

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER TIER – ELECTION STATEMENTS 2020

GLEN MULLAN

I'd like to formally apply to stand as an individual candidate as part of the FSA Council.

I have previously held a role on the [FSF] council as an Elected associate Council Member 6 years ago, during a time when I was the Chairman of the BRFC Action Group, Blackburn Rovers largest supporter group. As the founder of the group, this took a lot of my time up, especially through the traumatic years our club went through, through the poor ownership as our club.

I have represented our supporters in meetings with the FA, Premier League, Football League and also Sports Minister at Parliament. In addition to my role as the democratically elected Chairperson of the BRFC Action Group, I have also held the Elected position as the Secretary of the Rovers Trust, I held this role for 2 years before stepping down to spend a little more time with my business ventures.

As a passionate football supporter and a paid-up member of both the previously mentioned organisations, I'd dearly love the opportunity to be part of the supporter representatives on the FSA, in a period which promises to be very challenging for the future of our National Game.

SARAH STELLING

I'm a lifelong York City fan, so have experienced the trials and tribulations of both league and non-league football over many years. Whilst our Trust was once heralded as a flagship of the supporter movement, since the takeover of club by the majority shareholder in 2006 the organisation had been fairly dormant. The imminent move to a new ground after 89 years at Bootham Crescent represents a critical period for the club and our Trust has a vital role in protecting the club's long-term future.

I joined the York City Trust board four years ago to help revitalise its standing in the community and ensure that it truly represented the views and aspirations of our diverse fanbase. As a younger female supporter, I felt it vitally important that the Trust begin to better engage with my peers. My primary function on the Trust board is as Fundraising Chair which involves coordination of a group of 20-30 volunteers on a diverse range of fundraising and community initiatives. Following years of the Trust languishing in the wilderness, this task has been extremely difficult but during the past few years we have successfully doubled our reserves and made huge strides in improving our standing across the fanbase.



Through a united voice and effective lobbying, I believe many of the challenges faced by individual fans, Trusts and other supporters' groups can be addressed at a national level. I bring a wealth of organisational skills and experience to the National Council and it would be a great privilege to represent all non-league fans."

MICHAEL GREEN

The greed and stupidity of the football authorities, leagues, individual clubs and some players that has been witnessed throughout 2020 did not start due to Covid. It is the predictable manifest of what 1992 created and what subsequent failures of all of football to put fans at the centre of all motivations was always destined to generate.

Two plus years ago I stood in this same category but with a radical manifesto that cut against the positivity generated by merger. 30 months on and we find ourselves battling the same issues and the same old tin ears. If anything the football world has got worse since the FSF and SD became FSA. That tells us it is not just the change we demand of them that is needed but also change in ourselves. The time for "persuade from the inside" strategies is looking over, a more pro-active and robust approach is needed. Lots of talk in society of no going back to pre Covid, in football terms it's no going back to pre "Project Big Picture". It is time to make it clear, funding streams notwithstanding, that the pre-eminent fans organisation is no longer tolerating seeing fans being treated with such obvious, and regular, disdain.

As a board member of SD during the merger negotiations, as an ex Chair of the Leeds United Supporters Trust during the mad years and as someone whose working life has been spent on behalf of community led/political/influencing organisations I have the experience and honest approach required to help shape a new strategy and refocusing of the energy we know that fans in general have. I ask for your support to do that on National Council.

GERRY PIMM

My motivation for applying for this role comes from a deep passion for our national game and supporters.

I bring experience of working with a Trust and the FSA. I was the Fulham Supporters Trust (FST) Secretary between 2017 and 2020, during which time the first structured dialogue MoU between a Club and a Trust was agreed. I also represented the FST on the FSA Premier/Championship networks. Having retired from the FST, I have the time, commitment and dedication to contribute to this position effectively.



Equally as important is that I have close links with Clubs from National league to step 4 and beyond. I speak to club officials, fans and players at these levels and understand their frustrations and constraints, particularly at this time of crisis. These clubs provide community cohesion and facilities and their numerous volunteers deserve our full support. I would be a voice representing fans at all levels.

Skills wise I bring experience and knowledge to the fore. Working at the Bank of England, I lead on areas of governance, compliance, regulation and risk. In previous roles I headed up strategic and business planning and performance and impact reporting. I have worked in corporate, charity and public sector leadership roles, working collaboratively and inclusively. I believe in a value led organisation that creates a culture of inclusivity and open engagement.

There are many competing priorities for the FSA at a critical time and my skills would contribute towards the outstanding work being carried out. Having worked with the staff and Trust reps from the networks, I know that there is a vast amount of knowledge and commitment throughout the organisation. I would be honoured to join the critical journey that all at the FSA are making - for the fans, by the fans"

NILESH CHAUHAN

I stand to be elected to the FSA Individual representative as a representative of the Fans for Diversity network.

