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS  
The Chairman and Treasurer shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, to serve in office for a period of two years, after which they will be eligible to stand for re-election. One year after such election of the Chairman and Treasurer, the Deputy Chairman and Secretary shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, to serve in office

for a period of two years, after which they will be eligible to stand for re-election. No-one will be eligible to stand for election to any of the posts of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary until they have been an individual member of the Federation or a member of an affiliated organisation or group for a minimum of one year.

Eight other National Council members not otherwise nominated as Divisional delegates to Council, will be elected at an Annual General Meeting, to serve in office for a period of one year, after which they will be eligible to stand for re-election.

NOMINATIONS to stand for election to any of the posts of officers of the Federation, or to the posts of the eight National Council members referred to above, must reach the Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting, except in the case of any nomination for the post of Secretary, which must be sent to reach the Chairman at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Nominations may be made either verbally, by e-mail or in writing.

By the date of the election concerned, the nominated candidate must advise the secretary of the names of those persons proposing and seconding the nomination. The proposer and seconder must be officers or individual members of the Federation, or be officials or members of affiliate members of the Federation.

*Proposed by Mike Williamson on behalf of the National Council – who clarified (a) that the position of Secretary will be elected at the 2005 Conference for a one year period (b) that Chairman and Treasurer will therefore be elected in 2005 for two years and Deputy Chairman and Secretary elected in 2006 for two years - and carried unanimously.*

## 29/04 Motion B

**Proposed Amendment to Bye Law 1  
Introduction of a Form of Declaration of  
Democracy to be Completed by Affili-  
ate Membership Applicants.**

It is proposed that the Bye-Laws be amended as follows:

### Bye-Law 1 on 'MEMBERSHIP'

The second paragraph from the second sentence to be amended as follows:

All applications from organisations shall include a declaration in a form deemed suitable by the National Council of the Federation, stating that the organisation's rules conform to the requirements of the Federation, whereby a majority of the governing committee of the organisation is elected by its members, that the organisation is democratically run and that it gives all its members the opportunity frequently to discuss and influence how the organisation concerns itself with issues which arise from the activities of the Federation, the declaration to be signed by the officers of that organisation and such signed declaration deemed to be an acceptance of the constitution and bye-laws of the Federation. Such applications shall be subject to the acceptance of the National Council of the Federation who shall have considered the expressed views of the appropriate Divisional committee after any necessary investigation on the application (or as otherwise determined).

The third paragraph to be amended as follows: Any affiliate member organisation amending or altering its rules to a form which may no longer conform to the requirements of the Federation, must advise the Secretary of the Federation and complete a further form of declaration that its rules still meet the requirements of the Federation as stipulated above, this further declaration being subject to the acceptance of the National Council of the Federation.

*Proposed by Mike Williamson on behalf of the National Council.*

Mark Agate National Administrator added that it was not the intention to discourage clubs from submitting Constitutions as these formed a useful reference for newly-formed organisations; the intention being to produce an all-embracing model document.

Carried unanimously.

## 30/04 Motion C

**Proposed amendment to Bye-law 3  
Associate membership entitlements**

It is proposed that Bye-law 3 of the Football Supporters Federation be amended to read as follows:

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. Fanzines, web sites and other non-membership organisations shall be entitled to join the Federation as 'Associate' members subject to their acceptance of the Federation's aims and objectives. An associate member may attend meetings and take part in the activities of the Federation but will not have the rights conferred on Affiliate members in section 2(a) and (d) of these bye-laws.

Associate members will pay an annual membership fee at the appropriate rate, the membership thereby conferred being applied for the same periods and subject to the same conditions as Affiliate membership as detailed in section 2 of these bye-laws, except that Associate members will at no time be entitled to a vote at meetings of the Federation, or to stand for election to posts within the Federation at National Council or Divisional level.

*Proposed by Mike Williamson on behalf of the National Council.*

Carried unanimously

## 31/04 Motion D

**Proposed Amendment to Bye-Law 4  
Individuals' Periods of Membership**

It is proposed that Bye-law 4 of the Football Supporters Federation be amended to read as follows:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. An individual member is someone who has paid the appropriate membership fee, with membership commencing on the first day of the calendar month following that in which the membership fee is paid and continuing until the completion of 12 calendar months thereafter.

A grace period of three calendar months after

the completion of the 12 months membership period will be allowed, during which payment of the appropriate membership fee will confer the entitlement to renewal of membership from the commencement of the grace period.

