

SKY BLUE TRUST

REPORT FOR AGM 16 JULY 2018

SUPPORTERS DIRECT AND FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS FEDERATION

On 28 July 2018, the Annual General Meetings of Supporters Direct (SD) and the Football Supporters Federation (FSF) will both consider a proposals that a new, single supporters' organisation be formed to replace the role of the two current organisations.

The Sky Blue Trust is a Member of Supporters' Direct and an Affiliate of the FSF. We have regular contact with both organisations. I am an elected member of the SD England and Wales Football Council and regularly attend meetings with colleagues from FSF.

Details of the role and activities of the two organisations can be read on their websites:

SD - <https://supporters-direct.org>

FSF - <http://www.fsf.org.uk>

Some of the funding to support the running of SD comes from the Supporters Trusts who are members. The Sky Blue Trust pays a fee of £100 per year. However, much of the funding for the two organisations comes from the Fans Fund - an organisation formed to distribute money provided by the Premier League from its substantial TV income. The Fansfund have expressed concern that funding the activities of two separate organisations is not ideal and has asked that they bring forward proposals to form a single new body.

SD and FSF have therefore spent some time examining such a proposal and the alternatives. Their own papers on the issues are available via the Trust website.

We propose to discuss the matter at the Trust AGM on 16 July so that the Trust's delegate to the SD and FSF AGMs will be able to vote with knowledge of the Trust's members' views.

The issues are complex, as is apparent from the length and detail of the SD and FSF papers. The Trust Board has discussed the position. The Board have always been very pleased with the detailed support received from SD, whose core role is to support and promote supporter involvement in the ownership and management of football clubs. However, the Board also feels that the proposed new organisation would have a more powerful, united voice and would have a future more likely to be financially sustainable. However, we would welcome members' views at the AGM.

Roger Ellis
SBT Secretary
June 2018