

## Appendix - A brief history of the national supporters' movement.

The first national supporters' organisation was founded in 1921 by Coventry City supporter Herbert Kendall. The National Federation of Supporters Clubs (Nat Fed) was an organisation for supporters' clubs only. In the 1980s, following the Heysel disaster, two Liverpool supporters, Rogan Taylor and Peter Garrett, founded the Football Supporters' Association (FSA). It was predominantly an organisation for individual members but had affiliated supporter groups as well.

In 2002 members of Nat Fed and the FSA recognised that the interests of supporters would be better served by having one national supporters' body. After lengthy discussions, the FSF was formed from the merger of these two national organisations. This view had been endorsed in December 1999 by the Football Task Force set up by the Government under the chair of the Rt. Hon. David Mellor PC QC, two of whose recommendations were:

- Supporters' Associations should be encouraged as far as possible to be represented at national level with a single voice;
- The Football Authorities should provide sufficient funding for the proper running and effective functioning of a national supporter representative body (my emphasis).

The concept of a single national organisation is therefore not new and while at the time it was a matter of much debate and some differences of opinion, we would now struggle to find anyone who thinks that in the light of subsequent experience the decision to merge in 2002 was the wrong decision.

During this period, up in Northampton, the late Brian Lomax was developing his own ground-breaking concept of supporters' trusts as a vehicle for the ownership of shares in football clubs, and sometimes the ownership of the clubs themselves. This was particularly valuable in the early years of this century when there was a very high incidence of clubs in financial insolvency and administration events but remains very relevant and important today.

Brian and his colleagues established Supporters Direct in 2000 to promote and support trusts. Brian decided that he did not want SD to be part of the new organisation. Had he taken a different view it would have been possible to incorporate his ground-breaking ideas into it. At the time this did not unduly concern those of us involved in the merger process because SD was originally set up in an academic institution as part of Birkbeck College, and this was a very valuable new professional and academic resource for supporters of clubs in trouble.

Had we known that it would subsequently transform itself to become a new national representative organisation, after we had gone to considerable trouble to achieve a single organisation, I think we would have wished to discuss that question with Brian and his colleagues.