



Welcome to the 2009 FSF Fans' Parliament

Delegate Pack

CONTENTS

Welcome	5
Agenda	7
Information on Breakout Sessions	9
• Club Ownership and Governance	11
• Diversity	13
• Policing and Stewarding	15
• Safe Standing	17
• Ticket Pricing	19
<i>Reports</i>	21
• Chair's Report	23
• Portfolio Reports	25
• Secretary's Meeting Report	47
• Report on Executive Committee Attendance 2008-09	55
• Report on National Council Attendance 2008-09	56
• Divisional Reports	57
Minutes of Fans' Parliament 2008	71
• Appendix 1 – Apologies for non-attendance	80
• Appendix 2 – National Council elections	81
• Appendix 3 – Motions	83
Action on motions carried at Fans' Parliament 2008	91
Fans' Parliament 2009 Elections	93
• List of Nominations	95
• Election Statements	97
Appendix 1 – Financial Report	
Appendix 2 – FSF Standing Orders	
Appendix 3 – List of FSF Officials 2008-09	

WELCOME

Good morning,

We'd like to welcome you all to the Live Theatre in Newcastle-upon-Tyne for Fans' Parliament 2009. We're aware that some of you have travelled some considerable distance to the north-east to be with us today, and for that we thank you. And those who were out with us on the FSF pub-crawl last night and have made it in time this morning, we thank you too.

Thanks must also go to our guest speaker, David Conn, for agreeing to address Fans' Parliament this year. We're pleased to have David here, along with representatives from the Premier League, the Football Association and the PFA, and human rights group Liberty. We're looking forward to hearing what they have to say in our breakout sessions today.

Speaking of which, this year sees a new format for Fans' Parliament. The event has always served as a way of establishing FSF policy for the year ahead, however this year we are dividing our discussions into five breakout groups on specific topics: club ownership and governance; diversity; policing and stewarding; safe standing and ticket pricing.

If you've not pre-registered for Fans' Parliament and would like to participate in discussions on a particular subject, you must register your interest at the front desk.

As for what happens today and when, a full run-down of the day's events can be found overleaf. While we'll try to adhere to the schedule as closely as possible, all times are, of course, subject to change. Important things to note are that we're getting underway at 10am, and hope to finish by 5:30pm at the latest. Everything in-between will be something of a blur of elections, motions and debate, punctuated by sandwiches and the odd pint of beer.

For those who are staying locally this evening, we'd love for you to attend our 'Hacks v Crocks' event, which is also being held at the Live Theatre tonight at 7pm. It's a bit of Have I Got News For You mashed in with Never Mind The Buzzcocks, crossed with a bit of Question of Sport for good measure. Featuring local journalists including former Sunderland commentator Simon Crabtree up against an ex-pros team of Leroy Rosenior and ex-Newcastle United stalwart John Anderson, it promises plenty of good-natured banter and to be a thoroughly entertaining event.

If you've not already got your name down to attend, just flag down a passing FSF Northeast Division volunteer (you'll be able to spot them easily in their fetching green Fans' Parliament t-shirts) and let them know.

And as if that wasn't enough, we've got a five-a-side tournament taking place tomorrow at Gateshead Powerleague from 10am, in conjunction with Show Racism The Red Card, as well as more leisurely pursuits on Newcastle Quayside for those not feeling too active.

For more details on these, or on any aspect of Fans' Parliament, speak to one of our FSF Northeast Division volunteers dotted around the Live Theatre today.

All the best for Fans' Parliament 2009,

FSF Northeast Division

AGENDA

20 June 2009

Registration begins at 9:30 am at the Live Theatre, Newcastle.

1. 10:00 am Chair's welcome
2. **10.05 am Keynote speech – David Conn**
3. 10:50 am Introduction to the new-look Fans' Parliament (Chair)
 - a. Format of the 2009 Fans' Parliament
 - b. Election of President, Vice President
 - c. Election of Chair and Treasurer
 - d. National Council election ballot boxes open
4. 11:00 am Refreshments in the bar
5. 11:15 am Breakout session 1
6. 12:30 pm Lunch in the bar
 - a. FSF Midlands Division EGM
Notice has been given that a short EGM of the Midlands Division will be held at this time, to be attended by any FSF Midlands members present
7. 1:30 pm Breakout session 2
8. 2:45 pm Refreshments in the bar
 - a. Election ballot boxes close
9. 3:00pm FSF awards
10. 3:10pm FSF AGM
 - a. Minutes of last AGM
 - b. Matters arising
 - c. Acceptance of reports:
 - i. Chair
 - ii. Deputy Chair

1. New membership scheme
2. Motion 2 – Affiliated group members voting rights
- iii. Treasurer (inc re-election of auditors)
- iv. National Council reports
- d. Policy discussions from breakout sessions
 - i. Inc. Motions 7 to 11 – adoption of session reports.
- e. Other motions
 1. Conference ballots
 3. National Council Code of Conduct
 4. FSF Financial Control Document
 5. Conduct of debate
 6. Divisional representation on National Council
 12. Establishment of a relationship with the refereeing fraternity
 13. Treatment of injured players
- f. Announcement of National Council election results

11. 5:30pm (approx) Close



Fans' Parliament 2009

Information on Breakout Sessions

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

BREAKOUT SESSION ON CLUB OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION PAPER

The debate on the issues of club ownership and governance was recently given a boost by a speech made by the then Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport, the Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP to the 2008 conference of Supporters Direct.

There has been recent media coverage of the responses to the questions raised by Andy Burnham (who has recently moved to the Department of Health in a cabinet re-shuffle) from the Football League and the Premier League. The FSF made a joint written submission with our friends and partners at Supporters Direct to the Football Association (FA) on the questions raised by the Secretary of State.

The supporters' movement can claim a lot of credit for the introduction of the so-called "fit and proper person" test. For a long time we were told such a test would constitute an unlawful restraint of trade. As we suspected, if there's a will there's a way. We are however light-years away from achieving all of the goals and policy objectives we've set ourselves in the field of club ownership and governance.

Andy Burnham, addressing a meeting of the Arsenal Supporters' Trust recently, made clear that he wanted to see supporter ownership advance at the game's biggest clubs. He even offered to broker a meeting between AST representatives and the Treasury and other regulatory departments and bodies such as the Financial Services Authority to try and clear away regulatory obstructions to a supporter share-save scheme.

Burnham's departure from the top chair at the DCMS sees him replaced by the Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP. It remains to be seen whether he or the Sports Minister working under him will continue with Andy Burnham's initiative. In any event it is likely that the Labour Party will no longer be in office after the next General Election.

There is a growing consensus that football and sport generally, including professional sport at all levels, is governed by laws not sufficiently adapted to the unique nature of competitive sport, particularly team sports. UEFA has campaigned long and hard for the European Union to expand its legal competence in this field. The Treaty of Lisbon contains such a competence but it is unlikely that this Treaty will be ratified by all EU Member States and will thus become a legal "dead letter"

There are some grounds for optimism, however, that the UK government may legislate on sport. The shadow sports minister Hugh Robertson advocated the case for a sports law in his address to last year's Supporters Direct conference. The concept of a sports law has also been backed by the FSF National Council. Should this be included in the *fans' blueprint for football*?

The FA under its new independent chairman Lord David Triesman has also been much more receptive to our case on appropriate regulation and enforcement. As well as our joint paper with Supporters Direct addressing the questions raised by Andy Burnham, another joint submission was made on the so-called "football creditors' rule" which prioritises debts to players and other clubs over other commitments in cases, all too frequent, of club insolvency.

Traditionally, the professional game in England & Wales has been unique in its breadth and depth compared to other countries. This has however been eroded by the arrival of the broadcaster's billions. Money flooding into the game is not at all a bad thing in and of itself, the reverse in fact. It is the application of this relatively new source of income, together with the huge sums received by the elite clubs regularly competing in the UEFA Champions League, that has made our game more predictable and less equal than ever in its history. But can we squeeze the toothpaste back into the tube? We need to re-visit the clauses in the *fans' blueprint* on redistribution and governance. Do they still represent the fans' "shopping list"?

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

BREAKOUT SESSION ON DIVERSITY

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION PAPER

Diversity in all its forms amongst football supporters has always been supported by the FSF and, before it, its two founding partners, the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs and the Football Supporters' Association.

The FSF has always stood against racism on the terraces at both club and international matches. We also work closely on issues affecting access for disabled supporters with the National Association of Disabled Supporters. It's important to remember that disability comes in many forms and is NOT just about supporters in wheelchairs. There are many disabilities which are "invisible" such as hearing impairment, diabetes and autism. There are also issues for supporters with learning difficulties, and so on.

This was brought into sharp relief recently by the expulsion from The Valley of a family of Addicks supporters with an autistic child. The FSF was pleased to be able to provide representation for the father of the child and his uncle at a meeting with Charlton Athletic officials which resulted in a formal apology from the club to the father and his son. Clubs have clear legal responsibilities in the area of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The universal appeal of football means that it enjoys support from all sections of the population regardless of ethnicity. Yet this support isn't reflected in the attendances at matches in England & Wales. Arsenal repeatedly comes top of the poll for professional clubs attracting black and minority ethnic fans to its games. Yet the percentage of such fans is far, far lower than that in the population of the London Boroughs of Islington, Haringey, Camden and Hackney which form the proximate geographical catchment area of the club.

To take another example a club like Luton Town has its ground at Kenilworth Road situated in a predominantly Asian area of the Town yet this fact is not fully reflected in match attendance. In the case of the Hatters matches do not routinely sell out. Should these facts be of concern to the FSF?

In another area of diversity the FSF has led the way, approving a resolution at its 2005 Fans' Parliament calling for an amendment to ground regulations to ban homophobic chanting. This has subsequently been done and the FA has invested time and effort in establishing a network of liaison officers to work with clubs on the issue of homophobia and homophobic abuse. There have been some recent high profile prosecutions of Spurs fans for indecent chanting directed at the former Spurs player Sol Campbell, currently playing for Portsmouth. Controversy also surrounded chants and other activities by Arsenal supporters directed at their former player Ashley Cole, now at Chelsea.

These issues, along with allegedly Islamophobic chants aimed at the Egyptian player Mido, who has played for Spurs, Middlesbrough and Wigan Athletic have caused much debate amongst supporters generally and within the FSF. One supporter's idea of banter is deeply offensive to other supporters. Not that it will be easy, but we should attempt to draw a line on this subject.

On a more positive note, the FSF needs to decide how it will advance the issues of equality and diversity both in the game generally and within its own ranks. It must be admitted that the membership of the FSF's ruling national council isn't nearly as representative of the regular match-going supporter as we would like. Is there anything practical we can do about this?

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

BREAKOUT SESSION ON POLICING & STEWARDING

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION PAPER

This past season has seen the FSF break new ground in challenging the law and tactics employed by some police services against football fans. This has led to the FSF working closely with the civil rights organisation *Liberty* in seeking a judicial review of the use by Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire police of Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. It would be remiss not to publicly distinguish the work of *Liberty* and members of the FSF national council.

Football fans in England & Wales face a long list of restrictions on their liberties and rights which few others in society face. Amongst them are:

- Restrictions on free movement, particularly for visiting supporters in many cities and towns. This can include being marched to and from the stadium with no choice in the matter
- So-called “bubble” games where visiting fans are required to be transported to and from the ground from a fixed point, no matter where they reside
- The regular use by the police of enhanced “stop and search” powers under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994
- A prohibition on the consumption of alcohol on any chartered transport to and from matches and on many regularly scheduled service trains
- A prohibition on the consumption of alcohol in site of the pitch whilst inside the ground
- A prohibition on the consumption of alcohol in the streets surrounding many grounds
- Ejection from grounds and bans imposed by clubs where no football banning order has been issued by the courts and with no right to make representations or to appeal such a ban
- The imposition of legal three year football banning orders under the Football Spectators Act 1989 as amended by the Football (Disorder) Act 2000

Yet, almost in contradiction to the above list the relationships between the FSF, the UK Football Policing Unit and the Football Safety Officers' Association have never been more extensive or cordial. This is to be welcomed. The FSF will never excuse those who commit acts of violence or who attempt to orchestrate disorder in and around games. We have evidence however that some stewards and police officers abuse their authority and/or act disproportionately.

A fact often forgotten is that the single biggest group that suffers from football-related violence and disorder are football fans themselves. That said the FSF has, rightly, become more assertive in assisting fans in their complaints about unfair treatment, including guiding them to suitably qualified and experienced legal counsel.

We would much rather work with clubs and the police to prevent conflicts between police and/or stewards and supporters and/or unfair treatment before it happens rather than after the fact. How can we facilitate and promote dialogue and regular contact between fans, stewards and police at club level? Are there models and good practice that we can promote?

The diversity workshop will be examining the issues of homophobic, Islamophobic and indecent songs and chants. The policing and stewarding workshop might also wish to consider these issues.

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

BREAKOUT SESSION ON SAFE STANDING

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION PAPER

The FSF's campaign for the right of fans of Premier League and Football League Championship clubs (and of clubs lower down with all-seated stadia) to choose whether to sit or stand as they prefer is a long-standing one. The FSF published a major report advocating this choice in June 2007. This was sent to every MP in the House of Commons, every AM in the National Assembly for Wales, every football club, safety officer, and safety advisory committee. It was also sent to all football governing bodies including UEFA and FIFA (both of which prohibit standing areas at matches in competitions organised by them) and government departments and dependent bodies, principally the Football Licensing Authority (FLA).

Unfortunately, the report has led to limited progress. On this issue it appears very difficult to draw those opposed to the right to choose whether to sit or stand into an evidence-based debate. Some small advances have been made however. The Liberal Democrat Party voted at its annual autumn conference last year to support the right of fans to sit or stand. The Leader of the Official Opposition David Cameron has said he would instigate a review if the Conservatives are elected to office in the general election due by May 2010. Some clubs have been prepared to state publicly that they would consider safe standing areas if they were lawful, notably Bradford City.

There has also recently been an exchange of correspondence between the FSF, the FLA and its sponsoring government ministry, the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the UK Statistics Authority regarding the data employed by the FLA to demonstrate, in its view, that standing is inherently more dangerous than sitting.

The opponents of safe standing have recently expanded their argument against choice to say that fans who stand are more prone to disorderly conduct than those who are seated. Whatever the merits or otherwise of this argument there is absolutely no doubt that the requirement for all-seated stadia in the top two divisions in England & Wales was legally imposed for safety reasons and no other.

There is an excellent argument, articulated in the FSF report, that the anti-safe standing area regulations are contrary to the current government's principles of better regulation. All governments of the right, centre and left over the last couple of decades, both here and abroad, have tended to make pronouncements about making a bonfire of unnecessarily burdensome regulations. All seem to flounder on the rocks of caution and inertia which seem deeply embedded in the DNA of regulatory authorities.

So, where next for the campaign for the choice to sit or stand?

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

BREAKOUT SESSION ON TICKET PRICING AND DISTRIBUTION

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION PAPER

The last two decades have seen a seemingly inexorable rise in ticket prices in professional football at all levels in England & Wales. Lord Justice Taylor in his final report on the Hillsborough disaster published some 20 years ago now said that he could see no reason why adult seats could not be priced at around the £6 mark. Adjusted for the rise in prices and wages that sum would today represent around £15-£18. Which clubs in the second tier Football League Championship, never mind the Premier League, offers match by match tickets at that price or close to it? Very, very few. It is easy to pay more than £10 to stand and watch Conference and Conference North and South games in this country.

There are some examples of good practice and pricing. A non-exhaustive list would include Stoke City, West Bromwich Albion, Sunderland, Hull City, Blackburn Rovers and Bradford City. There are others. There is also a long "list of shame" however. Amongst the worst offenders are Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester United. To give just one concrete example, Arsenal's cheapest adult tickets are £32.50 for category B games and a ludicrous £47 for category A games (Spurs, Chelsea, West Ham United, Liverpool and Manchester United in the League and selected Champions League and FA Cup games). Children's tickets for category A games (which are restricted to the family enclosure, and for which there is a very long waiting, list cost £18! This comes down to £13 for category B games, and this for under 16s! Up to the later years of the 1990s the latter sum would have bought you a seat on the old Clock End at Highbury.

Ironically this stratospheric ascent into orbit of ticket prices has come at a time when the game has never had more money from sources other than the gate. Broadcasting income has exploded, as has sponsorship and merchandising. Yet fans are expected to cough-up more and more. Season ticket holders are expected to purchase their tickets before the fixtures are announced, even then games are regularly moved, sometimes from the weekend to the working week, for live television or at police insistence. This doesn't only affect supporters of the visiting club. Many home supporters travel long distances to watch their clubs.

The FSF has campaigned for a price freeze on tickets and the introduction of a maximum ticket price for away fans to reward their loyalty in following their team and helping to create the unique atmosphere. There has been some limited success with getting prices frozen but nothing as yet on the maximum away ticket price proposal. Earlier during the season just finished we saw Queen's Park Rangers raise their prices during the season, having put them up once already prior to the start of the campaign. Manchester United has announced a rise in the price of all match tickets for next season.

There is also the issue of the administrative charges routinely added by clubs on top of already inflated ticket prices. Even those purchasing over the internet are charged. To give one example Arsenal charges £1.65 per ticket for internet sales of match by match tickets, £1.50 for postal bookings and £1.85 for telephone bookings. The only way to avoid these charges is to buy tickets at the ground. For some matches there is no ground ticket sale, thus making it impossible to avoid these charges.

Yet the clubs are in all probability spending less on administrative and security overheads than in the days when a large proportion of those attending paid in cash at the gate. This is an area worthy of examination. So too is the growth of official ticket exchanges, some run “in-house” as at Arsenal, some by agencies such as Viagogo. In Arsenal’s case the season ticket holder “surrendering” his/her ticket is charged ten percent. In the case of Viagogo both the seller and the buyer are charged.

We also need to examine our attitude to match categorisation. The FSF receives many complaints about this practice.

Other issues we need to examine are the distribution of tickets for big games such as domestic and European finals, the European Championship and the World Cup and the rules on minimum away fan allocations.