I'm currently the founder of Villans together and our strategic focus is to bring all ages together from the elderly to youth generation to show them the Aston Villa experience and the fun safe environment of the famous Villa Park.

I won the Aston Villa part of the pride and the FSA award in 2019 on behalf of Villans Together.

Through my voluntary work, I'm a member of my local temple where I am football director and overlook the football development centre. Most recently I have been appointed inclusion and diversity officer for Highgate United.

GLENN ASTON

Wolves home and away season ticket holder and love all things football. Board member of Wolves GoldenGate Lottery, raising funds for the Academy and local charities. National List

Assistant Referee from 1996-2004. Member of the Wolves Fans' Parliament and am their FSA Premier League Network representative. Currently self-employed Finance Director allowing control of my diary, allocating time appropriately to all of my commitments.

Firm believer that fans are the lifeblood of football and that WE have to be involved at all levels of the National Game across all genres and this has never been more important than it is today with the extreme financial perils and uncertainty facing clubs throughout the UK; the very poor opportunism attempted by 'The Big 6' was oh so wrong on so many levels!

There are many challenges to be negotiated especially, the safe return of fans, PPV, 'The Big Picture', European Super League and VAR to name just a few and it's vital that the FSA has a strong recognised collective voice/input. Firmly believe that I can, if successful, be a significant contributor going forward as throughout my life I've been an achiever who leads by example but is also not afraid to seek help and advice and, in fact, actively encourages it.

The proposed FSA 'Fan-led review into football club ownership and management' is something I strongly believe in because we all just don't know what awaits 'around the corner'. We all love our respective clubs but without competition and the possibility of a 'what if', what would be the point? We're all in this together and a good strong FSA, which I want to be a part of, is the way forward! We have to protect OUR game and cannot let mega-rich oligarchs just ride roughshod over our history and future.

CHRISTINE SEDDON

It has been a real privilege to serve on the National Council for the last couple of years. The changes being forced on our game are unprecedented and there has never been a greater need for supporters to be organised and involved in the shaping of our game. For that reason I am seeking re-election.

I have been a supporter of Blackpool FC for over 50 years and a member of Blackpool Supporters' Trust since its inception in 2014. I became involved because of the very well publicised problems at my club with the then owners (they who must not be named) as it was clear to me that the only hope of saving Blackpool FC was if the supporters stood up and became active.

Over the years of the Blackpool campaign for better owners and better football governance, it became clear that the existing system is not fit for purpose and that far too many clubs are facing enormous difficulties and possible extinction. The experience I have gained over the last 6 years at dealing with the football authorities, football owners, media and Government has opened my eyes to the issues facing us all and I sincerely wish to continue to put that experience to good use to help the FSA represent football supporters across the entire pyramid.

The Covid pandemic has focused attention on the many problems we are facing but has also provided an opportunity for fan representation and involvement which must not be missed. A strong, relevant and vocal FSA has never been more needed and I sincerely hope that I will be afforded the opportunity to continue to contribute and support the FSA as we move forward.

MALCOLM HIRST

Personal Passion

Firstly, I'm a football fan. I've supported Port Vale for 48 years. I love the matchday experience, travelling, friendships, a social drink, and of course watching the football. Although, in the case of Vale it's normal the 90 minutes in the middle of the day that spoils a great day out!

Secondly, I enjoy live football and during these strange times I've been watching football at Level 11, Step 7 and have enjoyed watching Clapton Community FC, a club I've followed, and watched on ad hoc basis.

Thirdly, my eclectic footballing taste extend to following the England national home and away where possible, and German Bundesliga 2 team St Pauli.

I have a keen interest in football governance. I believe that the supporters' voice should be heard, and fan groups should be allowed to play as full a role as possible with their clubs whether or not they are fan-owned. Fans can contribute much to football where they can work alongside club owners, such as in #LetFansIn.

Experience

I'm standing for the National Council having just completed my two-year term as a Fans For Diversity (FFD) representative. I've attending council meetings regularly, participating in meetings and discussions. Although elected as a FFD representative I have involved myself



in full life of the National Council and the FSA and, if elected, would continue to work in a full and active manner.

I have attended the EFL Network and been a member of its disability sub-group. Previously, I have been Vice-Chair of the Port Vale Supporters' Club introducing a new and more manageable data base of members following GDPR, developing badges for members and helping set up and run online sales. I also helped organise an Extraordinary General Meeting on behalf of North London Valiants' after fans were marginalised.

THOMAS CONCANNON

The year 2020 has thrown many curveballs into our lives, normally we have football as our escape but even our beloved game has decided to challenge the resolve of football supporters across the pyramid.

I don't need to run through the many issues we have faced as football fans in the last six months or so, but one thing is clear that the proposed fan-led review into football is needed urgently, and we all have a part to play to ensure its success.

