



FANS FOR DIVERSITY NETWORK – ELECTION STATEMENTS 2020

TREVOR WOOD – PRIDE OF IRONS

As a Disabled and Gay man I have been involved in sport for over 30 years with a keen interest in access in all its forms, whether it gaining access to stadia or facilities once inside and feeling safe from abuse.

I was Chair of the London Sports Forum for Disabled People for 19 years and a Board Member for 25 years. I was a Trustee of English Federation of Disability Sport for 12 years and was briefly its Chair. I sat on two of The FA's committees, Tackling Homophobia Taskforce and the Mental Health Advisory Group. I was a member of Sport England's Sporting Equals Action Group.

I am a keen supporter of Fans for Diversity and was briefly on the National Committee of the Football Supporters Federation, representing the LGBTQ+ community. I was a Co-founder of and still am a Committee member of Pride of Irons, the West Ham LGBTQ+ supporters group. Despite being disabled I support the introduction of safe standing and fail to see why fans should have to sit if they don't want to.

RODNEY CYRUS – LOVE FOOTBALL HATE RACISM

In support of my application for a seat on the FSA National Council, I submit this following statement.

How did I get to this point where I want to play a part in how football is governed and how fans play an active part? My love of football began at an early age and this hasn't changed. Football is so many things but what it is most clearly is a universal language which flows through barriers. And I see myself as part of the language.

I have worked in education for 30 years in a number of years as a mentor, as a manager and two years as Deputy Head, my primary role has been to:

- driving change,
- improving lives
- and enable others to overcome barriers.

My life has education and sport. I listen to those around me and work to achieve shared objectives. Being a part of the Fans For Diversity advisory group enabled me to connect these two aspects of my life in one area. I have been able to use my wealth of knowledge as a football supporter and educator

to participate on panels hosted by the FSA & Fans For Diversity and the Reach Society to highlight and address some of the inequalities faced by many.

So why do I want to stand? I see fans/supporters as an integral part of the game, historically and in its future. Fans of course are not homogeneous they are diverse and I wish to be engage in a conversation where diversity is the norm: where views from the ground up are regards as important and key to the game's development and sustainability as those who play or manage the game. I would add valuable experience to this very important body of experts because I speak the language of football.

SHIN AUJLA – APNA ALBION

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

I'm currently Chair of the supporter group 'Apna Albion' (WBA FC) and our strategic focus is to increase representation within the stadium on a matchday that reflects our local demographic which is predominantly BAME. Our group have delivered a range of initiatives to help encourage small groups and individuals to experience the atmosphere of being at a live game. Through the FFD network we have built strong links with like minded supporter groups such as Proud Baggies, Blues4All, Punjabi Rams, Villans Together, Punjabi Villans & Bangla Bantams

I've been an active member of the Fans for Diversity Guidance Group from when it was formed and was involved with hosting the inaugural FFD Conference last September.

Through my day job I have taken a lead on various Equality and Diversity programmes within the workplace and the role I'm doing at the moment is for the Albion Foundation where I'm also the Strategic Lead for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working with stakeholders such as the Premier League, EFL, Kick It Out, Level Playing Field and Show Racism the Red Card.

Through my voluntary work, I'm a member of the Independent Equality Advisory Group at West Bromwich Albion. I've been a season ticket holder at WBA for over 25 years and when time allows I support non league football in the area (Stourbridge, Kidderminster Harriers, Halesowen Town and Lye Town).

I'm involved with the various aspects of the women's game too, more recently as the dedicated COVID Officer for WBA Women, the Development Squad and the Regional Talent Centre.

Grassroots is important to me too, I'm an FA licensed coach and manage an u15 team in the Junior Premier League.