Fans' Parliament 2009

Chair's Report and Portfolio Reports

CHAIR'S REPORT

Malcolm Clarke

It has been another year of progress for the FSF. Our profile has increased and we have had some significant achievements. I will leave it to my colleagues in their reports and in workshops at Conference to outline these, and will restrict myself to commenting on just a few highlights. Suffice to say that whatever our achievements, we still have a long way to go both to achieve the changes we want in football and to turn the FSF into the effective lobbying and campaigning organisation we all want it to be.

An important area of work which we have developed this year relates to support for fans who have been wrongly treated by police or stewards. Many of you will have read in TFS and elsewhere about the entirely inappropriate use of Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act against football fans, particularly Stoke City fans in Manchester and Plymouth fans in Doncaster.

But it's an ill wind. These incidents led to the establishment of a new and important relationship between the FSF and 'Liberty', who agreed to take on the cases and commence judicial review proceedings against the two police forces concerned. In both cases the police have accepted liability, with, at the time of writing, one remaining legal point to be resolved by the Courts. The fans involved will get appropriate financial compensation for what happened to them. In addition, we are now working closely with 'Liberty' on a review of football-related legislation. We have also developed a closer relationship with a network of solicitors who can provide legal support to fans.

We continue to make a constructive contribution to the important debates about the finances of governance of football. We recently produced two papers in response to the '7 questions' posed by to the football authorities by the Secretary of State at DCMS, Andy Burnham, which have been very well received. I think the quality of our work stands comparison with any.

Those debates have also been happening in Europe, led by Michel Platini, who has been the subject of some insular, ill-informed and almost xenophobic attack by some sections of the British media and some of those running football in the UK. We can no longer only tackle football's problems on a national basis. I was pleased to once again join fans from other European countries in meeting Platini and his senior executives in Nyon earlier in the year. At the same event, the next steps were taken towards the establishment of FSE (Football Supporters Europe as it is now called), following the inaugural international Conference on the day after the Fans Parliament last year. The establishment of a pan-european supporters structure will be a major advance and I pay tribute to those who have worked to achieved this, both in the FSF and in our fellow fans organisations.

We continue to undertake important work in other areas such as ticket pricing and accessibility, safe standing, promotion of diversity in football, and the negative effects of TV on the live game.

This has been the end of my first full year as the supporters representative on the FA Council. I have made what I think has been a constructive contribution on a range of issues

of importance to us, both in the Council itself and in Committees, and achieved some changes. Although I think the reform process within the FA must continue, and there is still much to be changed, I have pleased with the reception I have received from fellow members of Council on a range of issues. Development of relationships is an important part of my FA work. I also report back to both Supporters Direct and the National Association of Disabled Supporters on my FA work.

Internally, Conference will be asked to approve a new radical approach to FSF membership. The world is changing fast in the age of the internet and we have to respond to that. The numbers of traditional meetings-based supporters organisations and the number of supporters involved in them is declining. Message Boards and social networking sites are much more the order of the day and we have to tap into that. But they present exciting opportunities for communicating with much larger numbers of supporters.

The website continues to improve and our office in Sunderland provides an effective 9 to 5 and beyond service to both the media and individual supporters who want to contact us. I am sure you will agree that *The Football Supporter* continues to be produced to a very high standard. We are shortly intending to strengthen our staffing resources with the appointment of a Development Officer post, with a focus on improving our campaign effectiveness. We are also developing relationships with commercial partners for benefits packages for FSF members.

On a personal note, the FSF has been able to reimburse me for my loss of earnings in my role as Chair, although I only claim for 80% of the time I spend on FSF work, so that I am making a voluntary contribution to match that of my colleagues, and do not make any claim for weekend or evening work. When the long-term funding position is a little clearer, I think Federation will be able to review the most appropriate model for funding its executive and non-executive teams.

I would like to conclude by thanking my fellow officers and members of the Executive and National Council, and the FSF staff, both the support I have received from them and for their outstanding contributions, much of it unsung and unseen, and much of it beyond the call of duty, to what we are trying to achieve. We are, in my view, already a formidable team. But we can, with your support, get even better.

CLUB GOVERNANCE

Malcolm Clarke

Earlier in the year, I was able to use my position as an FA Councillor to promote, and eventually achieve, a small but perhaps symbolic FA rule change requiring all clubs to lay their accounts before a members or shareholders meeting, following the removal of this requirement from Company law. This was achieved through membership of a sub-committee of the FA Membership Committee and the Football Regulatory Authority (FRA).

Perhaps our most significant work in this area has been the production, jointly with Supporters Direct, of the two papers, one on the Football Creditors rule (produced in response to an invitation from the Chair of the FRA, following my speaking on this topic at the FA Council) and one in response to the “7 questions” on club governance and finances posed to the football authorities in autumn 2008 by Rt. Hon. Andy Burnham, Secretary of State at DCMS. The same FA sub-committee which dealt with the accounts issue mentioned above, will consider these papers, which will give me a chance to make direct input into those deliberations.

Both those papers are very high quality and have received praise from various quarters. They are a testament to the ability and expertise of the colleagues in both the FSF and SD who produced them.

We also had an opportunity to discuss some of these issues with UEFA when we visited them for the FSI meeting. We are supportive of the views and approach taken by Michel Platini on issue such as club debt, despite the near xenophobic response to some of his ideas by sections of the British Press.

On the FA Membership Committee I have also been able to take forward discussions about altering the criteria for FA Membership to include governance issues. In all, a year of slow but steady progress in this area.

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Andrew Fleming

Main issues in my policy area this season:

Europa Cup

One of the major changes for the 2009/10 season has taken place in Europe with the Europa Cup more than just a name changes. For those Premiership teams (Everton, Aston Villa, Fulham) who have qualified this means

Twelve Groups and Champions League Entrants

The UEFA Europa League will feature 204 matches plus the final. The group stage will comprise 48 sides, split into 12 groups of four. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the knockout phase and will be joined by the eight clubs that finish the group stage of the UEFA Champions League in third place. The knockout stage, with 32 sides and four rounds, will lead to the final, played in a single match at a neutral venue. There will be four qualifying rounds instead of the current two, with an increased number of clubs as a result of the incorporation of places from the discontinued UEFA Intertoto Cup.

In total to win the UEFA Europa Cup clubs will play 6 group games (the same applies for the teams dropping in from the Champions League), 4 knockout rounds prior to the final = 8 games and therefore a total of 14 games to reach the final.

Games Continue on Thursday matches = More games Moved to Sunday

UEFA Europa League ties will be played on a Thursday night – or on a Wednesday night during exclusive UEFA Europa League weeks – with two kick-off times, in principle at 19.00 and 21.05CET according to local situations.

Fulham have already commented that their focus for 2009-10 will remain being competitive in the Premier League with Roy Hodgson saying that the club had to have a realistic attitude towards the Europa Cup. This was perhaps seen during the 2008-09 season where both Manchester City and Tottenham found the going particularly difficult juggling the then UEFA cup and Premier League. The changes to the Europa Cup represent a move more towards the Champions League which manages to maintain real momentum even throughout the league structure changes. In July I will be attending the FSI meeting in Hamburg where the issue of European Competition is likely to be a discussion point.

Premier League 2?

In recent months a number of articles have been published in relation to a Premier League 2 (a second tier approach). The basics of these proposals we understand to be

- Create two 18 team divisions called Premier League One and Premier League 2
- Allow only one side to be relegated (and one promoted) each year between the Premier League 2 and the Football League
- Invite Celtic and Rangers to join the second tier league

- Introduce a winter, mid season break
- Implement a salary cap based on clubs' annual turnovers
- Potential introduction of Premier League knock out competition

Clearly this should set a few alarm bells ringing but these remain 'articles in the paper'. No doubt the Football League will have some say in the matter as this is not an issue for just those at the top end of the pyramid but would lead to structural changes below. We need to stay close to this and be ready to respond if this looks like having the potential to gather any momentum.

Cup Replays

Can replays stand the test of time? The Carling Cup moved away from replays without much of an outcry – but the FA Cup is surely more of a sacred cow? The issue around Cup replays arose in January 2009 amid reports that so called 'bigger' clubs would rather play one off games to reduce the number of games being played in a season – this has since been denied however it is true Managers would like to see less games and so it can be expected this could arise again – indeed in the FA trophy Wrexham did make provisional enquiries about finishing their cup tie with Workington without any Replay: this was never invoked and in the end a replay was never required

Plans for my policy area next season:

- Debate on Cup replays – do we support
- Policy on PL2 proposals and action plan to ensure we are ready to act

DIVERSITY

Anne-Marie Mockridge

The main issue that has dominated this last season without doubt has been the homophobic/racist chanting from Spurs fans against former player & Portsmouth captain Sol Campbell.

The offence took place at Fratton Park in September of last year and it then took a further eight months before any prosecutions took place. To date 11 were arrested of which four pleaded guilty and each received a 3-year banning order and a fine, three fans were given police cautions and two youths were given final warnings, yet 100's were filmed chanting the abuse on CCTV. In May 2 fans were prosecuted for 'indecent chanting'. What is disturbing is that one of the 2 prosecuted was at the time only 13 years of age.

Both the adult and child were eventually charged with 'indecent' chanting rather than specific charges of homophobic/racist abuse. During the trial both fans stated that they did not feel that they had behaved unreasonably and that they wholeheartedly believed their behaviour and language did not overstep the mark of what is acceptable at a football match.

If supporters still see this sort of behaviour as acceptable, then I'm afraid that our work and the work of the football authorities and other agencies in general has still a long way to go before we can achieve the same acceptable levels of monitoring, reporting and self-policing that we have with regards to racist incidents in society today.

Looking back over the season I am pleasantly surprised at the amount of activities the group as a whole have been involved with. Without doubt the most enjoyable and rewarding of these has been the 'Never Watch Alone' initiative set up by the Wigan Learning Disability Partnership together with Wigan Athletic FC and Wigan Warriors R.L. Club, giving supporters with learning difficulties the opportunity to experience the weekly matchday rituals we all enjoy such as the pre/post match get-together in the pub etc, with mainstream fans & their 'matchday buddy'.

We are also delighted to have been able to support N.A.D.S (National Association of Disabled Supporters) with their successful roadshows in Birmingham and Middlesbrough which gives both disabled fans and disabled supporters' groups an opportunity to meet and discuss the various issues they face at home and away games and also for those fans lucky enough to be following their club in Europe or the England national team on their travels.

Throughout the season we have established strong links with various groups including Kick It Out, N.A.D.S, The Justin Campaign, G.F.S.N (Gay Football Supporters Network) to name but a few, and look forward to strengthening these links and offering continued support to all who we work with.

Looking forward to the forthcoming year it does seem that the Sol Campbell incident highlights the need for us to continue to focus our work in the area of homophobia and therefore the feedback session from today's workshop will hopefully give an indication on what steps we need to be taking and what objectives the group need to work towards.

On a personal level, I can honestly say I have enjoyed the challenges the group have faced this year, and if I were to be re-elected I would be happy to continue to lead the group again next season.

DOMESTIC GAMES ABROAD

Mark Longden

Committees:
NC/EC

Main issues in my policy area this season:

There has been very little in this area this year. There is the odd rumour but nothing of any real significance consequently I have spent the year working on the Policing issue. I assisted in the section 27 case and am also helping with the FSF "Legal aid" initiative

Activity in my policy area this season:

Very little

Plans for my policy area next season:

Keep a close eye ready to mobilise when games abroad reappears on the agenda.

Other activity, plans and comments:

I will be keeping a close involvement with the legal activities to try to ensure supporters get a fair deal whether elected or not.

FIXTURES WORKING PARTY & SUPPORTERS DIRECT

Ian Todd

Supporter representation on this body continues to be valued on both sides and I trust my perspective is considered by both the Premier and Football Leagues to contribute positively to what is a complex process. As well as the implications of fitting in the fixtures of the restructured Europa League, next season's calendar also needs to account for two irregular complications, namely the release of players for the World Cup and England's staging of the European Champions League Final at Wembley.

Fan concern about long distance midweek fixtures will never disappear as it is simply impossible to avoid such games completely. I know – I've tried at meetings to prevent a particular fixture and only ended up causing several other clubs longer journeys on that date in order to save one club a huge trip. What I can assure you, though, is that my constant quibbling on this point does now energise the compilers to reduce my opportunities to identify likely causes for complaint. And I have little more than half an hour at the June meeting of the Working Party to scan the final draft of fixtures and pick out games worth challenging.

As well as my best endeavours to minimise travel difficulties, there is still much to be done to persuade television companies not to add to supporters' leave and travel plans by moving long distance games away from the traditional Saturday kick-off time and I know colleagues on Council have this in hand.

Supporters Direct

I continue to represent Federation as a co-opted full Board member of Supporters Direct and our Chairman, Malcolm Clarke, also attends each Board meeting briefly to report on his involvement on the FA Council where he represents both organisations. .

Dave Boyle's elevation to the role of Chief Executive at SD created the need to fill the role he formerly performed as Company Secretary. That role is now undertaken by Clare Oakley on a part-time attachment from the Cooperative Movement and already her vast experience in that field is reaping benefit in the upgrading of many internal procedures and regulatory practice. One of the proposals to amend Federation's Bye-Laws is a direct mimic of an improvement SD has recently adopted, showing once more the benefit of the two organisations working as a partnership. AS prime examples, during the course of the year the two organisations collaborated in submitting joint submissions to the FA on the Football Creditors Rule and to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on Football's Finance and Governance.

The Supporters Trust movement continues to flourish, and is in the process of spreading its wings into Rugby League. Meanwhile those who attended the European Fans' Parliament which followed our own at the Emirates last year will be pleased to learn of further progress towards the establishment of an ongoing pan-European partnership of supporter organisations, the next steps towards which are due to take place in Hamburg on July 17th-19th July, at which an FSF delegation will be present.

LAW & TECHNOLOGY

Pam Wilkins

FIFA/IFAB met in Belfast on 28th February 2008

Decisions made were:-

1. Not to pursue the sin bin idea.
2. To withdraw the proposal for a 20 minute half-time.
3. To continue to study the idea of a fourth substitute where a match goes into extra time.
4. To Continue to experiment with the idea of extra goal-line officials.
5. The wording of the offside law was clarified where a defender leaves the field of play without the referees permission....."Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall, until he returns to the field, to be considered to be on his own goal-line or touchline for the purposes of offside.
6. Rule for penalty shoot-outs clarified. Teams participating in a penalty shoot out must be even numbered. Where one side has one or more players more than its opponents it must nominate one or more players to be excluded from the shoot-out to even up the numbers. Those excluded take no further part in the shoot out.

Further to this, following a recent two day meeting of Fifa's executive committee in Nassau, it was announced that next season's Europa League (formerly the Uefa Cup), will be the testing ground for games using five officials.

The trial will see two extra assistant referees standing one behind each goal, who will communicate with the referee by headset.

Fifa President, Sepp Blatter, who last season decided not to go ahead with the Hawkeye Goal-line technology system, well on it's way to being ready to use, stated that Fifa had been looking for somewhere to experiment with the extra goal line assistant system and had found a solution to work with Uefa in the Europa League.

FIFA and the IFAB ordered a trial of the system last year as an alternate to video replays or goal-line technology.

The extra goal-line assistants have already been trialled, with reported success, at some of last year's under-19 European Championship qualifying matches.

Reports from the U19 games indicate that having an extra official on each goal-line not only promoted better decision making on suspected fouls, but also had a preventative effect on shirt-pulling at free kicks and corners, diving in the penalty area and dissent.

I will continue to monitor any changes to the Laws of the game or introduction of new technology.

POLICING & STEWARDING

Ash Connor

An eventful year culminated in probably the FSF's greatest achievement, certainly in policing terms, as we defeated the Greater Manchester Police following their use of the controversial Section 27 legislation.

Tactics such as the use of Section 27 only serve to galvanise supporters in their quest for fair treatment at the hands of the police and it was heart warming to see the reaction of the Stoke supporters in Irlam and the Plymouth supporters in Doncaster. This really was a step too far for them and they decided enough was enough.

At times like the aforementioned it must be a huge relief to those involved to know that there is someone to turn to for help and I'm delighted the FSF were ready, willing & able to do just that.

The FSF would not have achieved the result it did against the use of Section 27 without the assistance of the Civil Rights group Liberty. Members of Liberty involved in the cases will be in attendance at Fans Parliament and I hope members attending the event will afford them the hospitality they deserve. I am certain that this is the start of a beautiful & rewarding relationship.

Colleagues in the newly formed North East division came up with a super initiative this season called 'Fair Cop' which entailed surveying supporters in the North East who were consistently complaining of their treatment at the hands of the police, especially at 'derby' matches.

The two Sunderland – Newcastle derby games at the end of 2008 were targeted and 10,000 flyers were handed out inviting fans to contribute their observations. The response was such that organizers of the scheme were able to pass to the Club, police & authorities a number of recommendations.

The Rail Football Forum is still on track albeit at an even slower pace than I reported last year! Unfortunately the logistics of that particular group are beyond our control.

I, along with colleagues, have attended our regular meetings with ACPO & the UK Football Policing Unit where we continually raise supporters concerns and I would like to offer my best wishes for the future to the outgoing ACPO Lead on football, ACC Steve Thomas, who is relinquishing the role to concentrate on his day job, the policing of the 2012 Olympic games. Steve's successor is ACC Andy Holt of South Yorkshire police who we have yet to meet. The FSF website has been further developed this year to include a 'Fan in Trouble' section full of useful advice about your rights and also sections about Section 27 and the 'Fair Cop' initiative. Please check out these informative articles by logging on to www.fsf.org.uk

I would like to finish my report by thanking all those colleagues and members at the FSF who have offered support of any kind during the past twelve Months but a special thanks to new kid on the block, Amanda Jacks, who, amongst her many other pieces of work, was instrumental in enlisting the help of Liberty. Let's hope the coming season provides all you want it to and remember, whatever you get up to, keep it legal and decent!

SAFE STANDING

Phill Gatenby

The campaign has continued to develop behind the scenes nationally and openly in localised areas.

