

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER TIER – ELECTION STATEMENTS 2021

ANIELKA PIENIAZEK

I would like to apply for the FSA National Council as an individual member and thank you for your consideration. As in many families, football has always played a role in my life, especially during major tournaments, the excitement mixed with hope, disappointment or joy.

From 2016, I became immersed in the world of football in a professional capacity. I joined University Campus of Football Business to support young people from disadvantaged and historically

underrepresented backgrounds in higher education, with financial means to study and later join the industry as equals. Most of the students I come across are primarily passionate football fans who love the game so much they see their future tied to the game.

The inclusion scholarship programmes I had the privilege to implement with Kick It Out, She Kicks and Women in Football, exposed dozens of diverse students to networking, mentoring, development and skills building opportunities to boost their confidence to take action for a positive change in football. For example, through the links between She Kicks and the FSA one of the female students has gained some invaluable experience volunteering with the Fans' Embassies at the Women's World Cup in France and we hope to replicate it next year.

In my volunteering capacity, I am involved with the Fans For Diversity Guidance Group; I contributed to the Fan Led Review of Football Governance and supported the lunch of Fulham For All supporter's group with Fulham FC. I believe that football is a game for everyone and I want to make myself as inclusive as possible to inspire others and advocate to make it a great experience for everyone. I would like to share this as well as expertise and experience of working with young people to contribute to the work of the FSA National Council.

PETE DAYKIN

Football Background

- Match-going Sunderland fan since 1981.
- Wrotefor, edited and produced Sunderland fanzine *A Love Supreme* (1992-2003).
- Co-founder of *The Blizzard Football Quarterly* (2011).

I play the game to an appallingly low standard, entirely devoid of elegance, pace or finesse of any description. The pointing and shouting bit I'm brilliant at.

Professional Background

- CEO of [Wordnerds](#): award-winning, venture-backed software company that helps some of the world's largest organisations understand customer/employee text.
- Non-Exec Director of London-based Business Consultancy, [Clarasys](#)
- Chair of the Future Gateshead Group: business owners, investors, residents and educators working together on the promotion and regeneration of Gateshead.

FSA track record

- Joined 2003
- Co-ordinator of the FSA's Safe Standing campaign (2011-present)
- NC member since 2004, Executive Committee/Board member (2005-present)
- Produce *Free Lions* for the FSA's Fans' Embassy service
- Set up, ran and handed over the original FSF office in Sunderland
- Marketing & Communications (until 2012/13)
- On-the-ground campaigning with fans in the Northeast
- Public speaking and media: effectively representing the FSA in meetings, at events and on TV and radio

Why me?

Proven track record in:

- Campaigning and relationship-building: external organisations including Football League, Premier League, FA, Fans' Fund, DCMS, Sports Ground Safety Authority (SGSA), Kick It Out, ACPO
- Commercial, legal, financial and HR matters
- Strategic thinking, tact, diplomacy, positivity, humour: I have acted as arbitrator on disciplinary matters, helped strategise through some tricky times in the FSF's history – both politically and economically – with plenty of conflict management experience (!)

What do I think the job entails?

- Find common ground and build consensus
- Listen to, understand and surface the voice of all FSA stakeholders: members and non-members, fan organisations and interest groups
- Represent this faithfully, credibly and effectively to football family partners, funding bodies and Government agencies
- Help build an organisation that is compelling in a debate and invaluable in a fight



NEIL LE MILLIERE

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

I'm 68, married to Julie, and an Exeter City Supporter living in London.

I've played football/involved in football administration for 55 years.

SUPPORTER INVOLVEMENT BACKGROUND

I have been/on: Actively involved with Exiled EC Supporters' Groups since 1984;

A member of the EC Supporters Club since 1982;

Administrator of GNet, an Internet Mail Group for Exeter fans since 1999;

APFSCIL Secretary/Travel Secretary since 2006;

Attend all home/away ECFC matches and made EFL Supporter of the Year in 2013;

A founder member of EC Supports Trust served on the Board since 2000;

Supporters Direct Board Member since 2005; Chair England and Wales Council; Chair Governance Sub-Committee; all until subsumed;

Received Richard Lillicrap Award for Outstanding Services to the Supporters Trust Movement 2018;

Community Owned Clubs representative to FSA National Council since formation;

On Trustees Advisory Board of KIO until abolished;

On FA Compliance Monitoring Group;

Independent Member on numerous Trust's EMGs and Chair of many, also responsible for receiving nominations/overseeing contested elections;

Volunteering at ECFC running the FECRACE bar at every home match since 2003.

