

## National League Structured Dialogue Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

**Present** – Mark Ives (National League), Andy Walsh (FSA), Garreth Cummins (FSA), Richard Tomkins (Hereford United Supporters Trust), John Needham (Scunthorpe United Supporters Trust), Gary Williams (Shrimpers Trust)

### Minutes

#### 1 Structured dialogue principles

- The aim is to hold three structured dialogue meetings each year
- The next meeting is to be scheduled for December/early January, ahead of the National League (NL) EGM in January 2024.
- Draft terms of reference for the meetings were circulated, and will be signed off between NL and FSA ahead of the next meeting.
- Minutes are to be compiled by the FSA and agreed with the NL following each meeting, to be published on the FSA website.

#### 2 Fan-led Review

- NL provided an update on the background and challenges they perceive on the Fan-led Review (FLR), discussions they have had with the panel and DCMS.
- The FA has a community engagement working group which the NL will suggest FSA involvement with when it comes to looking at supporter engagement.
- The future shape of fan engagement in the NL depends on the structure and scope of the independent regulator; it was agreed there would be continuing discussions on this topic.

#### 3 'Crisis clubs'

- Fans provided context and background to the issues at Southend United and Scunthorpe United in particular
- The NL explained their actions, the limitations of the Owners and Directors Test, and the problems they faced inheriting clubs with existing problems from the EFL.
- The NL reiterated their overriding concern was keeping clubs functioning and not forcing administration and possible collapse, while working within the rules and sanctions available to them to achieve that aim. The FSA emphasised the need for greater scrutiny of new owners.
- It was agreed there was potential for work on a 'whistleblower' route for the FSA to raise concerns with the NL on poor owners in future.

#### 4 Fan behaviour

- It was agreed the NL and FSA would work together in shaping a protocol dealing with club sanctions on supporters, ban processes and appeals.
- The FSA will continue to monitor fan behaviour in stadiums through its networks and survey work, and feed back fan sentiment to the NL.

## 5 Other business

- The topic of notice periods for TV broadcast will form part of future structured dialogue meetings
- The NL informed us the discussion of moving to a 'three up, three down' promotion and relegation format with the EFL was part of regular ongoing discussions around the future distribution of funds. The FSA will continue to seek updates in this area at future meetings.