Campaigns have taken place at clubs such as Bradford City, where a fans group has been formed and are very active / vocal. Ideally we would like to see fans of other clubs picking up and running with this model too.

In some instances, clubs such as Morecambe, have come out and said their new stadium will be built with standing areas (they do not require any Football Foundation finances to support the new stadium - this funding can only fund all seated areas). The FSF has had private talks with a small number of other clubs looking to relocate and have discussed with them options available to them.

Since the turn of the year, The FSF decided not to campaign directly on safe standing areas due to the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster. we felt that if we had done so, the media or other quarters would have used this against us - so the decision to cease the campaign until the summer and then begin with a re-launch was felt the best way forward.

The re-launch also sees the campaign with a new FSF safe standing leader. After almost 10 years of campaigning on this issue (7 years with the FSF) I made the decision to not seek election at this years conference - nothing to do with a dodgy expenses claim either!)

To be honest, the campaigning has drained me and with a change of job in January, I felt it was time to move on and let a fresh face, with more energy than I have, take the lead. So I am delighted to hand over to Colin Hendrie - who has also worked closely with the Bradford City campaign over the past few seasons - who I know will take the campaign on to the next level and hopefully to a positive conclusion.

I would just like to finish by thanking anyone and everyone who has supported me in the safe standing campaign over the years and for the friendships gained too. I will always be just an email away to support the campaign in any way I can.

Colin Hendrie

Following on from Phill's report I would like to formally thank him for everything he has done in the Safe Standing context over the past decade and more. Phill is going to be a tough act to follow but his hard slog has laid firm foundations on which to build this new phase of the campaign and thanks to this, I am hugely optimistic that we will be successful.

TV CONTRACTS

Neil Maskell

The issues surrounding televised coverage of football continue to affect supporters at all levels of the game. Whether it be matters of matches moved at short notice at the whim of television companies, fairer distribution of the enormous riches accrued by television deals, the impact of midweek televised European matches on pyramid football or any subject in between, everyone has an opinion on this subject area. Given the increase in revenue to the Premier League from their most recent television deal in the face of financially uncertain times, these issues are seemingly here to stay.

Ahead of the new television deal announced by the Premier League earlier this year, I wrote to all 20 Premier League clubs and the Premier League itself to urge the stakeholders to consider when renewing the contracts their greatest asset – the supporters. Amongst the proposals put to the clubs and the Premier League itself were a requirement for television companies to reimburse any expenses incurred by supporters when fixtures are moved at short notice (a motion which was passed at the Fans Parliament in 2008) with match facility fees used to compensate where possible, a maximum number of televised league matches per club per season to be introduced and for clubs competing in Thursday night UEFA Cup matches to be preferred for subsequent Sunday television coverage to avoid the decimation of the Saturday football programme. Only 3 Premier League clubs (West Bromwich Albion, Liverpool and Sunderland) as well as the Premier League itself deigned to reply. Conference can perhaps draw its own conclusions as to how much the country's top clubs really care about whether their supporters are inconvenienced by the desire to covet the riches afforded by television coverage.

Following a number of complaints throughout the season from followers of Blue Square Premier clubs regarding Setanta's coverage and specifically the alteration of fixtures to suit the broadcaster's needs, I wrote to Setanta to request a meeting with them. Setanta – unlike SKY who have never once replied to any of my queries over the course of the season – were keen to meet with us and a meeting at their Headquarters in London was convened in March. Three National Council representatives attended the meeting which was felt to be constructive and a start towards building a working relationship between the Football Supporters Federation and the television companies. It is surely in best interest of our members that the Federation try to work alongside rather than against the broadcasting companies in order to get a fairer deal for supporters.

The emotive nature of the subject area was proven if ever it needed to be to National Council members who took Setanta's invitation to spend an evening behind the scenes of their coverage of a Blue Square Premier fixture at Kingfield, Woking in late March. Shortly before kick-off, the floodlights failed due to a fault with local sub-station. This obviously was no fault of Setanta's, but the visiting Cambridge supporters didn't agree (after all, were the game not moved for television coverage it would not have been played on a Monday evening anyway, thus making any power cut on a Saturday afternoon an irrelevance!) and they verbalised their grievances with Setanta with a number of rather vocal chants against the broadcaster. The Setanta team felt that this was unfair on them but this incident goes to prove how alienated the genuine match-going fan feels by television coverage and shows how much work there is to do in this policy area.

Sadly, due to issues with my work I have tendered my resignation from the National Council after just one year. This gives an opportunity for fresh blood on the Council, and I will assist my successor in attempting to make the most of the contacts which we have made. The aims for this policy area for the new season should be to continue to air grievances with the

broadcasting companies, the clubs and the administrators and to remind them that the supporters should always be of their utmost concern. After all, the product of televised football would be far less lucrative were it to be played out before a back-drop of empty stadia.

DEPUTY CHAIR'S REPORT

Jon Keen

Since FP last year I have attended numerous meetings on behalf of the Federation – these are itemised in the Secretary's meeting report.

Amongst other incidental activities, I have been working on a proposal for a new membership scheme, which has been accepted by National Council and will be implemented from the start of the next football season. I will be presenting a verbal report of this to Fans' Parliament delegates, but key points are summarised below :

Changes for Individual Members

- Membership will change to a “zero-cost” scheme for individual members
- All individual members will be entitled to attend and vote at relevant FSF divisional and national meetings, and will be entitled to receive membership benefits, including legal advice if arrested. Other membership benefits to be added in future
- “The Football Supporter” will become a subscription-based magazine, with members receiving an initial free copy when their membership commences
- Members will be encouraged to donate money to the FSF, which the choice of which campaign/activity their money is used on (e.g. legal assistance fund, safe-standing campaign, etc)

Changes for Affiliate Members

- Affiliate membership will change to a “zero-cost” scheme – affiliates will still have to confirm that they are properly and democratically constituted before being allowed to join
- Items such as travel insurance (and other potential future affiliate benefits) will be available as “added-cost” extras for affiliates
- All members of affiliates will be entitled to FSF individual membership benefits. For this we either need the affiliate to advise us of their member details (subject to Data Protection Act provisions) or send, on our behalf, a communication to their members advising them how to register with us and claim their FSF membership benefits.
- Proposal to increase the voting rights of affiliate members from 3 to 5 votes in order to lessen the effect of increased individual membership.
-

“Wealth Distribution & Impact of the Premier League” Policy Group Report

Our policy in this area is well-established and there has been minimal activity except providing figures (e.g. Premier league season ticket holders' demographic information) for media and NC colleagues.

A major pro-active task this year has been the preparation of the FSF National Supporters' Survey 2009, which has been designed to capture the attitudes and experiences of ordinary supporters at all levels of the game across England and Wales.

It is anticipated that this will provide us with invaluable data on many campaign areas, not least pricing, safe-standing, wealth distribution, club governance as well as policing and stewarding.

This survey is now complete and will be released shortly after Fans 'Parliament, with results to be announced early in the season.

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Ken Malley

Fans' Embassies

To regular England followers, our Fans' Embassies have become an integral part of their trip; the FreeLions fanzine a 'must-have' magazine for information and relaxation. The fans of Manchester United enjoyed them again, as 'Away Goals', the Champions' League Final sister fanzine of FreeLions, made its third appearance. And Portsmouth fans became the first to receive a Club specific 'Away Goals – Euro Chimes' on their all-too-brief foray into Europe.

Kev Miles continues to oversee the Embassies and all activities connected to them.

The first foreign trip for England since the last fans' Parliament, was a déjà-vu visit to Barcelona for a competitive match against Andorra less than two years on from our last meeting. This trip stood out for only one reason, your writer of this report, who spends Fans' Embassy trips warning travellers of the perils of thieves and pick-pockets, did the recce and succeeded in getting his mobile phone stolen.

Our trip to Zagreb was much improved on the last, when police attacked English fans with batons with little to no provocation. Policing this time was considerably fairer and a 4-1 victory completed an enjoyable trip. A couple of arrests of fans and the resulting missing of return flights, gave our team some extra work as did finding an interpreter in the middle of the night, for another fan who had ended up in hospital after a fall. Fortunately her injuries were minimal and she completed her trip

After the previous year's dreadful experiences in Russia, our visit to Belarus ("Little Russia") was approached with some trepidation. But Minsk proved to be a friendly, inviting host city and our work was mostly limited to the usual giving of directions and ticket advice. Berlin in November was cold and wet but thousands of supporters made the trip, encouraged no doubt by the 2006 World Cup experience. But a victory, against one of our bitterest rivals, in their own backyard, dispelled the cold and, along with ongoing German hospitality, made this another trip to remember. Problems were few but did lead to one notable success after confusion over free travel on matchday. Although travel within the city was free, as expected, if you could show a match ticket, some travel from outside was charged. This was taken up with the authorities afterwards and people who had contacted us were sent a full refund.

I write this from Almaty where England play Kazakhstan. We have watched 2000 police/soldiers practising at the stadium and can see that the 1200 fans travelling should be in safe hands. Our usual base in a major town square has not been possible and we must operate from the hotel lobby. But the weather is marvellous and those walking the streets can at least enjoy the balmy conditions.

All trips are preceded by a recce by Kev and by the time you read this he will have spent a week in South Africa, with the FA, in preparation for our hoped-for visit in 2010 for the World Cup.

Again at the request of the Government, Kev ran an Embassy for the Manchester United supporters in Rome for the Champions' League Final. Apparently his biggest problem was his inability to disguise his Geordie accent and the Mancs glee at the relegation of Newcastle. Otherwise, despite many thousands without match tickets, things went well.

We celebrated Portsmouth's first ever serious European competition with the first ever club – specific FSF magazine. Using the Champions' League Final as a base, we decided to give the magazine a Club reference and called it "Away Goals – Euro Chimes".

Raising sponsorship was the most difficult part of the operation. The breakthrough came when the Club agreed to cover the costs of the fanzine. A sponsor was found for the telephone help-line and a 12 page fanzine was launched. FreeLions was used as the template and their tried and tested formulas were utilised in what proved to be a very successful launch. By the second game people were looking for 'Euro Chimes' and copies of the first edition were already selling on E-bay. Three more potential sponsors were by then in negotiations and the magazine was increased to 16 pages for the third edition. The team then ruined the day by being eliminated from the competition.

By far the most important role for the Portsmouth volunteers was to keep people abreast of the ticketing situation for games. Even the games when the away allocation was not sold out, many travelled without tickets. The next most sought-after information was travel related and a busy help-line was proof that people were reading their fanzines.

I would again offer my thanks to the volunteers that give up their time to hand out any of these fanzines, home and away, be it at England games or the Champions' League Final or (probably for the first and last time) Portsmouth in Europe. For every day in the sunshine there is another in the rain and cold and it is surprising how wet you can get, standing in one place for three or four hours.

No TeamGB

A subject that is interesting more and more fans of the Home Countries national sides, is the British Government's and the British Olympic Association's determination to have mens' and womens' football teams representing Great Britain at the 2012 Olympics in this country. Although supported by the English FA, the other three football associations had maintained a united front against the idea. They have though, recently adjusted their stance to permit the English to submit a team under the GB banner, although still refusing permission for their players to take part.

A survey conducted on the FSF website found that the majority of fans were against the idea and recent FSF meetings and Englandfans meetings have found this still to be true. The FSF therefore are part of the NoTeamGB campaign, alongside the Welsh, Scots and Irish. Fans of all four countries are concerned that a joint GB team for the first time since the Olympics became non-amateur, would set a precedent and could, ultimately, affect our rights to field four independent teams and jeopardise our privileged places in the running of FIFA.

European Club and International Information on the Website

The ongoing work on the European version of the FSF website Ground Guide for English and Welsh clubs, started by Dani Wurbs, has been taken over by Garreth Cummins (as International Officer), a member of the NW & NWales Division and active Liverpool supporter. Guides for European games involving English clubs continue to be posted on the FSF website. A detailed data-base for all European grounds continues to be built.

International Supporters' Groups

Following the success in 2008 at the Emirates, of the very first European Fans' Congress, Dani Wurbs is busily arranging the second; this time in Hamburg. Dani, after last year's success, has left us in order to lead the Football Supporters International Co-ordinating Centre in Hamburg. She will again oversee the planning of the second Congress, this year in Hamburg.

UEFA continue to recognise the importance of the input of fans and are covering the costs of the Congress as well as their yearly contributions towards the running of the Football Supporters Europe (a slightly changed name from the original Football Supporters International).

UEFA asked Kev Miles to advise on, and then observe and report on the running of, all Fans' Embassies in Switzerland and Austria during Euro 2008 and so he spent three weeks driving nearly three thousand miles reporting on twelve venues.

In early April, Kev attended a UEFA organised day of meetings in Nyon This consisted of a half-day meeting with UEFA officials, including Michel Platini, and small breakout fans' meetings designed to ensure that all fans' groups agreed a unified course of action particularly around plans for the second European Fans' Congress. At UEFA's invitation, the Fans' Embassy department of FSE agreed a proposal for a three year project focussing on developing the provision of Fans' Embassies at Euro 2012.

Kev has continued to work closely with the regional branches of England supporters' groups, and is a frequent panel member at their Forums.

Finance

With continued funding from the Government and the ongoing sponsorship of the Fans' Embassies by Nationwide, the England International side of the FSF remains completely self-funding.

The Future

As usual we will continue to provide a Fans' Embassy service at all England games with trips to Holland for a friendly and the Ukraine in the World Cup looming large. Much time will be spent on preparation for the WC Finals in South Africa. Following the success of the guide book to Germany in 2006, a repeat production for SA is a must. Hopefully backed by a free text messaging service again as well as some new ideas that we have for even more innovative methods of conveying information.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Peter Daykin

With our communications infrastructure and systems now very much in place, the 2008-09 football season has been an exercise in network-building and strengthening relationships. Without a high-profile public flash-point, such as last year's "GAM£ 39" campaign, attention has been focussed on managing our key strategic relationships with press, supporters' groups, members and supporting organisations.

A lot of the FSF's activity has this year been focussed on "behind-the-scenes" campaigning – with Liberty's valuable assistance, our "Watching Football is Not a Crime" campaign saw colleagues investing months of work into the cat and mouse machinations of a complex legal case against the Greater Manchester Police Force. From a communications perspective this requires a completely different approach to the mass participation, supporter-led campaigning we are used to.

Walking the tight-rope between keeping members informed and not compromising the excellent work of our colleagues and partner organisations has required great professionalism, expertise and subtlety. Michael Brunskill in the FSF office has done an extremely good job protecting the defence throughout this process, and when news that Stoke fans have been awarded meaningful damages by the GMP finally arrived, nobody was happier than him to get up the other end and convert a few PR open goals!

That the likes of the Guardian's Henry Porter, a respected journalist in the field of civil rights and a man not exactly renowned for his theories on the merits of the 4-2-3-1 system, includes such high praise on his blog as: "Wrestling apologies from the police and fighting for the rights of football fans, the FSF is an unlikely new civil liberties crusader", owes a lot to Michael's broad knowledge of the journalistic landscape and enthusiastic relationship-building skills.

Activity in my policy area this season:

At the end of her first year in post, Nina Donkin has now had a chance to understand and tune the FSF's membership systems, a task she has set about with great diligence and humour. The youngest member of the FSF office team, and the smallest in stature, it will come as no surprise to hear that Nina bosses us all around and keeps us right. To which end, her many efforts in handling the problems, challenges and questions of the FSF's members are greatly appreciated.

The five issues of The Football Supporter produced this season have, I think, improved further the growing reputation of the Federation's flagship publication. According to the generous feedback we receive, the title is enjoyed by a diverse and eclectic readership, embracing both the terrace-going hoi polloi and the movers and shakers of the decision-making footballing world.

In that respect, this season has been something of a learning curve for all of us – some of the dignitaries of the FA Council, for example, do not always appreciate the coarse language of the average fan, as we have found to our cost!

I could not write this report without mentioning the extremely testing year suffered by my co-editor on The Football Supporter, Jez Robinson. Jez has been through much on a personal level since last year's Fans' Parliament, and if the fact that he has managed to continue to produce magazines at all in this period is not impressive enough, the consistent quality of Jez's contribution has been superb. We are sorry that Jez does not feel able to continue to work full-time in the FSF office, but grateful for his continued association with the organisation on a freelance basis.

Mark Platt of Action Images also deserves special recognition, both for his efficient and generous assistance in providing photographs for the magazine and for suffering the indignation of torrential abuse at his love of Wolverhampton Wanderers (or "Retro-Sunderland" as we like to call them). We'll look forward to seeing you in the Premiership next season Mark.

Meanwhile, in cyberspace, the FSF website has become ever-more established in its paradoxical dual role as the organisation's shop window and back office. Traffic to the website has remained consistently high – nearly 14,000 people a month read over 20,000 of our pages – and that in a year without a central public campaign to drive averages upwards.

Some of this has been due to the able contribution of Garreth Cummins who has come in on the international team to manage, develop and promote the FSF's international Ground Guide. His efforts will be documented more fully, no doubt, elsewhere in this report, but suffice it to say that he has ably filled the extremely colourful and outlandishly styled shoes of Dani Wurbs, who left us at Christmas to set up Football Supporters Europe in Hamburg.

In the context of the website, I would like to put on record my thanks to our corporate partners EA SPORTS and Blue Square betting, who make much of the work there possible, with their generous financial support. Thanks particularly to Dan Holman and the strawberry-beer-drinking champion of Gateshead, Matt Cook.

Most of the FSF's members, and nearly all of its activists, are extremely media-savvy and many have a very strong idea of how the FSF should be putting ourselves forward as an organisation. Naturally, those ideas don't always tally with mine and to those colleagues I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued patience, good humour and willingness to trust my judgement and that of the office staff, both when we're right and when we're wrong!

Plans for the FSF's Communications and Publications next season:

If the enforced departure of Jez from the FSF office can possibly have any kind of upside it is that it has allowed a re-shuffle of roles and the arrival of David Rose to concentrate on corporate partnerships, sponsorship and members' benefits.