On the expiry of the grace period without payment of the appropriate membership fee having been made, membership will be deemed to have ended at the end of the 12 month membership period.

Should payment of the appropriate membership fee be made after the expiry of the grace period it will be deemed to be part of a new application for membership with membership commencing on the first day of the calendar month following that in which that payment is received and continuing for 12 calendar months there after.

*Proposed by Mike Williamson on behalf of the National Council and carried unanimously.*

## 32/04 Any Other Business

(a) Fulham Supporters' Trust thanked the Chair for conducting the days business which elicited a round of applause

(b) Ron Thomas of Kidderminster Harriers Supporters' & Social Club announced his retirement from Kiddy and Midland Division after 35 years involvement

(c) Steve Darke of the incoming host Division of Fans Parliament 2005 announced that the South West venue will not be Barcelona and that a fairly accessible venue will be organised.

## 33/04 Chairman's Closing Remarks

Malcolm Clarke thanked Muriel Bates of Midland Division for her efforts and also those of Steve Powell and his Event Team.

The Chairman also acknowledged the organising and supply of a bone china beaker specially commissioned in the Potteries by Stoke City Supporters' Club.

# Standing Orders

**1.** The National Council shall be responsible for arranging and publishing the CONFERENCE AGENDA, which shall include:

- Minutes of the proceedings of the previous annual conference
- Matters arising from the previous annual conference
- Annual reports from officers, portfolio holders 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 a STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE to assist the smooth running of conference, and act in accordance with these standing orders.

**3.** THE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN SHALL CHAIR THE CONFERENCE. In his/her absence, or for any matter dealing with his/her own position, the deputy chairman shall chair conference, or in his/her absence another national council member nominated by the standing orders committee, will take the chair.

**4.** VOTING SHALL BE BY SHOW OF APPROPRIATE VOTING CARDS. The standing orders committee shall appoint persons to count votes and organise any ballots required.

**5.** 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 standing orders committee shall decide on eligibility.

**6.** DECISIONS SHALL BE MADE BY SIMPLE MAJORITY, except where stated to the contrary elsewhere in these Standing Orders.

**7.** A MOTION WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN THE AGENDA CAN ONLY BE WITHDRAWN WITH THE CONSENT OF CONFERENCE.

**8.** ANY MOTION RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION AS DECIDED AND NOTIFIED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL shall be reported to the conference by the standing orders committee. The proposing mover shall have the right to explain the reasons for late submission before the conference reaches a decision on whether the motion shall be added to the Agenda.

**9.** The following PROCEDURAL MOTIONS may be moved at any time without previous notice:

- That leave be given to withdraw a motion or an amendment
- That leave be given to refer a motion or amendment to the standing orders committee for consideration
- That the chairman's decision or ruling be challenged
- That the question be now put \*
- That the conference proceeds to the next business \*
- That the speaker be no longer 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 without discussion and no amendment shall be allowed. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall be required for any procedural motion to be successful.*

**10.** A motion that the question be now put shall not be moved whilst a delegate is addressing conference.

**11.** Motions shall be moved by the delegate in whose name they stand. If the mover is not present the motion will fall.

**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, either by giving notice, or from the floor of conference. In either case such amendments shall be submitted in writing to the chairman.

**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 may not negate the substance of the original motion.

**17.** The mover of the motion shall be asked whether he/she accepts an amendment prior to the vote being taken.

**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.

**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 chairman shall decide to whom priority shall be given.

**22.** Should the chairman 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 chairman invites them to do so.

**23.** The chairman shall ensure that debates are conducted in a spirit of mutual respect. Any

delegate disobeying, or attempting to defy, the ruling of the chairman may be suspended for the remainder of conference.

**24.** A delegate shall not speak more than once to the same motion or amendment except at the request of the chairman.

**25.** No more than two delegates from any affiliated organisation shall speak on any particular motion or amendment.

**26.** 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 unless the standing orders committee has given permission otherwise.

**27.** No motion or amendment which has been defeated shall again be brought forward to conference for at least two years from the date of its defeat unless the National Council decides that ensuing circumstances require such a debate.

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

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

**30.** 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).

**31.** The ruling of the chairman on any question of procedure arising at the conference shall be final and can only be challenged as allowed for in Standing Order 9.

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

**33.** The chairman does not have a vote; however, in the event of an equality of voting he/she shall have a casting vote.

# The Football Supporters' Federation

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