I am applying for the one of the available vacancies as an individual member on the FSA's National Council. I come here as a Newcastle United fan and I am also vice-chair of the Newcastle United Supporters Trust. I am incredibly passionate about striving for change in football, from matters such as structured dialogue improvement with our clubs and improving our match day experience. As a 29-year-old fan, I feel I can bring a younger

demographic to the table. With lots left to learn, I am incredibly passionate about fan activism and under no illusion about the role I'd be required to play, working closely with you all in a united effort on FSA policies and campaigns that benefit our clubs, our supporters and our communities.

For the last six years I have worked with the Football Supporters' Association on their Fans' Embassy project which provides a support service to England fans for international fixtures, working closely with the FA. This has given me valuable experience of working to help fans across the country, putting rivalries aside to support our national side. This has also enabled me to develop good relationships with the fantastic people that work within the FSA.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

ROBERT WHITTAKER

I have over the last four years offered strong support to the Committee of the Blackpool Supporters Trust on strategy, policy and governance. My record of delivery includes:

- advising and supporting the Trust in managing their relationship with the EFL
- developing a “case review” model for managing failure at football clubs
- taking a lead role in the national petition demanding reform of the regulatory regime in English football, originally produced in 2018
- court reporting to Blackpool fans during the Belokon/Oyston court case

I am well aware of what football fans want in terms of their footballing experience ; they are poorly served in areas such as ticket pricing, communication and the wholly one-sided relationship that the game has with media and broadcasters.

I am a strong advocate for **reform of football regulation** in England. The ruling bodies are culturally inert, slow to respond to problems and very poor communicators. Their relationship with club owners is passive and self-serving, and a long way removed from the rigorous, pro-active and challenging role that they should be undertaking.

Football is an integral part of our social fabric, and **football clubs** are often the hub of their local communities. They **should be cherished and protected** as community assets; the ruling bodies of the game show little sign that they understand this concept, let alone support it.

if elected, **I will lobby hard for change from within, as well as advocating more fundamental reform.** The game as we know and love it is under fundamental threat both nationally and globally; it is time for ordinary supporters to take a stand, and I hope that being elected to this national role would help me to play my part.

MARTIN O'HARA

I am an England and Doncaster Rovers supporter.

I have been involved with the FSA, and previously the FSF, for nearly 20 years and have held various positions within both organisations. I am a current National Council member, and a Board Director, of the FSA. I have served on the National Council of the FSF for many years

and was a Board member there also. I also held the Vice Chair position for the 8 years prior to the formation of the FSA.

During that time, I have been actively involved in numerous campaigns, including Safe Standing, Away Fans Matter, Twenty's Plenty and also served alongside Amanda when we volunteered to look after Policing and Stewarding issues on behalf of all football supporters. My experience of issues that football fans face is comprehensive, and I have campaigned rigorously on their behalf for many years.

That experience has been invaluable. And it has certainly helped when faced with local club issues. My position as Secretary of the Supporters Trust at Doncaster in recent years was tested when we faced a couple of high profile aggressive takeover bids, which we managed to successfully repel. My role within the club has enabled us to forge a partnership with the current owners and has been beneficial for DRFC supporters, and our work has gained national recognition on many an occasion. Our trend setting fan engagement programmes have been copied and reworked at many other clubs!

Recently I have taken on another role as Chairman of the South Yorkshire Police Independent Advisory group. These new groups are a new avenue for supporters to influence match days and the Policing operations at football matches.

My wish is to carry on fighting for the rights of all supporters in the coming years.

IAN BRIDGE

With our national game facing massive uncertainty for many reasons, life outside the bubble of the top level of the Premier League for all other clubs is becoming more difficult. This is precisely why the lifeblood of English football, the supporters, are becoming increasingly more important with each passing day.

Supporter representation at individual club level is essential. However, to have the greatest level of influence, in any upcoming reviews, the FSA will be critical in ensuring that influence is channelled in the most effective way possible.

As a BWFC supporter of 60 years, and a co-founder and past chair of Bolton Wanderers Supporters' Society, my experiences of the last five years have opened my eyes to the many instances of selfish arrogant and incompetent ownership and governance evident in many areas. Unfortunately, this malaise, is not limited to club ownership, with the "competition organisers" also contributing to the problem.

Many clubs do have responsible and sensible owners. However, nobody knows a club better than that particular club's supporters and their voices need to be heard and represented in a more effective and responsible manner in the months and years to come.



My experience over recent years at Bolton Wanderers in contact and dealings with unprincipled owners, ineffective governing bodies and insolvency practitioners has given me a great appreciation of the important part the FSA will play in the future of football in this country.

On this basis, I would therefore like to put my name forward for election to the FSA National Council and request that I be given an opportunity to help in representing supporters in shaping the future of our national game.

Thank you.