After just a few short weeks, David's vast experience in banking, finance and property have already proved invaluable, and he has hit the ground running on his brief to explore new commercial revenue streams for the Federation.

The changes to the membership system proposed at this year's Fans' Parliament increase further the potential both for the Federation to offer meaningful benefits to members and also

to benefit themselves from stronger commercial partnerships. David's extremely challenging role next season will be to see if he can convert this potential into actions.

Clearly, such fundamental alterations to the membership structure will have profound and challenging implications for both Nina (membership) and Michael (press and PR) and there will be no let up if we hope to be anywhere near ready to handle free membership by the start of the new season.

FSF CYMRU

Paul Corkrey

The FSF Cymru committee deals specifically with Wales International matches. We provide information to assist supporters before and during travel, we also run fans' embassies at away matches.

We have a strong committee base of eight members although there are three of us who take on most of the responsibilities with the support of the committee.

Last season we produced five information booklets for the fans with assistance from British embassies abroad and also by occasionally doing our own reconnaissance trips when necessary.

We ran three full embassies to assist fans at Borussia in Germany, Moscow and Baku in Azerbaijan...we also were present to assist fans at games in Denmark and Portugal.

Our main role is assisting fans with passport problems, lost monies, situations involving the police, medical problems and generally offering information, it has taken quite a few years but FSF Cymru is definitely getting the respect of the Welsh fans and the Football Association of Wales who are happy to meet with us to discuss concerns that the fans may have.

For the recent game in Azerbaijan, we had to intervene, with the help of Kevin Miles and Steve Powell, to ensure the Wales fans got visas in time for their trip...the relationship built up with the Home Office and partners meant that the problem was solved amicably and the Welsh fans got their passports and visas back in time to travel.

We attend meetings at the Home Office when required and we also hold committee meetings. We are fortunate to have Vince Alm on the Executive Committee of the FSF and we are allowed a co-opted member on the National council, a role which Paul Corkrey fills. We try to attend all council meetings and very rarely miss a meeting.

We attended the Football Supporters International meeting in Hamburg during the spring and will attend the Annual International fans congress in Hamburg in July.

For next season we will continue to look at ways to improve the service we provide, and also look at getting more feedback from the supporters. We want to keep taking fans' opinions to the Football Association of Wales and getting their point of view not only heard but actioned...too often good ideas are taken to the FAW and then not followed through.

On the football side our football team has failed again to qualify and the fan base is dropping alarmingly, the hope is that the young players coming through will get better results and the crowds will start returning in numbers to support them.

We are looking forward to next season and we have to run our final two embassies of this campaign in Norway and Lichtenstein.

SECRETARY'S MEETING REPORT

Mike Williamson

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

Meeting	Date	Subject	FSF delegate/ representative
FSF Fans' Parliament	04 July 2008	AGM	
FSF National Council	04 July 2008	Post AGM meeting	
International Fans' Congress	06 July 2008	Hosted by FSF	
FA	11 July 2008	FA Summer meeting	M Clarke
Kick It Out	15 July 2008	Anti racism Steering Group	S Powell
Taunton Town FC	17 July 2008	FC AGM & Fans' Forum	K Malley
ACPO	21 July 2008	Annual conference	A Connor, A Jacks
Superleague Formula motor racing project	23 July 2008	Workshop on football related motor racing plans	A Jacks
FSF Executive Committee	28 July 2008	Management meeting	
Rail Football Forum	29 July 2008	Working group	A Connor, K Malley
FA	29 July 2008	FA Disciplinary procedures review	M Clarke
Superleague Formula motor racing project	01 August 2008	Workshop on football related motor racing plans	A Connor
Exeter City FC	03 August 2008	Community Fun day inc. FSF recruitment	K Malley
FA	12 August 2008	FA membership committee	M Clarke
FSF/A19 review meeting	14 August 2008	Liaison review	FSF officers
FSF	17 August 2008	National Council	

J Leech MP	19 August 2008	Safe Standing discussions	M Clarke, P Gatenby
British Transport Police	21 August 2008	General meeting	A Jacks
Supporters Direct	05 September 2008	Board meeting	M Clarke
FSF Cymru	06 September 2008	AGM	
FA liaison	09 September 2008	FA club governance sub group	M Clarke
FA	10 September 2008	FA Disciplinary review	M Clarke
FA Council	16 September 2008	Council meeting	M Clarke
FA	19 September 2008	FA membership committee	M Clarke
FSF	21 September 2008	Southern Division Open meeting	
Labour Party Conference	22 September 2008	SD/FA reception	M Clarke
Manchester FA	25 September 2008	Liaison meeting	M Clarke
Conservative Party Conference	29 September 2008	SD/FA reception	M Clarke
Independent Football Ombudsman	30 September 2008	Premier League arranged - launch discussions	M Clarke, S Powell, C Hendrie, J Keen
Kick It Out	01 October 2008	Anti racism Steering Group	A-M Mockridge, S Powell
FSF	01 October 2008	Executive Committee	
ACPO	03 October 2008	Liaison meeting	A Connor, A Jacks, M Clarke
Barclaycard Panel	03 October 2008	Players' awards panel	M Brunskill
"Only a Game"	08 October 2008	Football exhibition	J Keen

"Football in the Social Sciences"	08 October 2008	Scientific conference & dinner	S Powell
FSF	12 October 2008	National Council	
Football & mental health	13 October 2008	Conference	C Hendrie
Newcastle United FC SC	13 October 2008	FSF meeting supporters club	M Brunskill, T Bradley
Liverpool City Council	14 October 2008	Safe Standing meeting with Council	M Clarke, P Gatenby
Supporters Direct	16 October 2008	National Conference & workshop	J Keen, M Clarke
NADS	07 November 2008	Meeting on "buddying" scheme proposals	A-M Mockridge M Clarke
International Football Arena	10 November 2008	International Conference - third world & related football	M Clarke
FSF	10 November 2008	AGM organisation committee	AGM group
FSF	11 November 2008	Executive Committee	
FA Council	12 November 2008	Council meeting	M Clarke
FSF	13 November 2008	Northeast Division open meeting	
Tyneside police	14 November 2008	FSF Northeast Division	S Bentley, K Walmsley
Crown Prosecution Service	20 November 2008	London police & prosecutors seminar - inc. FSF presentation	M Clarke
Manchester City FC	22 November 2008	Shadowing Match Commander	A Connor, A Jacks
FSF	23 November 2008	North West & North Wales Divisional meeting	First Open meeting
NADS	27 November 2008	Disabled fans' forum regional meeting	

Kick It Out	02 December 2008	Anti-racism steering group	A-M Mockridge
FSF	07 December 2008	National Council	
FA	08 December 2008	Diversity issues	A-M Mockridge
Man. Utd Supporters Trust	09 December 2008	Pricing press conference	M Clarke
Northwich Victoria Supporters Club	11 December 2008	Supporters meeting - FSF invited	M Clarke
NADS	08 January 2009	meeting on "buddying " scheme proposals	A-M Mockridge
Rail Football Forum	09 January 2009	Wrking group	A. Connor
ACPO	09 January 2009	Laison meeting	M Clarke, A Connor A Jacks, S Powell
Barclays Premier League	09 January 2009	Awards meeting/lunch	
FSF	11 January 2009	Yorkshire Division Open Meeting	
UEFA	12 January 2009	Club ownership Islamophobia & anti-semitism debate	M Clarke, S Powell
Houses of Parliament	13 January 2009		A-M Mockridge
FSF	18 January 2009	North West & North Wales Divisional meeting	
NADS	19 January 2009	Disability meeting	A-M Mockridge
FSF	19 January 2009	FSF finance organisation meeting	M Clarke, C Clark, K Malley, K Miles, V Alm, M Williamson
FSF	19 January 2009	AGM venue review	AGM Committee
FSF	21 January 2009	Executive Committee	
Football League	26 January 2008	Periodic liaison meeting with FSF	M Clarke, M Williamson, J Keen

Home Office	28 January 2009	FSF International reps. Meeting	
Rail Football Forum	30 January 2009	Working group	A Connor
NADS	02 February 2009	Meeting on "buddying " scheme proposals	A-M Mockridge M Clarke, J Keen, S Powell, M Williamson, D Boyle
FA	18 February 2009	Meeting with chair Lord Triesman	M Williamson, D Boyle
FSF	22 February 2009	National Council	
UEFA	23 February 2009	Fans' meeting	M Clarke, K Miles
FSI	23 February 2009	Steering group meeting	K Miles
FSF	24 February 2009	Homeless World Cup liaison meeting with FSF	M Brunskill, J Robinson
Merthyr Tydfil FC	26 February 2009	Cub crisis meeting - FSF invited	V Alm, P Corkrey
FA	27 February 2009	Review of FSF papers on Club Governance & Agents' Regulations	S Powell, B Boyle
Convention on Modern Liberty	28 February 2009	Meetings in various locations	S Powell
FA	02 March 2009	Review of FSF papers on Club Governance & Agents' Regulations	S Powell, B Boyle
FARE	03 March 2009	Conference - United Against Racism Europe	A-M Mockridge
FSF/A19 review meeting	05 March 2009	Periodic management meeting	EC & A19 reps
Building Bridges 3	06 March 2009	EGLSF Diversity Conference	A-M Mockridge
Kick It Out	10 March 2009	Anti-racism steering group	A-M Mockridge

Setanta TV	16 March 2009	Discussions on Football Conference televising	N Maskell, M Ogbourne, I Todd
UEFA	17 March 2009	Discussions on Champions' League Final in Rome	S Powell, K Miles
Setanta TV	20 March 2009	Monitoring match TV arrangements	N Maskell, M Ogbourne
FA	23 March 2009	Disability Discrimination Act update	S Powell
FSF	29 March 2009	NW & NW divisional meeting	
FSF	15 April 2009	Hillsborough Commemoration	Yorkshire Division
FSF	16 April 2009	Executive Committee	
FSF	16 April 2009	Midlands Division Re-launch meeting	Divisional invitees & EC members
FSF	19 April 2009	Southern Division AGM	
FSF	19 April 2009	Yorkshire Division AGM	
FSF	20 April 2009	AGM venue review	AGM Committee
FSF	26 April 2009	National Council	
PL Schools Tournament	09 May 2009	Tournament Final	A-M Mockridge
FSF	17 May 2009	SW Division AGM	
FA	18 May 2009	World Cup Bid Launch	
FSF	18 May 2009	NW/NW Division AGM	
FSF	20 May 2009	Executive Committee	

ACPO	22 May 2009	Liaison meeting	A Connor, A Jacks, M Clarke, S Powell
HM Inspectorate of Constabulary	28 May 2009	Public Order Policing	M Clarke, A Jacks, A Connor, S Powell
Barclays Premier League	22 May 2009	Luncheon	M Clarke
FSF	27 May 2009	NE Division AGM	
Kick It Out	02 June 2009	Anti-racism steering group	S Powell
Greater Manchester Police	03 June 2009	Meeting on Sec 27 policing issues	M Clarke, M Longden
Liberty	05 June 2009	AGM	M Clarke, J Keen
Liberty	06 June 2009	75th. Annual conference - inc. FSF Stand	M Clarke, J Keen
FSF Fans' Parliament - Newcastle On Tyne	20 June 2009	FSF AGM	
International Fans' Congress - Hamburg	17 July 2009	Football Supporters International	M Clarke, K Malley, K Miles, A Fleming, G Cummins, P Corkrey, G Bleanch, M Ogbourne, S Powell

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) ATTENDANCE RECORD 2008-2009

Total no. of meetings in 2008-2008 = 6

		Meetings attended	Meetings not attended		
			Apologies received for football related reasons	Apologies for other reasons	Apologies not received
Malcolm Clarke	<i>Chair</i>	6			
Jon Keen	<i>Deputy Chair</i>	6			
Mike Williamson	<i>Secretary</i>	6			
Mark Longden	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	6			
Ken Malley	<i>South West & South Wales Div. Rep</i>	5	1		
Vince Alm	<i>Directly elected NC member</i>	5		1	
Carroll Clark	<i>Treasurer</i>	4		2	
Phill Gatenby	<i>North West & North Wales Div. Rep- now retired</i>	3		1	

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL (NC) ATTENDANCE RECORD

2008-2009

Total no. of meetings in 2008-2009 = 5		Meetings attended	Meetings not attended		
			Apologies received for football-related reasons	Apologies for other reasons	Apologies not received
Elected members, inc. divisional representatives					
Jon Keen	Deputy Chair	5			
Malcolm Clarke	Chair	5			
Anne-Marie Mockridge	Directly elected NC member	5			
Ash Connor	Directly elected NC member	5			
Ian Lyon	Directly elected NC member	5			
Ian Todd	President	5			
Mike Williamson	Secretary	5			
Ken Malley	South West & South Wales Div. Rep	5			
Alan Bloore	Yorkshire Divisional Rep	5			
Monica Hartland	Directly elected NC member	5			
Neil Maskell	Directly elected NC member	5			
Peter Daykin	Directly elected NC member	5			
Carroll Clark	Treasurer	4	1		
Andrew Fleming	Directly elected NC member	4	1		
Paul Corkrey	FSFCymru	4	1		
Phill Gatenby	Directly elected NC member - now retired	4	1		
Amanda Jacks	Directly elected NC member	4		1	
Colin Hendrie	Directly elected NC member	4		1	
Mark Longden	Directly elected NC member	4		1	
Pam Wilkins	Southern Divisional Rep.	4		1	
Graham Bleanch	Northern Div. Rep.	3	2		
Kevin Miles	Directly elected NC member	3	2		
Vince Alm	Directly elected NC member	3	1	1	
Mark Ogbourne	Directly elected NC member	3		2	
Lindsay England	NW & NW Div. Rep. - now retired	2		3	
Non-elected persons in attendance					
Steven Powell	Director of Policy & Campaigns	3		1	
John Brockwell	Midlands Co-ordinator - optional attendance	1		1	
Gary Deards	NADS - optional attendance	2		3	
Tony Taylor	Supporters Direct - optional attendance	0		5	
Rob Bradley	Supporters Direct - optional attendance	2		2	
Dani Wurbs	Formerly of A19	2		1	
Michael Brunskill	A19 - optional attendance as necessary	5			
Jez Robinson	A19 - optional attendance as necessary	0		3	
Nina Donkin	A19 - optional attendance as necessary	3		1	
Gareth Cummins	A19 - optional attendance as necessary	2			
David Rose	A19 - optional attendance as necessary	1			



Fans' Parliament 2009

Divisional Reports

NORTH WEST & NORTH WALES DIVISION

Ian Lyon

Divisional Officers 2008-09

Chair	Carroll Clark
Dep Chair	Alan Galley
Secretary	Phill Gatenby
Treasurer	Ian Lyon
NC Rep	Lindsay England

The year was one of change and transition from the old North & North Wales division being split into its new three smaller divisions. Normal practice was to hold four meetings but sadly due to a number of reasons this had to be cut to three meetings.

The first was held in Liverpool, in November, where a wide range of topics were debated -

- Is Gam£ 39 dead?
- Football & The Credit Crunch
- Atmospheres & Standing
- Policing & Stewarding
- Team GB

The second meeting was held, January, in Llay (Wrexham). The topic were:

- Section 27
- Safe Standing
- Club Regulation & Insolvency
- Television Deals

The final meeting was Hyde in March, where various updates on current issues were given.

Also discussed were concessions for the elderly where the view was expressed it should be uniformed at 60. Concern was raised about clubs, especially at lower levels, having to travel long distances in their reserve league and whether regionalizing be introduced. Also expressed was concern that the England Women's team were very poorly paid in relation to the men's team.

The division's AMG was held May 18 in the Waldorf Pub in Piccadilly, Manchester. Both the Secretary and Divisional Rep stood down from their roles. The meeting expressed thanks both to Phill and Lindsay for their efforts on behalf of the division.

The meeting also held a debate on the future place and times of meetings. It was decide to hold all meeting in one central location with the Waldorf Pub being chosen on either a Monday or Thursday night.

The new officers were -

Chair	Carroll Clark
Dep Chair	Alan Galley
Secretary/Treasurer	Ian Lyon
Minutes Secretary	Luke Edwards

NC Rep

Ian Lyon

Finally, any supporters' club or individual that would like any issue on the agenda of a NW/NW meeting, please give 10 days notice to the divisional secretary, ian.lyon@fsf.org.uk.

This does not preclude any issue being raise in "any other business".

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Pam Wilkins

Elected Officers 2009/10

Chair	Jon Keen
Deputy Chair	Pam Wilkins
Secretary/Treasurer	Julie Beattie
Pyramid Officer	Mark Ogbourne
NC Delegate	Pam Wilkins

Sadly I must report during the past year, the deaths of Mary Farley from Brentford and David Stacey, Football Programme Directory.

There have been four Southern Division meetings since FP08, all of which have been reasonably well attended with a few new faces.

The meeting at *Wickford Community Centre, Essex, 21/09/08*, was hosted by David Stacey, something he enjoyed doing each year. We didn't realise at the time that this would be David's last meeting.

Southern Division had previously agreed that all funds would now be held and administered centrally by FSF. A budget for the 2008/09 season was agreed at a total of £1,850 to allow for Divisional meetings, Officers' meetings and contingency and incidental items. A donation of £50 was made to the Stroke Association in memory of Mary Farley.

Brighton's Sarah Watts reported homophobic abuse at Yeovil, and that a steward had been less than helpful when told. She had written to Yeovil with copies to FSF, FL and FA. Crystal Palace owner trying to sell. Reported problems with no smoking regulations. Edgware Town have had to resign from Ryman Div One North as have no ground. Gillingham fans reported that their coach had been stoned at Colchester.

Topics Discussed

- Lord Triesman & the FA - Meeting agreed Fit and Proper Person test needs to be extended. We must be wary of the return of Gam£39.
- The Football Creditors Rule - It would be better to monitor clubs and stop them getting into debt, rather than deducting large numbers of points.
- What do members want from FSF and what can they give? - Easy communication between supporters and FSF and between Supporters' groups. *We must remember that not all supporters have a computer or internet connection.* - Divisional & NC minutes on FSF members website. Need to get more members to meetings. - Police Forums had been a great success, but has the manual ever been written?.