WHAT I CAN OFFER

With this involvement, numerous years on my Trust's Board and SD's Board, I feel qualified to represent supporters' views/opinions to help specifically with advising the NC on the setting up of supporters' trusts and Club Ownership as well as advising on what is important to supporters at clubs and when they travel to matches at other clubs.

I invite you to vote for me and promise to continue to work towards getting supporters views/opinions moved to the top of every agenda. I'll strive to help those supporters who want to get involved with running/owning of their clubs where possible; and ensuring that clubs are community focussed, fully involving those communities in the life of the football club and vice versa.



MICHAEL GREEN

As an activist in football for 20 years, ranging from founder antagonist of LoveLeedsHateBates through being Chair of the Leeds United Supporters Trust during the dark times to being a board member of Supporters Direct during the merger period, I believe I bring a wealth of experience, skills and strategic talent that would complement the FSA's National Council.

However, I am aware that my election would just add one more old white male into a leadership role into this organisation where both in elected and officer levels there are plenty of that characteristic around. Therefore, I am happy to request, in line with the recent FSA statements on equality, diversity and inclusion, that if there are candidates in my section that bring a wider breath of diversity, across all protected characteristics, please vote for them rather than me.



GEOFF BIELBY

I am a retired bank official born in 1956. I have been a Hull City supporter since the mid-sixties.

My first supporter group activity was in 2013 working with Huddersfield Town ST and Amanda Jacks, FSF, on our "Bubble Fixture".

I witnessed how fans groups can win an argument; we obtained a written apology from West Yorkshire Police!

I supported the City Till We Die (CTWD) group, was elected as a Director, campaigning to retain our clubs playing name in 2014.

With the support of Supporters Direct (SD) CTWD merged with the Tigers Cooperative forming Hull City Supporters Trust (HCST) on 1st January 2015. I assisted that transition and have been a Director throughout.

I became HCST Chairman in March 2016, stepping aside as Chairman in August 2020.

I represented Hull City fans at Premier League dialogue meetings in July 2016, and April 2017 hosted by Richard Scudamore.

In 2018 I was elected to the SD National Council, a position I held until the merger of FSF and SD.

In 2019 was elected to the FSA National Council as Championship representative, losing my seat at AGM in December 2020 due to relegation.

Whilst on the National Council I attended Supporter Engagement meetings with The EFL senior team in person and online.

I attended Parliament speaking on Safe Standing.

I helped establish the FSA #TerraceTalk Campaign.

I presented to Tracy Crouch and her Fan Led Review team as part of the League One and Two Submission, my topic "Protecting Clubs Playing Names".

I passionately believe in Supporters Rights and hope to use my experience as part of the National Council, contributing to the important role the FSA play as a Supporters advocate.

ROBERT WHITTAKER

The role of the National Council of the FSA has never been more important than it is now, when major changes to the way that the game is governed are under consideration - with fans' interests very much to the fore. We need our national representatives to:

- be knowledgeable
- have a range of skills and experience
- be able to act as effective advocates

I think I have a range of personal qualities and experience that suit me to the role. I have been the Secretary of the Blackpool Supporters Trust (BST) for a year and previously advised it on governance issues (since 2015). In that time I learned a lot about dealing with the EFL, effective campaigning and the art of communication.

In addition:

- I have previous professional experience in designing regulatory frameworks and managing corporate failure
- I co-authored the FSA's evidence to the fan-led review on the independent regulator
- I was a senior civil servant until retirement and know how Government Departments work
- I have well developed views on how the national fans groups need to build the capacity we will need going forward

I am also committed to the idea that fans of clubs should always work together and support one another. At BST we have in the last year or so:

- provided active support to the fans of at least five clubs who are having difficulties with owner behaviour and
- given oral evidence to the fan-led review, as well as written evidence which I wrote (which can be seen on our website)

I am hugely interested in this area of work, and as I am retired am well placed to give it the sustained commitment that the FSA will need.