



## **NATIONAL GAME NETWORK – ELECTION STATEMENTS 2020**

### **SARAH STELLING – YORK CITY SUPPORTERS' TRUST**

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."

### **RICHARD TOMKINS – HEREFORD UNITED SUPPORTERS' TRUST**

Never was a unified football supporters' organization needed more than in the present day. It has been an honour to represent our network at National Council (NC) during the extended interim period. I have attended all NC and National Game Network meetings. My experience is that the voice of the National Game does need to be heard strongly at NC.

To stage a match, a football club needs another to play against. Clubs go to the wall through no fault of their supporters. With the demise of Bury FC I offered my services, via the FSA, to help them as a phoenix club. My own experience following Hereford United / Hereford FC has shown me that supporters from all clubs must work together to protect our great football heritage. I got this message across at a phone-in on Lancashire local radio.

The National Game is the 'grass roots' of football. The effects of the Covid-19 emergency will likely see the Premier League and EFL offload young local players. The National Game can still give them a chance, but only if it remains in a strong condition.

It is more important to football today than ever. As one of your representatives on the NC I would continue to stress the importance of improved funding for the National Game from the top of the football tree who most certainly can afford it. The FSA took timely advantage of the General Election to secure pledges from all parties. It is now presented with the opportunity to hold the incoming Government to account on its pledges for the betterment of football. I strongly advocate all FSA campaigns and especially 'Sustain the Game'.

#### **CARROLL CLARK – WREXHAM SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION**

I have been a staunch supporter of Wrexham for over 60 years. I joined the Wrexham AFC Supporters Association in the early 60s. I became Chairman of the Association "donkeys years ago" - and still hold that position.

I became interested in the national supporters movement when I 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 the North West division to form a North West and North Wales division and I was elected chairman for 12 months to the 2009 AGM.

During my time as an NFFSC officer I also had the portfolio of Junior Supporters and organised the annual National Federation junior 5-a-side football competition and was responsible for the organisation of several NFFSC annual conferences when based in Wales.

I was National Treasurer of the NFFSC for 8 years and upon the merger with the FSA in 2003 was nominated to continue as Treasurer of the FSF. However, when it was decided to handle all financial matters from the office in Sunderland my duties in that respect ceased. I also had a short spell as a member of the FSF board.

Since then I have been a member of the FSF National Council and in the past have represented the FSF in meetings with officials of the National League.

Outside my footballing interests I am now "fully retired" having been employed by Barclays Bank PLC for 35 years, the latter 8 years as a manager. I retired from the bank in 1996.

I therefore submit my name for election as a representative of the national game network.

### **TIM SCOTT – DULWICH HAMLET SUPPORTERS' TRUST**

Originally from Cheshire I was brought up on Stockport County FC and Macclesfield Town FC, two clubs that have experienced significant turmoil during my lifetime and which have had a major influence in my appreciation of the national game. Following my move to London, I started following Dulwich Hamlet. I became a season ticket holder and Supporters' Trust member soon after and was elected to the Dulwich Hamlet Supporters' Trust board at the July AGM 2020.

After more than a decade at the Civil Service, working in The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Cabinet Office, I now work for a not-for-profit trade body. Both roles have provided direct insight into Government policy, knowledge I've brought to Dulwich Hamlet.

DHFC have experienced their own challenges over recent years with property developers, planning applications, local and national government interventions. I was able to bring my experience to the club to directly support them with briefing ministers and MPs and raising the profile of clubs at the National League level with Parliamentarians.

The role football clubs play in the local community is significant. Communities are fragile but a focal point brings people together regardless of their circumstances. When that is lost it may be gone forever – so we must do all that we can to keep it alive. With the current C-19 crisis, clubs across the country are under an unprecedented threat, and I want to help clubs work towards a secure and sustainable future so they can be there for communities as they have been for over 100 years.

I will use my experience to help the FSA fight against the challenges we are facing as a sport. Doing that will be an honour.