AFC Wimbledon's Kingsmeadow Stadium 30/11/08

I was unable to attend this meeting as Pompey had a Sunday match.

Topics Discussed

- TV and Football - the same old items that we never get a sensible answer on from the TV companies! Long distance mid week travel; Sunday games after UEFA games. Mid-day and evening Saturday kick off; money should be filtered down the divisions. Why can't TV companies pay compensation to fans who lose money

through games being switched for TV?. There should be one TV free night a week to help attendances at lower league and pyramid games.

- Mark Agate was chasing responses to FP08 motions proposed by Gills IST, and police liaison officer contact information.
- Simon Harris - Dover, asked why there are no weekend games scheduled for next year's U21 championship.

The Franklin Rooms, Gillingham, 8/02/09

With the police misuse of Section 27 being topical at the time of this meeting, Southend reported some of their supporters being issued with S27 at Crewe on 20/9/09 and Gillingham at Aldershot. Both were going to send evidence to FSF. It was suggested "know your rights" information on S27 should be available on the FSF website.

Information on FP 09 given out, with deadline dates for motions/proposals.

Club problems

- Ebbsfleet chasing previous shareholders to renew or could be short of funds for next season.
- Mansfield, Oxford, Crawley & Bognor had all had point deducted for fielding an ineligible player, Although some copies of registration forms had reached their destination, the copies to the Conference had not.
- Dorchester's owner had sacked the manager and reduced players wages.
- Southend - Stewarding problems at Stockport. Also very late cancellation of a home game, 20 minutes before KO.
- Millwall - Policing problems at Hull. Ticket collection problems at Leeds, police insisting on all tickets being collected from a motorway service station, which would be impossible for fans travelling by public transport. Police had eventually relented and said those fans not on coaches could collect tickets at ground. BT police sometimes very aggressive.
- Crystal Palace - Stewarding problems at Charlton, and also Stockport.
- Leyton Orient - Owner Barry Hearne buying the ground and leasing back to the club at commercial rates.

Topics Discussed.

- What is acceptable behaviour? Where does banter end and offensive behaviour start? Very difficult to define as opinions differed. FSF should probably not get involved unless the law or ground regulations had been broken.
- Guilty until proven innocent? - S27 had already been well discussed. general feeling that football supporters were often treated as criminals/hooligans with no evidence.
- Football in the credit crunch. - Many supporters not renewing season tickets for 2009/10, although a great many clubs reducing or freezing prices. People paying by instalments who are made redundant still have to complete instalments.

It was pointed out that a Saturday 5.15 England International KO time at Wembley results in lower and pyramid clubs losing attendances. It is not possible for fans to attend their own and the international match.

AGM - Old Star Pub, Westminster, London 19/04/09

Officers elected as above.

Club Problems.

- Ebbsfleet - 20,000 out of 28,000 shareholders didn't renew, leaving a large shortfall of funds.
- Team Bath - Are having to resign, as they have an incorrect constitution being a university side.
- Crawley - One of the previous owners, the Majeed brothers, is in prison for tax evasion.
- Gillingham - Scally has sold the ground to himself. Complaints about play-off kick off times. Unhappy about toilet facilities at some grounds.
- Fulham - Concern at how they will underwrite debt if Al Faed leaves. Fulham supporters warned FSF of a club owned supporters' club which does not meet our constitutional requirements.
- Southend - Also had stewarding issues at Stockport. New ground expected to start this summer.
- Brighton - Access road for Falmer built, hope stadium building to start soon.
- Good news from Reading - Last away match at Norwich moved to a Monday night, the Club and STAR are providing free away travel; and Dover, two promotions in two seasons, ticket prices held.

News from the Conference that the FA are trying to enforce all seater stadiums down to Conference.

Setanta does not pay individual Conference clubs for televising matches, the money goes to the Conference league, who divide it out. Many clubs have problems with tv matches as they do not have the space or facilities to deal with the tv companies lorries and equipment. Points deductions for ineligible players this season - clubs want an independent inquiry into non-arrival of players registration forms.

If a Conference team gains promotion as champions but does not meet safety requirements for the next division they will not get promoted, so one less team will be relegated from the division above.

Topics Discussed

- Team GB - Is it a good idea? No discussion as no-one in favour.
- Do we have too many professional teams? If they can't pay their way should they be forced to fold or merge? - Meeting not in favour. Clubs are part of their community. Clubs should learn to live within their means. Problems started with PLCs.

Future Meetings

Southern Division hopes to hold a well publicised mid-week meeting in Central London, with guest speakers and discussion on football topic to try and attract new members.

The next divisional meeting will be in September. Date and Venue tba.

SOUTHWEST & SOUTH WALES DIVISION

Ken Malley

Although meetings have been few and far between in the last twelve months, there has been considerable activity behind the scenes on three fronts, two clubs in financial trouble and a banned fan.

In a time when more and more clubs at all levels are suffering financially, the story of Merthyr Tydfil Football Club is especially sad. A club whose record attendance (vs. Reading, FA Cup 1946) is 21,000, is now desperately struggling for money following a development scheme that was doomed to failure as the proposed site was over old mine workings. The last couple of years have seen a bitter feud between the Board of Directors and Supporters Trust. Recently the water supply was cut off at Penydarren Park, and the electricity was due to follow. Bailiffs were due over unpaid rates, but the club's electricity bill has now been paid.

Cardiff City FC organised a charity match where all the proceeds went to the club and FSF representatives have offered help even organising bucket collections amongst Bluebirds fans.

The Martyrs fundraising website is at <http://www.merthyrfc.com/>.

In the south of our area, Weymouth FC dramatically crashed into trouble after apparently running up debts of more than £500,000 in little over a year. Staff were reportedly owed two months wages and, on the 21st February 2009, following irregularities with first-team medical insurance, Weymouth were forced to field their Under-18 team against Rushden and Diamonds. The subsequent 0-9 scoreline is the heaviest league defeat in Weymouth's history. A run of defeats then saw them relegated.

The FSF have offered to help in any way we can.

You can join the Terras Trust at <http://www.terrastrust.co.uk/join.php>

And then there is the case of the Smart Alec from Taunton.

The story starts in February 2008 when Paul Chandler, who at the time was Vice Chair of the Taunton Town FC Supporters' Club, dared to ask questions, on behalf of the fans, of the Board's running of the Club. He was told that the supporters were a "disgrace" and had no right to ask questions. The Football Club then told the media that they had disbanded the Supporters' Club. The fans of course denied it. In July, Paul was banned from the ground and the Club's facilities. He was not given a reason and repeated requests for a reason and a chance to appeal were all ignored. Enter the FSF. But letters to the FC Chair still drew no answers other than Paul was "an ass" and "a Smart Alec". The fight goes on.

For the coming year it is planned to hold quarterly meetings rotating around the four corners of the region.

North East Division

Thom Bradley

The Northeast Division of the FSF is delighted to welcome colleagues to the 2009 Fans' Parliament in Newcastle – the first time ever the Federation has ventured to our region. We hope that you will feel at home in a city and region renowned for a love of football, welcoming people and partiality to the odd pint or two.

We initially looked to host the event at Newcastle United Football Club, however, in a show of solidarity with the Newcastle United Supporters Club, we have chosen to respect their fans boycott which calls for supporters to withhold spending on anything but match tickets at NUFC until better club governance is achieved and the club put in place a long term and meaningful relationship with supporters. We wish Newcastle fans well, and look forward to supporting their efforts next season.

The North East Division of the FSF has been established for just over a year, beginning with a few hardy souls meeting to establish a firm North East presence. We were galvanised by the GAM£ 39 Campaign, which brought fans together from across the globe in opposition to the Premier League proposal. We formally structured ourselves at a meeting at the Garden House Pub in Durham on Champions League final night 2008.

As well as establishing the NE Division as an active campaigning division of the Football Supporters' Federation, we have hosted meetings across the NE, reflecting our commitment to go out to the places where local supporters are based, with meetings in Gateshead, Durham, Darlington, Newcastle and Sunderland.

Scott Bentley, our Divisional Campaigns Co-ordinator, has led on a range of issues including links with local clubs and local police constabularies, ticket pricing in response to falling attendances and current economic climate and, more recently, concerns over the cost of away matches to NE fans, considering the costs of travel, stay over accommodation and the categorisation of ticket prices etc.

Our highest profile campaign over the past season has been the 'Fair Cop' initiative, with the thoughts and views of fans attending the 6 Northeast derby games involving MFC, NUFC and SAFC.

This initiative has had a mixed response from the clubs themselves, however we have had a much healthier response from Northumbria and Cleveland Police, who have recognised the exercise for what it is, a genuine attempt to improve standards of policing and stewarding in our local towns and cities before and after games and at the stadiums themselves leading to reduced incidents of unnecessary conflict and an improved matchday experience for genuine supporters.

We produced a specific report following the incidents which occurred at the SAFC v NUFC game earlier this season, based on the responses from 'everyday fans'. The report highlighted the failings of the policing and stewarding which allowed those incidents to occur and what specific steps could have been taken to stop such incidents happening in the first

place.

We have had strong representation from the NE on the FSF National Council, with Graham Bleanch as our Divisional Representative, Andrew Fleming, who leads on NE Lower League issues, Peter Daykin and Kevin Miles as elected individual members.

For the coming 12 months we will be looking to:

- Develop stronger links with our NE Clubs, to raise the issues of fans at the highest level
- Involve more members in discussion and dialogue at the grassroots level
- Continue to have a presence across the region

We welcome involvement from any supporters in the NE Division, particularly fans that would like to act as an FSF representative at their local club. If you would like to come along to one of our meetings or get involved in our campaigning work, please e-mail ginnette.bentley@fsf.org.uk.

We hope you all enjoy the conference.

YORKSHIRE DIVISION

Alan Bloore

The First Meeting of the one of the new Divisions of the FSF took place at The Peacock Elland Road Leeds on Sunday 26th October 2008. The purpose of the first meeting was to get the Division up and running and select a name.

12 Individuals attended the meeting, as well as representatives of 10 Supporters Organisations. After a Short Discussion on the name of this New FSF Division, it was proposed by G Milton and Seconded by M Proctor that has the region predominately covered all of Yorkshire and part of the North Midlands that we should stick with the recognised area as our Name I.E The Yorkshire Division of the Football Supporters' Federation. This proposal was carried unanimously.

A committee was duly elected. It was also decided that all our meetings in future would be "open meetings".

The second Meeting was held in York on 11th January 2009 and attracted over 30 supporters. It was discussed at this meeting how we could take this division forward. A series of Road shows was suggested and carried forward. 4 Small committees were also set up consisting of members of the Yorkshire Division committee. These were based round the 4 regional areas of Yorkshire. There is scope for anyone else to join these small groups. Their brief is to organise local meetings and work with Supporter groups in their area to promote the FSF.

A Third Meeting was held in Leeds on 19th April. This attracted around 20 members. The recent work of the FSF and Council meeting was discussed. As we had some new members the workings of the FSF was also discussed. It was from these discussions that the proposal for better Divisional representation was put forward.

As was requested at Leeds another meeting, the first of its kind was held on Sunday 14th June and held as a pre Conference get together and as such was intended more as an informal get together. A few points was discussed that will be of interest going forward. In the main this consisted of "How clubs consult with their Supporters" to satisfy the requirements of their Customer Charters. As we all know this has been a big focus of the FSF work over the last 10 years or so has been on re-introduction of Standing, through the Safe Campaign. The question was posed reference how long do we keep a campaign like this going before we accept defeat and focus our attention and money on other issues? It was agreed to take these and other ideas forward to the Fans Parliament breakout groups.

The Committee met up 3 times over the year to progress some ideas. A business plan will be submitted in August to take us forward and show how a Divisional Structure Can and should work!

I would like to place on record my thanks to all who have attended our meetings and the brave members who put themselves forward to serve of the Committee and look forward to the next 12 months.



Fans' Parliament 2009

Minutes of Fans' Parliament 2008

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS FEDERATION

Fans' Parliament

Emirates Stadium, Arsenal FC, London 5 July 2008

Minutes

1) Opening remarks & welcome –

Malcolm Clarke, FSF Chair

2) Address by Rt. Hon. Richard Caborn MP, followed by questions from the floor

3) Absences

Apologies received are listed in Appendix 1.

4) Minutes from Fans' Parliament at Crewe FC, 9 June 2007

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

No matters arising

5) Minutes of the FSF Special Meeting on the FSF Constitution held at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, 18 May 2008

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

No matters arising

6) National Council reports

Chair's report – Malcolm Clarke – spoke in extension of his written report submitted for members' acceptance

Deputy Chair – Jon Keen – gave a presentation on FSF communications Strategy

Other reports received for acceptance –

Secretary's report

Secretary's meetings report for 2007-2008

Secretary's report on meeting attendance by National Council members

Secretary's report on motions carried at Fans' parliament 2007 & actions taken

Communications report – Peter Daykin

Fixtures & Supporters Direct report – Ian Todd

FSF Cymru report – Vince Alm

International report – Ken Malley

Law & Technology report – Pam Wilkins

Policing & Stewarding report – Ash Connor

Pyramid report – Mark Ogbourne

Safe Standing report – Phill Gatenby

TV report – Mark Longden

7) Financial report for year ending 31 January 2008 –

Carroll Clarke spoke further to his written report submitted for acceptance. He apologised for the lateness of the accounts' publication due to awaiting information from FSF Cymru which unfortunately had still not been included because of the very difficult personal circumstances of the former FSF Cymru Treasurer. Vince Alm spoke confirming these difficulties, stating that accounts for FSF Cymru had now been included separately in the information made available to delegates.

The accounts were accepted.

8) FSF Elections

a) Election of Vice President –

Proposed by Malcolm Clarke, seconded by National Council that **Mark Agate** be elected as a Vice President of FSF.

Carried unanimously

b) Deputy chair –

Nominee **Jon Keen**,

proposed by STAR, seconded by Pam Wilkins

Nominee submitted a written electoral address supplied to delegates.

Unanimous vote in favour of appointment

c) Secretary –

Nominee **Mike Williamson**,

proposed by Shrimps' Supporters, seconded by Phill Gatenby

Nominee submitted a written electoral address, supplied to delegates.

Unanimous vote in favour of appointment

d) National Council – directly elected representatives

There were 21 nominations for 14 positions. Delegates were voted for by secret ballot.

The result of the election was -

Elected -

Monica Hartland	157 votes
Ash Connor	151 votes
Andrew Fleming	144 votes
Kevin Miles	144 votes
Vince Alm	141 votes
Colin Hendrie	137 votes
Mark Ogbourne	136 votes
Peter Daykin	135 votes
Phill Gatenby	127 votes
Neil Maskell	125 votes
Mark Longden	124 votes
Anne-Marie Mockridge	121 votes
Amanda Jacks	120 votes
Ian Lyon	110 votes

Not elected -

Martin O'Hara	76 votes
Muriel Bates	71 votes
Jeffrey Taylor	64 votes
Stan Frontczak	57 votes
Sierra Milton	54 votes
John Marsden	38 votes
Kevin Dexter	34 votes

A detailed breakdown of the voting is given at Appendix 2.

Lunch taken 12.30 to 13.30

9) Address by Lord Triesman Chairman of the FA followed by questions from the floor.

10) FSF awards

Chair Malcolm Clarke announced that the National council had decided that the FSF awards would this year go to –

FSF Football Writers' award David James

Services to Supporters award Tony Kempster

As neither winner could be present, presentations would be arranged in due course.

11) Debate on motions tabled

Motions were debated in the afternoon session, and are detailed at Appendix 3, attached, showing their form as originally tabled, plus amendments tabled and the subsequent voting. A summary of the outcome of debates is given below.

Motion 1) Identification of stewards on match days

Proposed: National Council

Carried nem con

Motion 2) Football, Civil Rights and the Law

Proposed: National Council

Carried nem con

Motion 3) Home grown player rules

Proposed: Steven Powell, Seconded: Malcolm Clarke

Carried by a large majority

Motion 4) Supporter involvement in combating discrimination & c.

Proposed: Lindsay England, Seconded: Phill Gatenby

Carried nem con

Motion 5) Football authorities to give full support for proper respect for match officials

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded: STAR

Carried nem con

Motion 6) Detrimental effects of Subscription Television

Proposed: Colin Hendrie, Seconded: IMUSA

Carried overwhelmingly (1 vote against)

Motion 7) Safe Standing Trial

Proposed: Amanda Jacks, Seconded : Colin Hendrie

Carried nem con

Motion 8) Drunkenness in a designated sports ground

Proposed: Colin Hendrie, Seconded: Kevin Miles

Carried nem con

Motion 9) Match Officials Communication

Proposed : Ian Todd, Seconded : Pam Wilkins

Carried nem con

Motion 10) Protection of our Cultural Heritage

Proposed: National Council

Carried nem con

Motion 11) International Match Venue Decisions

Proposed: Paul Corkrey, Seconded: Vince Alm

Carried nem con

Motion 12) Ticket Touting

Proposed: Colin Hendrie, Seconded: IMUSA

Carried nem con

Motion 13) Introduction of goal line technology

Proposed: Pam Wilkins, Seconded: Jon Keen

Carried

75 votes for (13 affiliate members and 36 individual members)

61 votes against (11 affiliate members and 28 individual members)

Motion 14) Wiring up of match officials so that their comments may be broadcast on the media

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded: STAR

Motion lost by a significant majority

Motion 15) Effect of TV on match re-scheduling and supporters expenses incurred

Proposed: Sunderland AFCSA, Seconded: STAR

Carried nem con

Motion 16) Indiscriminate use of stop & search powers by police against football supporters

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded: STAR

Carried nem con

Motion 17) Respect for match officials

Proposed: Monica Hartland, Seconded: Ian Todd

Carried nem con

Motion 18) Reserved/Non-Reserved Seating

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded : Pam Wilkins

Carried nem con

Motion 19) Clubs wholly owned by individual persons or single organisations

Proposed: National Council

Amendment -

Proposed: Phill Gatenby, Seconded: Malcolm Clarke

The amendment was accepted by the movers of the original motion.

Motion carried as amended nem con

Motion 20) Availability of special offers to away fans

Proposed: Pam Wilkins, Seconded: Jon Keen

Carried nem con

13) Fans' Parliament next year

There was a brief discussion of the format for the Fans' Parliament 2009 and possible venues, the arrangements for which would be decided as soon as possible by the FSF National Council.

14) Any other business

No matters of other business were raised

15) Closure of the Fans' parliament 2008

The Chair thanked delegates for their attendance and attention, and declared the Fans' Parliament 2008 closed.

Appendix 1:

Apologies for non-attendance were received from –

Pete Whitney of Sheffield United Supporters' Club
Beryl Whitney of Sheffield United Supporters' Club
Muriel Bates of Wolverhampton Wanderers Official Supporters' Club
Mark Agate of Gillingham ISC & individual member
Tony Taylor Darlington Supporters Trust & individual member
Ian Sterling individual member
Zara Clarke individual member
Rob Pritchard individual member
Eileen Rigby individual member
John Westwood individual member
Monica Brady individual member
David Corrigan individual member
Rob Prynne individual member
Paul Adams Individual member
David Newstead individual member
Paul Ellix individual member
Sybil Ford individual member

Appendix 2:

Fans' Parliament National Council elections 2008

Name	A Number of affiliate groups voting for this nominee	B Affiliate votes gained (A x 3)	C Individuals voting for this nominee	TOTAL VOTES (B + C)	RESULT
Monica Hartland	28	84	73	157	ELECTED
Ash Connor	27	81	70	151	ELECTED
Andrew Fleming	26	78	66	144	ELECTED
Kevin Miles	25	75	69	144	ELECTED
Vince Alm	24	72	69	141	ELECTED
Colin Hendrie	24	72	65	137	ELECTED
Mark Ogbourne	24	72	64	136	ELECTED
Peter Daykin	25	75	60	135	ELECTED
Phill Gatenby	19	57	70	127	ELECTED
Neil Maskell	22	66	59	125	ELECTED
Mark Longden	20	60	64	124	ELECTED
Anne-Marie Mockridge	20	60	61	121	ELECTED
Amanda Jacks	19	57	63	120	ELECTED
Ian Lyon	19	57	53	110	ELECTED
Martin O'Hara	16	48	28	76	NOT ELECTED
Muriel Bates	14	42	29	71	NOT ELECTED
Jeffrey Taylor	13	39	25	64	NOT ELECTED

Stan Frontczak	10	30	27	57	NOT ELECTED
Sierra Milton	10	30	24	54	NOT ELECTED
John Marsden	7	21	17	38	NOT ELECTED
Kevin Dexter	6	18	16	34	NOT ELECTED

Appendix 3:

Motions debated in the afternoon session were as follows, showing their form as originally tabled, with amendments tabled and the subsequent voting.

1) Identification of stewards on match days

Stewards within football grounds are an amorphous group with different duties, different levels of training and differential requirements to be licensed under the Private Security Industries Act (2001).

Given their importance for fans' safety and crowd control it is vital that everyone within the ground is aware of the role each steward has and knows for certain that stewards employed on the day are trained to the required level for the duties they are expected to perform and hold the appropriate certificates and licenses.

This motion proposes that;

- (i) a standardised system of colour coding be adopted for the jackets/outer clothing of stewards that corresponds to their level of training and duties they are to perform.
- (ii) each steward be assigned their own unique four digit code that must be displayed prominently on their jackets in letters/numbers of sufficient size that can be read by everyone in the section they are supervising.
- (iii) each club be required to confirm on a game-by-game basis the identity, qualifications, licenses and where necessary, CRB checks of all stewards working within their grounds, regardless of whether they are employed directly or indirectly by that club.
- (iv) each club be required to keep an accurate record of these checks and to make their logs of stewards codes/credentials available on demand.

Proposed: National Council

Carried nem con

2) Football, Civil Rights and the Law

This Fans' Parliament notes;

- (i) that the UK, as a fair and reasonable society has long since declared it unacceptable for legislation to impose special rules upon or to discriminate against particular groups on the basis of their race, colour, religion, sexual orientation etc.
- (ii) that there are many laws/orders/rules that apply only to football fans, just because they are football fans. Much of this legislation has been introduced in response to specific instances and little of it is supported by strong empirical evidence.

This Fans' Parliament declares such laws/orders/rules to be discriminatory and that the serious restrictions they place on the personal freedoms of a particular group of citizens based solely on the sport they choose to watch is unwarranted and unacceptable in a modern society.

In consequence, this Fans' Parliament believes that Government must (a) urgently review this situation and remove at the earliest opportunity all legislation relating specifically to football fans that cannot be strongly supported by up-to-date and verifiable evidence; (b) that it puts in place mechanisms to ensure that all future government proposals relating specifically to football fans are subject to the same rigorous examination before they are put in to force and (c) that all such legislation be kept under constant and independent evidence-based review.

This Fans' Parliament resolves to end this discrimination by campaigning to bring these legislative changes about.

Proposed: National Council

Carried nem con

3) Home grown player rules

The FSF notes the current debate on FIFA's proposed '6+5' rule which would require national associations to oblige clubs to have 6 players on the field eligible for selection for the national team of that country in all competitions sanctioned by that national association.

The FSF believes that the issue of 6+5 is worthy of serious and sustained deliberation amongst all the football family including supporters and calls on the Football Association and Football Association of Wales, the Premier League and the Football League to promote an open and comprehensive debate involving Government and all football stakeholders including supporters on this important issue.

Proposed: Steven Powell, Seconded: Malcolm Clarke

Carried by a large majority

4) Supporter involvement in combating discrimination & c.

Fans Parliament calls for the involvement of supporters in initiatives to combat all forms of discriminatory abuse, chanting or harassment-such as [but not exclusively] Racism and Homophobia- on the field or in the stands.

Proposed: Lindsay England, Seconded: Phill Gatenby

Carried nem con

5) Football authorities to give full support for proper respect for match officials

Conference applauds the aims of the Football Association's "Respect" Campaign to improve player behaviour, but believes that the core of this strategy to "start at the bottom" by targeting the behaviour of young players is misguided, since many already take their cue from what they see professionals do on television.

Conference believes that the Laws of the Game already equip referees with sufficient powers to allow them to deal with the bad language, abuse and lack of respect which is endemic in the professional game, but that referees are inhibited from using these powers. Conference therefore calls upon the Football Association, Premier League and Football League to give full backing to referees with the instruction to apply the Laws of the Game stringently and vigorously in order to drive up standards of player behaviour, in particular by adopting a "zero tolerance" policy towards all players and club staff whenever they display any bad language, abuse and disrespect towards officials or other players.

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded: STAR

Carried nem con

6) Detrimental effects of Subscription Television

This Fans' Parliament notes with concern the detrimental effects subscription television continues to have on match-going fans.

These detrimental effects include;

- (i) Sky and Setanta's ability to change kick-off times without consideration for the inconvenience/additional expense these changes cause or reference to/consultation with those fans involved.
- (ii) the demise of the Premier League as a genuine competition, as television money is concentrated into the hands of a very few clubs and the major consequences this is having on other clubs and competitions at all levels of our game.
- (iii) the contamination of the legitimate fans' culture by programmes such as "Soccer AM", which consistently caricatures fans as being little more than performing seals and attempts to influence fan behaviour by, for example, the promotion of synthetic catch-phrase chants such as, "Easy, Easy", "Who are ya" etc.

This Fans' Parliament believes that the role of television in the context of live football is to report events as they happen, not to seek to change the nature of those events to suit their own needs and determines to find ways to restrict the abilities of television companies to exert an influence over the organisation of games they are televising.

Proposed: Colin Hendrie, Seconded: IMUSA

Carried overwhelmingly (1 vote against)

7) Safe Standing Trial

Conference calls for a trial of at least one football ground in Divisions 1 & 2 in England & Wales to be permitted to have a fully funded safe standing area, similar to that at Werder Bremen (and other stadiums in Germany - with barriers along every other row), built into a new stadium or stadium redesign. This gives those agencies with a stake in the issue the opportunity to monitor and evaluate all aspects of the issue on a regular basis in order to

make a valid judgement. Currently no such facility exists in England & Wales to be able to accurately report on the full effect of such an area within a professional football stadium in England or Wales.

Proposed: Amanda Jacks, Seconded: Colin Hendrie

Carried nem con

8) Drunkenness in a designated sports ground

Section 2 of Chapter 57 of the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act (1985) reads

“A person who is drunk in a designated sports ground at any time during the period of a designated sporting event at that ground or is drunk while entering or trying to enter such a ground at any time during the period of a designated sporting event at that ground is guilty of an offence.”

This Fans’ Parliament notes that drunkenness in this context is determined by ‘the opinion of the arresting officer’.

‘Being drunk in a designated sports ground’ is therefore a crime that requires no tangible evidence to prove that it took place and against which there is no feasible defence.

This Fans’ Parliament resolves that this situation is unacceptable and demands that ways are found to make this measure objective and transparent and that, until such time as workable procedures are introduced, this section of the Act be suspended.

Proposed: Colin Hendrie, Seconded: Kevin Miles

Carried nem con

9) Match Officials Communication

FSF believes that the communication system used between the four match officials in the Premier League, known as being "miked up", should be extended to Football League matches and F A Cup matches where Premier League and Football League sides are involved".

Proposed : Ian Todd, Seconded : Pam Wilkins

Carried nem con

10) Protection of our Cultural Heritage

This Fan's Parliament condemns the consistent failure of our government to recognise football as an important part of our cultural heritage or to afford the game adequate protection from those primarily interested in the financial exploitation of football rather than the attainment of sporting excellence as an important achievement in its own right.

Proposed: National Council

Carried nem con

11) International Match Venue Decisions

FSF Cymru seeks Federation's support in their fight to change the FIFA and UEFA rules which limits the amount of time allowed for disclosure to the opposing team of the venue at which forthcoming games are due to be played.

Conference notes with concern the infraction by the Russian Football Federation of the 90-day rule in respect of the Russia v Wales game scheduled for Saturday 6 September 2008 and proposes that the FSF approaches FIFA and UEFA to make the following amendments...

- a) FIFA change the 90 day rule to 120 days
- b) UEFA change the 60 day rule to 90 days

Proposed: Paul Corkrey, Seconded: Vince Alm

Carried nem con

12) Ticket Touting

The reselling of match tickets by "unauthorised persons" is covered by Section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (1994) and Section 53 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act (2006). These Acts are mainly concerned with the maintenance of segregation. Hence, adequate control of the secondary market for the sale of football tickets is seen in law as an important safety issue, rather than as a means to restrict resale prices.

According to the 1994 Act, 'a person is "unauthorised" unless he is authorised in writing to sell tickets for the match by the home club or by the organisers of the match.'

Authorisation is therefore central to a transaction on the secondary market being rendered legal or illegal (i.e. 'safe' or 'unsafe').

There is however currently no mechanism by which buyers can easily check that sellers have this authorisation and so exert their choice not to deal with unauthorised sellers.

This motion therefore proposes that;

- (i) each Premier League and Football League club produce and make readily available (on and off line) an up-to-date list of all sellers currently authorised by that club;

(ii) each of these clubs equip these sellers with appropriate means to verify that they, as individuals or companies, have authorisation from that club to sell on their tickets, which, in the case of internet sellers, should take the form of a distinctive logo or 'kite mark' that must be displayed in a prominent position on the sellers website and advertising.

Proposed: Colin Hendrie, Seconded: IMUSA

Carried nem con

13) Introduction of goal line technology

Conference expresses its disappointment at FIFA/IFAB's decision not to persevere with the introduction of technology to positively notify match officials when the match ball crosses the goal line, and calls upon these bodies to recommence experiments with a view to introducing these systems at all appropriate levels of the game, as conference believes that such systems can only be a positive aid to referees.

Proposed: Pam Wilkins, Seconded: Jon Keen

Carried

75 votes for (13 affiliate members and 36 individual members)

61 votes against (11 affiliate members and 28 individual members)

14) Wiring up of match officials so that their comments may be broadcast on the media

Conference calls for referees in televised matches to be "wired up" with suitable microphone and transmitting equipment to enable the broadcast of what they say and hear to be received by those equipped with suitable equipment. Conference believes this will bring three benefits to the game by :

(i) allowing viewers to see in real time abuse, disrespect and bad language which is directed at referees by some players. Making the behaviour of players so clearly visible would inevitably raise standards of player behaviour since current standards would be unacceptable to audiences, sponsors and broadcasters alike;

(ii) allowing commentators and viewers to hear the communication between referees and players and to properly understand the basis on which referees are making decisions. This would help raise standards of commentary by reducing the occasions where commentators criticise referees through ignorance of the situation or the laws of the game;

(iii) allowing an additional revenue stream through the selling/sponsorship of this audio channel in order to overcome any financial objections to its introduction.

Proposed : Jon Keen, Seconded : STAR

Motion lost by a significant majority

15) Effect of TV on match re-scheduling and supporters expenses incurred

In negotiating future TV contracts FSF calls upon all football authorities to insert a requirement for more rigid, and publicly known, advance notification of changes of scheduled dates and/or kick-off times. Furthermore, where the TV company fails to meet the contractual deadline, it will itself be liable to reimburse the validated additional, or non-refundable, expenses incurred by any fan of the competing teams in instances where such expenditure was incurred after the known deadline.

Proposed: Sunderland AFC SA, Seconded: STAR

Carried nem con

16) Indiscriminate use of stop & search powers by police against football supporters

Conference deplores the repeated use of Stop and Search powers under Section 60 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1994 when these are deployed indiscriminately against football supporters or those appearing to be football supporters based upon appearance or stereotyping alone.

Conference calls upon Police Forces to base their policing methods solely on properly targeted, intelligence-based, policing of supporters rather than upon an automatic assumption that everyone who chooses to spend their leisure time watching football matches is by implication a potential criminal.

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded: STAR

Carried nem con

17) Respect for match officials

FSF welcomes PFA chairman Chris Powell's statement of concern at the increasing lack of respect towards the referee and looks forward to comparable support from the LMA, to achieve an improvement.

Proposed: Monica Hartland, Seconded: Ian Todd

Carried nem con

18) Reserved/Non-Reserved Seating

This Conference requests that representation be made to all clubs selling seat tickets to visiting supporters requiring them to indicate clearly whether the seating area indicated is "Reserved" or "Non-Reserved" seating.

Proposed: Jon Keen, Seconded : Pam Wilkins

Carried nem con

19) Clubs wholly owned by individual persons or single organisations

The Federation believes that where clubs are taken over by individuals, companies or organisations, such that they are then wholly owned by those owners, those clubs owners should still have to make public annual accounts, to enable those clubs' supporters to see the current state of financial affairs of those clubs.

Proposed: National Council

Amendment proposed

That the motion be amended to read –

Federation believes that each year all clubs, however owned, should have to make available fully independently audited public accounts to enable those clubs' supporters to see the current state of financial affairs of those clubs.

Proposed: Phill Gatenby, Seconded: Malcolm Clarke

The amendment was accepted by the movers of the original motion.

Carried as amended nem con

20) Availability of special offers to away fans

Conference believes that all special pricing offers should also be available to visiting fans.

Proposed: Pam Wilkins, Seconded: Jon Keen

Carried nem con

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

ACTION ON MOTIONS CARRIED AT FANS' PARLIAMENT 2008

The list below details the various authorities and organisations that were advised directly of the motions carried at last year's Fans' Parliament which did **not** involve internal FSF matters e.g. changes to our Constitution. The organisations were given the details of the non-internal motions carried (a list of which is herewith) and asked to comment, suggesting ways forward with the issues concerned.

Responses were of various qualities and degrees of helpfulness to us. Often the correspondents did not refer to specific motions but gave responses in general terms about their view points. Attempts were always made to extract better responses but we were not always successful with that. It is not, of course, possible to **force** correspondents to respond in ways that we would prefer.

It must also be remembered that issues were usually taken up by officials of the FSF in meetings with these and other organisations, and those meetings will have been reported about separately. Enquiries about those issues are best made to the relevant Policy Owner responsible for the area concerned, a list of which is included below.

Finally a list is included here of all motions carried last year.

Fans' Parliament Motions Carried 2008 - advices sent out		
Motions advised to	Motions of special interest	Notes
Association of Chief Police Officers	1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 16	Detailed response - disagree on several issues
All Party Parliamentary Football Group	2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17, 19	Telephone response with personal views of APPFG chair only - unable to give Group viewpoint
Crown Prosecution Service	2, 4, 8, 12, 16	long response - but mainly suggesting that it is not their function to comment on laws, though they may make representations to government – made no comments on FSF motions
FA Premier League	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20	Unspecific response only
FIFA	3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19	No response despite chase ups
Football League	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20	Responses given in meetings held - not specific to individual motions
Football Association	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19	Responses given in meetings held - not specific to individual motions
Football Association Wales	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19	No response received
Football Conference	1, 4, 5, 6, 15, 17, 19	No response received

Football Foundation	7, 10, 19	Comments on motion 7 only - opposed
Football Licensing Authority	1, 7, 10, 19	Comments on motions listed - stating our ideas on stewards identification already are in effect - against Safe Standing Trial - "Protection of our cultural heritage" and "Club Ownership" is outside their remit
Football Safety Officers Association	1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16, 18	Detailed responses discussed in meetings held
Home Secretary	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19	detailed response several motions - generally unhelpful
Justice Minister	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19	response says they do not have responsibility in areas concerned
Magistrates' Association	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19	Comments only motion 8 (drunkenness in sports grounds)
Professional Footballers' Association	3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19	Full support on all motions
Department of Culture Media & Sport	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 19	Response from Sports Minister only on motions 1 & 7 – to which he was against



Fans' Parliament 2009

Elections

2009 FSF Fans' Parliament Election nominees

(NC = FSF National Council, EC = FSF Executive Committee)

President - nominee **Monica Hartland**,
proposed by Ian Todd & seconded by the EC

Vice President - nominee **Ian Todd**,
proposed by Malcolm Clarke & seconded by the EC

Chair - nominee **Malcolm Clarke**,
proposed by Carroll Clark & seconded by IMUSA

Treasurer - nominee **Carroll Clark**,
proposed by Mike Williamson & seconded by I Lyon

National Council directly elected representatives (14 required) - nominees -

Vince Alm (existing NC member),
proposed by Paul Corkrey & seconded by Ken Malley

Gavin Butler (member of affiliate Halifax Town SC),
proposed by R Pepper of Huddersfield T SC & seconded by K Walton of Halifax Town SC

Ash Connor (existing NC member),
proposed by Amanda Jacks & seconded by Mark Longden

Peter Daykin (existing NC member),
proposed by Vince Alm & seconded by Pam Wilkins

Richard Duniec (chair of Leeds United ST),
proposed by Leeds United ST & seconded by Leeds United SC

Andrew Fleming (existing NC member),
proposed by Kevin Miles & seconded by Ken Malley

Suzanne Fothergill (member of affiliate STAR)
proposed by Jon Keen & seconded by STAR

Monica Hartland (existing NC member),
proposed by Peter Daykin & seconded by Mark Longden

Colin Hendrie (existing NC member),
proposed by Amanda Jacks & seconded by Mark Longden

Tim Hillyer (individual member),
proposed by WISA & seconded by Jon Keen

Amanda Jacks (existing NC member),
proposed by Mark Longden & seconded by Ash Connor

Mark Longden (existing NC member),
proposed by Ash Connor & seconded by Amanda Jacks

Kevin Miles (existing NC member),
proposed by Ian Todd & seconded by Monica Hartland

Geoff Milton (Leed United SC),
proposed by Richard Duniec (Leeds United ST) & seconded by Alan Bloore

Anne-Marie Mockridge (existing NC member),
proposed by Ken Malley & seconded by Kevin Miles

Mark Ogbourne (existing NC member),
proposed by Jon Keen & seconded by Pam Wilkins

Ian Todd (retiring President),
proposed by Brighton & Hove Albion SC & seconded by Kevin Miles

(17 nominees)

Note that since nomination the following have been appointed as FSF Divisional Representatives, and are therefore under The FSF Constitution Bye Law 9, no longer eligible to stand for election as Directly Elected NC Representatives. Their nominations are therefore withdrawn from this election:

Ian Lyon (existing NC member),
Ken Malley (existing NC member),

Should **Monica Hartland** be elected, as nominated above, to be FSF President, her nomination for the NC election will also be withdrawn.

- 7 group trips follow Wales away
- Supporters Player of the year presentations in a marquee in the setting of Cardiff castle grounds.
- Organised supporters for media events
- Pre match meetings prior to away fixtures
- Fought for supporters rights against various police forces and stewards around the country

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

- I help organise and run Fans embassies in 3 countries
- I have been involved in meetings with the FAW on many fan's issues regards ticketing, travel club members, and future funding
- I have attended National council meetings
- I have attended Executive council meetings

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

My aim is to continue to fight issues that effect supporters of football, and anything that threatens our game.

My view of football at the moment is the authorities who currently run and control football, enforce regulations and legislation upon us, have had their minds poisoned by greed which if allowed to continue unchecked will be the death of the game as we know it. I would like to see the passion, excitement, the singing and cheering of our teams return to all levels, is'nt that what got most supporters hooked? also see football more affordable for everyone including food, beverage, and merchandise! In summary I would like to see football back as the PEOPLES GAME.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE: GAVIN BUTLER
Name of PROPOSER: ROBERT PEPPER – HUDDERSFIELD TOWN SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION
Name of SECONDER: KIT WALTON – HALIFAX TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB

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

I am on the committee of the FSF Yorkshire Division, an englandfans+ member, a lifelong supporter of Halifax Town, the current Chair of its supporters' trust and a former employee of the club giving me a good insight into how a football club works from all angles. I worked at the club for a number of years – both full and part-time – in a number of roles including Commercial Manager & Press Manager.

In view of the above I believe that I possess a comprehensive holistic understanding of the mechanics of how a football club operates and moreover the position it holds within a community. I would summarise my personal situation as being able to see what goes on both side of the fence. I am a passionate believer that supporters must have as close an involvement in their clubs as they can and only by doing so can clubs have any realistic chance of engaging fully with the local community. If this balance is achieved a myriad of benefits are possible.

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

I consider myself to be a typical football supporter and understand the frustrations that exist on the terraces. At the same time, having worked for a professional football club I understand the practicalities involved and how this can lead to reasonable actions being viewed as irrational by the supporters. Bridging this divide by communicating effectively is the only logical solution and my own Supporters' Trust gained formal representation on the Halifax Town AFC Board albeit this resulted in mixed results. It was nonetheless a fantastic learning curve both for the Trust and me personally.

As part of my personality, I have a natural flair for interacting with others and find it very easy to communicate and build relationships at any level regardless of gender, social group, race or any other factor. I try wherever possible to put myself in the position of others and try and understand their viewpoint irrespective of whether I agree with it. It is my firm belief that meaningful dialogue can only be achieved by adopting this approach.

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

I am a strong believer in the rights of supporters and that their voice should be heard. At non-league level there seems to be little representation yet there are more non-league clubs in English football than professional.

It never ceases to surprise me when turning on the television or radio that the media projects an image that suggests that football only exists in the Premier League – the reality is quite different. At smaller clubs in the league outside of the top division, clubs increasingly become rallying points for the local community; metaphors of civic pride where supporters can actually have a real involvement unlike the PLC environment of the Premier League. I would seek to promote this relationship further and encourage a closer relationship between local people, schools and sports clubs. I believe that the PLC route has produced brands akin to any other in the High Street and that the ordinary supporter is being priced out of the game. I believe that football needs to rediscover itself and I applaud initiatives by clubs like Bradford City who have looked to raise attendances by lowering prices as opposed to some clubs who play to half empty stadiums even though supporters are desperate for tickets they cannot afford.

The post Hillsborough era has produced a far more professional and safer environment for supporters but I believe this process has gone too far and the ordinary fan needs embracing again for the good of the game.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE ASH CONNOR
Name of PROPOSER AMANDA JACKS
Name of SECONDER MARK LONGDEN

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

I have been a Port Vale supporter, and a football supporter for 40 years and an active member of club supporters groups for the past 20 years. I have been a past Chair of both the supporters club and the supporters trust at Port Vale although I no longer have an active involvement because of my commitments to the National movement.

During my time as Chair of the supporters club I helped organise a successful protest march against Stoke City's Icelandic owners taking our club over and I also led a campaign which led to a rethink in Stoke charging our fans more than theirs for a 'derby' match.

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

In 1998 I was elected to the National Committee of the FSA and following the merger with the Nat. Fed. I was duly elected to the National Council of the newly formed FSF which I have served ever since.

From day one I was appointed as the Council rep. for Policing & Stewarding issues and over the past 10 years I have built up a wealth of contacts and gained untold experience in that side of supporters welfare. Policing & Stewarding has improved greatly in the past 30 years and I think the National supporters movement has played a significant part in that.

It's not the most sexy of roles for an N.C. member but someones got to do it and I must say I do very much enjoy it. We also now seem to be accepted by the authorities as an integral part of the football family who can play our part in making our match day experiences as comfortable as possible.

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

If I were lucky enough to be elected to N.C. again I would be delighted to continue with my Policing/Stewarding work, but of course, I would gladly fulfill any role asked of me.

The last couple of seasons, in my opinion, has seen an increase in anti-social behaviour at games and I think the Policing & Stewarding on many occasions, and at certain grounds, has only served to encourage that sort of behaviour. I would hope that I could be a part of the solution to these types of problems before they get any worse.

Many problems at today's matches are caused by the over reaction of the authorities to fans standing and I have given and will continue to give my full support to our safesanding campaign. Gam£ 39, or the threat of it, of course still lingers on and I will be there on the front row of any actions we may take in our quest to stop it.

This season saw the introduction of the use of Section 27 by certain police forces. This is a deplorable tactic where football is concerned and I'm sure you'll all agree that Federation was absolutely right in enlisting the assistance of Liberty in fighting it's use. This could be a defining moment in Federation' history and the sooner the Section is used only for what it was intended the better!

I hope members have enough faith in me to elect me to the N.C where I will endeavour to do my best on your behalf.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE PETER DAYKIN
Name of PROPOSER VINCE ALM
Name of SECONDER PAM WILKINS

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

Prior to my first involvement on the FSF National Council back in 2004/2005, I produced and edited the fanzine at my club, the – ahem – mighty Sunderland. I have also written for a number of newspapers and magazines. Meanwhile, my experience in marketing and graphic and website design, through which I earn my living, has hopefully been a useful resource for the Federation.

The most relevant qualification to represent football supporters on the FSF's NC that I can think of, though, is that I've been paying to watch football off and on since 1981, and don't like many aspects of the way the game has changed.

I also play the game to an appallingly low standard, but have never let a complete lack of footballing talent or physical prowess dampen my enthusiasm.

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

I hope that the application of my skillset to the aims and objectives of the FSF has been self evident from my actions over the course of my involvement. Having overseen the creation and development of The Football Supporter, the FSF website and the FSF's Sunderland office through A19, I would rather immodestly contend that while there is still plenty of room for improvement, the FSF now communicates quicker, better and to more people than ever before.

I am a firm believer that there is no substitute for quality, and have worked extremely hard to ensure that everything I have been involved with on behalf of the FSF has been of a standard that befits the organisation, including, I hope, this year's Fans' Parliament in Newcastle.

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

A19 are two years into a three year plan. I hope that developments like the new, more regular tfs, Fanmail, the FSF's e-mail newsletter, Ground Guide, on-line database, overhauled website with its private members' section and raft of other projects A19 have been central to under the guidance of myself and Kevin Miles are compelling enough evidence to allow me to continue the job.

Having worked hard to get a number of the necessary tools in place, this year we set about improving our communication network with fans outside of the Federation, developing a members' benefits package, increasing FSF membership and strengthening our ties with corporate partners. In short we try to do as much of the leg work as possible to allow FSF colleagues to do the most important work of all: campaigning for the changes football fans demand.

My views on the important issues affecting fans can be summarised very simply, all football supporters should be able to afford to follow their team, watch their team in fair and competitive leagues and be subject to the same rules and regulations as fans of other sports.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION
Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE RICK DUNIEC
Name of PROPOSER LEEDS UNITED SUPPORTERS TRUST
Name of SECONDER LEEDS UNITED SUPPORTERS CLUB

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

Taken from the Leeds United Supporters Trust website -

Rick (Richard) Duniec *Chairman*

A Leeds supporter both from near and afar since 1965-66. The first match Rick remembers is the Liverpool Cup final on a black and white TV but he attended a few games at Elland Road before that (in the boys pen and on the Lowfields). Because Rick played local football on Saturdays he mostly attended Leeds' midweek fixtures and those of course included our early forays into Europe. Rick is a graduate of the University of East Anglia and he spent a year in The City, before moving into business systems sales in the UK, Ireland and Arabian Gulf states, and more recently Rick has been involved in financial Services and has minor commercial property interests. Rick was a former bondholder and season ticket holder in the East Stand upper.

From January 2004 - 2006 Rick was heavily involved with the SLU (SaveLeedsUnited) group and was very active behind the scenes which included communications and discussions with many of the more widely known figures involved in proceedings surrounding the club. Rick also attends LU Supporters Club executive meetings representing the Benelux overseas branch. Rick is a paid-up lifetime member of the Supporters Trust.

To quote Rick, "My objectives have always been (and remain) to seek a greater involvement for the fans in our club and to strive to prevent the inappropriate financial exploitation of the fan base. Essentially I believe that the fans require and deserve a fair return on their 'investment' in the club".

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE ANDREW FLEMING

Name of PROPOSER KEVIN MILES

Name of SECONDER KEN MALLEY

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

I have been involved in Football throughout my life from playing at grass roots to following my local football team (Halifax Town and latterly FC Halifax Town) Home and Away for the last 20 years. Over the last 10 years I have attended most England home games and since 2004 the majority of away games. Throughout my time following football and indeed other major sports I have gained first hand experience of the issues we all face as supporters and am passionate about making a difference.

Over the last couple of years I have contributed to the FSF by volunteering to support the FSF Fans' Embassy at both home and away matches and am proud to work with such a group of hard working individuals who I think as a team contribute a lot to the positive image of the FSF.

Over the last year I have also been a key member of the North East branch of the FSF involved in the running of the successful 'Fair Cop' campaign which is now being used nationally working to provide a better match going experience for football fans. The next campaign is already in motion to look at ticket pricing at a local level in the North East.

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

Over the last year I have served as a directly elected member of the National Council looking after the Competition structure portfolio. Whilst this has been a fairly quiet area during the last 12 months the reports in the media regarding a 2nd Premier League mean there is plenty of work to do and I hope to have the opportunity to carry on with this portfolio area and campaign.

As a supporter of a lower league football team I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge of many levels of football which allows interaction with supporters of all clubs from the lower non league's through to the premiership, and I can appreciate the issues supporters face at all levels of the game.

I have a wealth of experience both in professional occupation and in being a football supporter; I believe I can draw these together along with my youth, enthusiasm and hard working approach to help the FSF develop and move forward.

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

If re-elected my aim would be to work with the National Council and FSF to achieve tangible results which benefit all levels of the football league pyramid; to be involved in campaigning

as I have been in the North East. As a supporter who weekly attends football matches up and down the country I am passionate about the current financial impact on football fans. I still feel one of the key issues to address are access to tickets which are fairly priced, merchandising, and the increasing price we pay to attend football matches away.

Whilst many clubs announce price freezes for the coming season this is simply not enough, the bigger clubs continue to pay astronomical wages whilst other teams continue to struggle, be miss-managed with footballing issues settled by point's deductions.

It is also clear we need to continue to work on the image of football fans, the indiscriminate use of section 27 is just one example – one rule for us and another for everyone else which continues to be the same with regards standing at football matches.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE SUZANNE FOTHERGILL
Name of PROPOSER JON KEEN
Name of SECONDER STAR (Supporters' Trust At Reading)

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

I have been a regular supporter of Reading FC for 25 years, and a season ticket holder for the last 20 years. I have also been a member of Reading Football Supporters Club (latterly STAR) and I became a committee member in 2000 and am a founder member of STAR.

I have been involved in campaigns and organising fans forums in order to help fans communicate with their club, and am of the opinion that supporters should be involved in participation in the way football is run and how football clubs are governed.

I have been travelling home and away for long enough to know what affects supporters, from ticket prices to stewarding and policing. From games being moved due to TV, and the impact on the humble fan who actually attends games. I feel I have enough knowledge regarding these types of issues to be able to make a difference.

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

As a Supporters Club board member, I have been an active member of STAR, assisting in a number of Supporter's Club campaigns in recent years. Through work I have worked with media in past roles, and customer relations for the last 6 years. I am able to take the views of people and help these opinions become voiced.

Recently I have been involved in producing surveys and providing a constructive outcome / feedback from the results in order to provide our customers to get what they want from us, rather than just assume what they want from us. I think this is an important aspect in any role and this seems very much to be how FSF works, and I would like to be a part of that.

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

As a supporter who actually attends matches I am concerned with the treatment of us, the supporter, by the football clubs, by police and by SKY TV. Their regular interference hindering our plans and our time and money spent trying to follow the teams we love. I often feel we are the last people to be considered when decisions which will directly affect us are made.

I feel I have enough experience to put forward and feel the FSF is the organisation to work with these organisations and explain how we feel and how we can all work together to make life easier and more pleasurable for all concerned.

I am also concerned about the rocketing cost of attending football and how this affects attendances and both current and new supporters are feeling the pinch and are no longer able to justify the cost of attending matches. The inconsistent pricing of tickets according to match category is also unfair on the everyday supporter.

I often witness erratic stewarding at various grounds in that the same set of fans are treated in a different manner dependent on the ground attended. What's right for one set of stewards is wrong for another set. There is no consistency and this can be frustrating from the fan's point of view, leading to resentment and frequent criticism of stewarding.

I and everyone I know of would like the *choice* of safe standing. I understand the argument from fans that want seats and are not able to or do not want to stand. I also understand that a lot of fans want to be able to stand. In some grounds the stewards will turn a blind eye to standing but this can impede the view of those who want to sit. Having areas for standing would create a fair and safe choice for all.

I have witnessed all the above first hand and feel I am in a position to help represent supporter's views and feel that the FSF is the platform to do this. I'd like to be able to make a difference to the man in the street who happens to be a football supporter, not a criminal.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE MONICA HARTLAND
Name of PROPOSER PETER DAYKIN
Name of SECONDER MARK LONGDEN

Seduced by football at an early age, when my father first took his youngster to the Victoria Ground, the first half of my life was largely spent promoting the game, while avidly supporting Stoke City and England. Unfortunately, too much of the second half has been spent fighting its worst excesses, primarily the bane of vanity and greed from within, compounded by interference and ignorance from beyond our shores.

Despondency with a club-obsessed insularity, by too many supporters, the "it could never happen to my club" syndrome, inevitably led me to a more hands-on approach to the game. Thus an eighteen year chairmanship of Stoke City Southern Supporters' Club and the founding of the Association of Provincial Football Supporters Clubs in London, in the seventies, was followed by the vice-chairmanship of the NFFSC, where I also held the Press and Publicity portfolio.

I accepted an invitation from the then Minister for Sport, to participate in the Football Foundation, on its inception in 2000, as a member of the Community and Education panel. Advising on the recommendation of grants from monies provided by the FA, PL and the PFA, to those most in need, proved a rewarding and enlightening experience. This side of the game, all too often subsumed by headlines detailing avarice elsewhere, provided a welcome antidote to the justifiable criticism of a game increasingly dominated by commercial overload.

With a view on all things football, I'm at my happiest, in full debate, contributing to deliberations on the endless issues afflicting our beloved game and their affect on its supporters.

I am proud to be an active vice-president of an organisation whose talented, knowledgeable and professional council members I admire and respect. While our esteemed chairman continues to bring the FA council into the twenty first century, Malcolm's colleagues, on our own council, make immense sacrifices in support of our game and those who, via the turnstiles, keep it going. This inspires my desire to continue working alongside them and doing my bit for the cause.

I believe that only by being admitted to every administrative body, involved with the game, FSF may seek to ensure that football will progress to being better suited to the original community concept and less dominated by the commercial zeal which presently dictates every aspect of it. With my football club now in the Premier League, first hand experience of its excesses has engendered an even greater determination, if elected, to fight for a reduction of the gross inequalities between the leagues.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE	COLIN HENDRIE
Name of PROPOSER	AMANDA JACKS
Name of SECONDER	MARK LONGDEN

Experience and Skills:

Vice Chair of the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association (IMUSA). IMUSA was formed in 1995 and has a tradition of campaigning on fans' issues such as ticket pricing, safestanding, kick off times etc as well as the wider issues to do with ownership and governance. IMUSA led the successful fight against Murdoch's attempted takeover of Manchester United in 1999 and was thrown off the Manchester United Fans' Forum in 2005 because of its part in the ongoing fight against the Glazer takeover. IMUSA continues to play an important role in championing the fans cause at Old Trafford and maintains a significant presence in the local and national media.

FSF National Council Member since 2006. During this time I have been involved with many aspects of our activities, including attending meetings with a variety of different bodies such as the FL, PFA, IFC/IFO etc and helping out with the media work (press, radio and television) as and when required.

I also have a keen interest in diversity issues and am a regular attendee at the Mondiale Antirazzisti, a multi-racial international football festival held annually in Italy that typically attracts around 6-8000 people and which the FSF sponsored last year.

This year I have also continued with my efforts to help with the safestanding campaign, firstly by offering guidance and support to activists at other clubs (which has led to the 'Bradford Statement' whereby the club have declared their interest in implementing safestanding areas) and by writing to all stadium owners in the PL and FL outlining the financial and 'customer satisfaction' benefits of introducing safestanding. I have just taken up the safestanding portfolio following Phill Gatenby's retirement from the NC and am keen to follow on from his excellent work.

I have also been a regular contributor to "The Football Supporter", our excellent in-house magazine and written for our blog on The Times webpage. Most recently I am in the process of producing a pro safestanding film to put up on Youtube.

Aims and Interests:

In addition to continuing with my work on diversity issues and safestanding I am very interested in developing the idea of club based Fans' Embassies, along the lines of those already provided by the FSF at England away matches. In this context, I was part of the team that met with officials of one Premier League club to discuss how these embassies might be implemented at their club and have gained first hand experience of how these embassies operate by acting as a volunteer. These embassies have a vital role to play and I see at least part of my time being spent getting them accepted as part of the standard provision for fans of British clubs when they are playing abroad. It is a glaring omission from all clubs' provision for their fans that these embassies are not already in place.

Further interests are in getting Government to recognise that they need to do more to protect the game from owners whose only interest in the game is how much money they can strip out of it and ensuring that football fans are treated equitably in the eyes of the law. In this context, I see our link up with the civil rights organisation Liberty is a major step forward for us as an organisation and significant strengthening of our political arm.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE	TIM HILLYER
Name of PROPOSER	WIMBLEDON INDEPENDENT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION (WISA)
Name of SECONDER	JON KEEN

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

My active participation began during the tenure of Sam Hammam as owner of Wimbledon FC. Local MP, Roger Casale, launched a Civic Forum with a football group. I served as Secretary.

After Hammam departed, his successor, Charles Koppell, set up a Fans' Forum. I was elected Deputy Chair, liaising with the club, representing Dons' fans to an entrenched administration.

As a founder member of WISA, when the need for a supporters' trust was identified, I initiated and arranged a meeting at his constituency office with Tony Clarke, then Northampton MP. The concept took hold. At the inaugural meeting in Wimbledon Theatre on Sunday 10 February 2002, I was involved in collecting 750 membership fees for the nascent Dons Trust..

The formation and development of AFC Wimbledon took vast efforts from many individuals and their various skills. My early contribution included working on constitutional and financial working groups, delivering office furniture and setting up the press conference stage at the first ever match at Sutton United. For the first home league game at Kingsmeadow, I worked on the turnstiles .Currently, I coordinate and manage the Club Shop; buying, stocktaking, recruiting volunteers, selling on match-days and by mail order.

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

As a qualified accountant, I look after the needs of my diverse clients. Through this I have contact with statutory and local authorities as well as customers and suppliers. My career has primarily been in retail. I can read a balance sheet and prepare reports interpreting and summarising the financial status of organisations.

Whilst at university, as a sports administrator, I brought our sports teams back into BUSF and UAU national competitions, obtained major, special grants for rugby, yachting, rowing and sailing and introduced a five year rolling plan for capital and high cost expenditure.

Fortunate to travel to every major international football tournament since 1994, I have followed England and Ireland. Travelling abroad has many ups and downs. The sight of a Fans' Embassy is a reassurance; the Free Lions and ground guides invaluable.

Application of acquired skills and knowledge to bear usefully on questions, problems and opportunities is the key to effective and timely intervention. Preparation of fresh, innovative initiatives to present within considered responses is the key to lively campaigns.

I have much experience of committee work and board level meetings. Preparing well, listening carefully and contributing, when having useful input, is fundamental to becoming a positive asset.

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

Recent history at my club gives me considerable incentive to maintain the stance against franchising. The need for stricter adherence to rules of good governance and the implementation of the fit and proper person test throughout the sport is obvious.

I have a special interest in ground grading, the availability of grants and the suitability of grounds to comply with safety regulations and The Green Guide.

I am concerned about the actions of the police, their use of Section 27; the provision of adequate, well-trained stewarding at grounds and away travel to designated grounds. The question of television scheduling is a worry.

The Game 39 and Safe Standing campaigns are of immense importance. I have an interest in German football specifically St Pauli, and look to their solutions as a potential model.

I am also a believer that referees would gain more respect if players, managers, TV commentators and fans learned the laws of the Game.

Above all, hearing the concerns of everyone who follows our National Game, and bringing them to the wider forum of the FSF, so that their frustrations and gripes, ideas and initiatives, arising from our shared passion can be used to improve its collective well-being.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE AMANDA JACKS
Name of PROPOSER MARK LONGDEN
Name of SECONDER ASH CONNOR

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

I have spent the last year on the National Council working with colleagues on the policing, stewarding, safe standing and customer charters/fans rights portfolios. I made the initial approach to Liberty who agreed to represent supporters on whom Section 27 was served by Greater Manchester and South Yorks Police. At the time of writing, both cases are proceeding satisfactorily with it being likely both cases will be won.

I am currently working with a firm of solicitors based in London, working to provide a network of solicitors across the country that will represent football fans on a capped fee basis. They have so far being involved in several cases that we referred to them, and to date these have all gone in favour of the supporters. If I am re-elected, I hope to continue this work so we can launch this initiative for the 09/10 Season.

With regard to safestanding, we're working to re-launch this campaign soon. Due to the 20th Anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy, we felt it inappropriate to work publicly on this until now.

With regard to customer charters and fans rights, it is very clear that many clubs merely pay lip service to their charters, provide poor customer service to their supporters and do not deal with complaints in a satisfactory way. We commissioned a survey that bears out this view and subject to re-election, I aim to send this to all clubs asking how they intend to improve relationship with their supporters.

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

As above, I've a lot of work planned subject to my reelection. I am particularly proud that I secured the involvement of Liberty and excited at the prospect of working towards ensuring supporters are aware of their rights and get good access to affordable legal representation. I also feel very strongly that clubs should be held to account in their dealings with supporters and adhere to the terms of their own charters. While some clubs are very good in this area, many more are not. I have good inter personal skills, am articulate and knowledgeable in the areas in which I work. I'm also looking forward to working with Colin Hendrie and really driving the safe standing campaign forward.

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

Very simply, I would like to be given the opportunity to, alongside fellow NC members, continue the work which I've started and hope that I'm given the chance to do so.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE	MARK LONGDEN
Name of PROPOSER	ASH CONNOR
Name of SECONDER	AMANDA JACKS

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

I first got involved with the Independent Man Utd Supporters Association (IMUSA) in 1995.

I took on the responsibility of liaison with other supporters groups three months later. This role led me to become involved with the FSA and later the NFFSC. I was also one of the original CoFS steering group which led to the amalgamation of the FSA and NFFSC to form the FSF we all know and love.

In 1996 I became a committee member of IMUSA continuing my role with supporter liaison.

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

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

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

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

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

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

During this period I have been active at the national level serving on the NFFSC's NC and also the FSF's NC since the amalgamation. I have previously taken the Football and TV portfolio and wrote the FSF's policy document on the subject, although that document should be up for review.

I was co organiser of the North West's anti GAM£ 39 group.

This year most of my time has been taken up on recruitment initiatives (trade shows) and the section 27 issue.

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

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

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

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

I am really keen to get involved in assisting the preparation of cases which are due to go to court which will not only keep the cost down but ensure that a football supporters eye is run over anything the FSF decide to take on.

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

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE: KEVIN MILES
Name of PROPOSER: IAN TODD
Name of SECONDER: MONICA HARTLAND

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

I have been an active, match-going supporter of Newcastle United since 1973, a season-ticket holder at St. James's Park for the last 18 years, and am a former Chairman of the Independent Newcastle United Supporters' Association. For the last eleven years I have been engaged as International Co-ordinator for first the Football Supporters' Association, and since the amalgamation the FSF, and have organised Fans' Embassies at matches involving the England team. This work has involved liaison with various authorities internationally, both football and governmental.

I am also chairman of the management committee of the educational charity Show Racism the Red Card. I have been a member of the Steering Committee of Football Supporters Europe (formerly FSI) since its inception.

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

I have a wide network of contacts throughout European supporters' organisations, in the development of which my language skills have proved useful (I speak fluent German and French, and am currently attempting to learn Russian). I have developed good working relationships with counterparts in the Football Association, the police, and government departments.

I have wide media experience on both sides of the fence, as a regular interviewee on behalf of the FSF, and a former sports journalist with the Sunday Telegraph and a presenter with BBC Radio Five Live.

I have also accumulated vast experience of travel as a football fan internationally with club and country, and also domestically; I have arranged to spend the coming season supporting a Championship team, to widen my range of experience at home.

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

My primary interests at National Council level would naturally tend to be drawn towards the international sphere, and particularly the development of the FSF's relationships with supporters organisations and football authorities on the European level.

I am also very interested in policing and legal issues, as these overlap with my work with England fans, and also with the FSF's presentation of ourselves to the media.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE	GEOFF MILTON
Name of PROPOSER	RICK DUNIEC – LEEDS UNITED SUPPORTERS' TRUST
Name of SECONDER	ALAN BLOORE

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

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

Have attended NC meetings as reserve. Currently hold position of Secretary of Yorkshire division of FSF

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

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

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

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

Consider myself a team player, and understand the need for collective unity in an organisation. Believe that issues should be aired and discussed in the open, but agreed policy by the group should be defended by the entire group, irrespective of personal opinion.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE ANNE-MARIE MOCKRIDGE
Name of PROPOSER KEN MALLEY
Name of SECONDER KEVIN MILES

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

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

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

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

I am currently the Diversity policy holder for the FSF and have held this position since Sept 2008, after being elected to NC in July at the Fans' Parliament.

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

As Diversity policy holder for the last 10 months I have attended meetings with various agencies including the FA, Kick It Out, The National Association of Disabled Supporters, the Gay Football Supporters Network, etc and established strong links with these groups.

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

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

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

In the last 10 months having 'found my feet' and established links with the various groups mentioned above, the challenge the Diversity policy presents, and looking at long-term objectives and where we need to be focusing our energies, I would like to continue in this area if re-elected.

I want to encourage all fans to be able to report incidents freely and without fear of repercussions with established clear guidelines on how to do this. Some areas of reporting issues are still extremely 'cloudy'.

I want fans to identify and highlight good practice of equality and inclusiveness from their own and other clubs and for the FSF and other agencies to make this information freely available in various formats for all fans to access

I would like to continue to work with fans to help identify and address issues and campaign for equality and fair treatment for all supporters

I believe we need to focus on diversity issues from grassroots level upwards and include coaching, refereeing, admin etc as well as the playing and supporting side of the game

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE MARK OGBOURNE

Name of PROPOSER JON KEEN

Name of SECONDER PAM WILKINS

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

I was on the Board of a Ryman league side in North London during the 80's, became Chairman of Crawley Town Supporters Club in mid 90's. Have been involved with the Football Supporters Federation since the mid 90's, having originally brought Crawley Town Supporters Club into the Football Supporters Federation. I was involved in setting up the Devils Trust at Crawley Town and I have been Chairman for the past 3 years.

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

I work as a Contract Negotiator for a living, so have dealt with difficult and complex negotiating situations.

I have been involved with Football Clubs from both sides of the terraces and this gives me a greater insight as to how Clubs work with and against supporters.

My local battles have opened up a number of useful and interesting contacts in the Pyramid, FA, Conference, Press and Media.

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

As the local situation has improved (albeit, still strained), I would like to refocus on Pyramid issues and also the Financial state of the game.

Due to work commitments I will be travelling more around the UK, so want to visit more Pyramid Clubs and spread the word of the advantages of joining the Football Supporters Federation.

We are entering a very difficult time with the current financial situation & many clubs are going to be feeling the strain. Now, more than ever, will organisations like ours be a voice piece to many affected supporters. FSF has come a long way in the last 18 months with a number of notable successes. But FSF must not take it's eye off the ball & maintain its current presence.

From a personnel perspective I want to develop the relationship being forged with Setanta & hopefully other organisations.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

Nomination to stand for election to the National Council

Name of CANDIDATE	IAN TODD
Name of PROPOSER	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBIOBN SUPPORTERS' CLUB
Name of SECONDER	KEVIN MILES

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have been honoured to be President but have always felt that this should not be a post to cling to for life. In standing down though I remain energetic in support of Federation's aims and keen to offer it the opportunity to utilise whatever knowledge and skills I can continue to provide.

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

Federation's influence on national government and the game's ruling bodies has never been greater and we must use every opportunity to maximise that opportunity on behalf of all supporters. In doing so, our increased profile should incentivise both affiliate and individual membership to make the organisation even more representative of fans' concerns and priorities.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION AS CHAIR

MALCOLM CLARKE

ELECTION STATEMENT

I have been a match-going football supporter for 50 years. I am a 'home and away' Stoke City fan who also has a strong allegiance to York City. If Stoke aren't playing and York are, I'm usually there.

I have been Chair of the Federation since it was created in its present form in 2002. It has been a privilege to have that responsibility and to work with our individual and affiliate members and my colleagues on the National Council and in other organisations to take forward our agendas to improve the game we love. If given the opportunity, I am enthusiastic to continue that work, because although we have undoubtedly made progress in recent years, we still have a long way to go to get to where I think we should be.

We are a far more professional organisation than we used to be. We have a higher profile. We have had some significant successes. But we are still not 'on the radar' of many ordinary fans. We still have to convince many of them that it's worth trying to change things in football. We are still not taken as seriously as we should be by some of those running football. We do not always get our message across in the media.

Talking with each other and agreeing what's wrong with football is only the easy first step. Being right is not enough. We have to actually change things which means we have to be a more effective campaigning and lobbying organisation. We have to continuously change and improve the way we work to take account of the electronic age and the internet. We have to be more politically aware. We have to find ways of reaching the tens of thousands of fans who agree with us. In short, we have to become winners. We can do it, and I am keen to continue to play my part.

Malcolm Clarke

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' FEDERATION

FANS' PARLIAMENT 2009

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION AS TREASURER

CARROLL CLARKE

ELECTION STATEMENT

Born in Aberystwyth Carroll moved to Wrexham at an early age and has been a staunch supporter of Wrexham for over 50 years. He joined the Wrexham AFC Supporters Association in the early 60s, being responsible for the printing, publication and sales of the match day programme for a number of years. He became Chairman of the Association "donkeys years ago" - he can't remember quite when, but it seems a very long time ago. He still holds that position.

He has recently been appointed to an advisory panel set up by the chairman of Wrexham F C along with Directors, an ex player, local business people, Council officials and a representative from the newly formed Glyndwr University. The brief is to discuss and develop all aspects of supporting the activities and aspirations of a professional football club to try and ensure it's success, whilst always being aware of the needs and opinions of the supporters.

Four years ago Carroll was elected into Wrexham F.C Supporters Association Hall of Fame joining such legends as Joey Jones, Arfon Griffiths, John Neal and Denis Smith

Carroll became interested in the national supporters movement when he was invited to become Secretary of the Welsh Division of the NFFSC in January 1976, 5 months prior to the Shrewsbury Conference. Following the decision to divide the Northern Division into two divisions west and east of the Pennines, the Welsh Division merged with west division to form a North West and North Wales division and Carroll was elected chairman for 12 months to the 2009 AGM.

During his time as an NFFSC officer he also had the portfolio of Junior Supporters and organised the annual National Federation junior 5-a-side football competition.

He was National Treasurer of the NFFSC for 8 years, succeeding Ken Chaplin and upon the merger with the FSA in 2003 was nominated to continue as Treasurer of the FSF, a position he was happy to accept and has held since.

Outside his footballing interests Carroll is now "fully retired" having been employed by Barclays Bank PLC for 35 years, the latter 8 years as a manager. He retired from the bank in 1996 and following 18 months recuperation was persuaded by a former bank client to take up a post with his company as a Customer Care manager. This he did until March 2005 when he finally threw the towel in.

Carroll is also the chair of the Trustees and a director of a Miner's Welfare in the village of Llay near Wrexham. He is responsible for the financial side of the business and other responsibilities include the search for and completion of grant applications in support of the building, which was built in 1929 and is grade 2 listed and the surrounding sports fields.

All in all Carroll is an extremely busy person, but is confident that he can continue to do justice to all his responsibilities.

Carroll Clark