



# Oxford United Supporters' Panel

Working Group Feedback  
September 2021



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- The FSA encourages clubs to have both Trusts and Supporter Advisory Boards (SAB).
- Oxford United Supporters Trust (OxVox), created in 2002, is an affiliate member of the FSA.
- The FSA submitted evidence to the government fan-led review chaired by Tracey Crouch MP. Preliminary findings 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 endorse the need for increased fan engagement.



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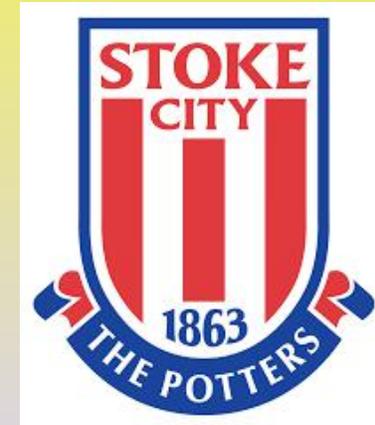


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40 fans attended to hear OUFC and the FSA explain their initial thoughts on setting up a Supporters' Advisory Board.
- At the initial web meeting a request was made for volunteers to form a working group (WG).  
Six Yellows came forward leading to a web call with the FSA and the setting up of the working group



## Working Group References





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Documents how the Panel and the Club will work together, establishing minimum standards of communication and consultation.



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- **Expectations for Representatives**

Standards of behaviour for fan representatives

- ***All reviewed and agreed with the FSA***



## Working Group Key Outcomes

Aim for wide range of fan representation including (but not limited to)

- Under 25s/Students
- Over 65s/Retired
- Families
- Disabled supporters
- BAME supporters
- LGBTQ+ supporters
- Women
- Supporters in North, East, South stands
- Away trip and geographically distanced supporters



## Fan Representatives Key Points

Fan Representatives will be expected to:

- commit to attending supporters' panel meetings, and be available for further meetings with supporters' panel representatives and club staff.
- possess strong communication skills with a willingness to work collaboratively and represent the views of supporters at meetings.
- be willing to have a public profile, be contactable by fans, and provide feedback to fans on relevant matters.
- make known any potential conflicts of interest.
- adhere to OUSP policies.
- agree that panel representatives may not receive any remuneration or benefit in kind as a result of their role on the Panel.
- be committed to and follow OUSP's values of equality, diversity and inclusion.



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- The EMG is working behind a 'Chinese wall', on all aspects of elections, including drafting of the Election Policy.



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- Unique fan numbers are to be used to ensure eligibility.
- **OxVox will elect a representative to the Panel.**



# Election Process

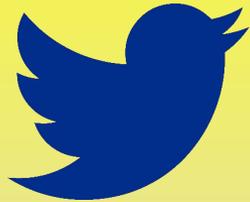
- Day 1      Nomination forms available from [OUSPElections@gmail.com](mailto:OUSPElections@gmail.com)  
Any OUFC Supporter with a fan number can stand
- Day 22     Nominations close
- Day 24     Nomination statements posted on webpage
- Day 31     Election opens  
Link provided to online voting form (alternative methods available if needed)
- Day 52     Election closes
- Day 55     Election appeal period ends
- Day 57     Results announced



## Contact Details



OUSPinfo@gmail.com  
OUSPElections@gmail.com



@OUFCSP



<https://www.oufc.co.uk/club/supporters-panel/>



**Thank You**

**Any Questions?**



## OUSP and OxVox

OxVox is a democratic, membership-based organisation that deals mainly with the broader issues of the club's financial safety, governance, sustainability, ownership, stadium and its place in the wider community.

The OUSP is a group of representatives, elected by supporters, that will mainly focus on operational issues along with the matchday experience for each and every supporter.

Both OUSP and OxVox share a passion for OUFC and its future success so will work together on the shared issues.

OxVox will have a representative on the Panel to ensure there is continued communication.





## Candidates

- Any person wishing to be a candidate for election to the Supporters' Panel shall be a supporter of Oxford United and be nominated by at least two Oxford United supporters.
- The EMG will verify that nominations are from Oxford United supporters. This will be based on a valid fan number. The EMG will consider alternative evidence of OUFC support, though their decision of acceptability will be final.
- Supporters can nominate as many candidates as they wish.
- Candidates shall submit a statement in support of their nomination and shall also provide a photograph for publication with their statement. All submissions will be published on the supporters' panel webpage.
- The names of those nominating candidates shall be appended to each candidate's statement



# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Supporters' Panel commits to:

- Encourage equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do
- Create an environment free from bullying, harassment, victimisation and unlawful discrimination, promoting dignity and respect for all
- Recognise and value individual differences and contributions
- Provide or obtain information, materials or suitable training for panel representatives on the issues of equality, diversity and inclusion
- Promptly address issues and complaints about discrimination or a breach of this policy, and carry out fair Investigations which may result in disciplinary action
- Report matters of concern to the statutory authorities where potential criminal or safeguarding issues arise



## Confidentiality

A major objective of the Supporters' Panel is to improve the flow of information between the Club and its supporters, and to be open and transparent in its dealings. Nonetheless there are occasions when all or part of a discussion will need to be treated in confidence. The Supporters' Panel accepts that for legal reasons (such as data protection and employment law) the Club will not be able to share certain information. These restrictions will, however, be the exception and not the rule, and the Club will explain clearly (and to the satisfaction of the Supporters' Panel) why information cannot be provided or must be treated in confidence.



## Scope of Panel

The Panel anticipates raising matters of interest to all supporters, bringing the views of supporters in respect of areas including, but not limited to:

- The matchday experience including that of home supporters and season ticket holders, travelling and geographically-distant supporters, the fans of visiting clubs, and supporters travelling to away games
- Communication between the Club and supporters, including publicity and information exchange
- Proposals for developing the Club's fanbase
- Volunteering opportunities at the Club involving supporters
- Ticketing proposals and issues
- Engagement and contacts with local communities and community groups

The Supporters' Panel is not concerned with team matters such as player recruitment and selection; details of personal employment contracts entered into by the Club; or football management appointments.



# Memorandum of Understanding

Matters deemed sufficiently important for **mandatory consultation** with the Supporters' Panel include:

- Key heritage matters to include any changes being considered to club name, colours, crest, or kit designs
- Items that significantly impact fans in relation to match day arrangements.
- Changes in pricing, format, terms and conditions, and availability of tickets (both individual and season tickets)



# Memorandum of Understanding

Consultation shall occur in sufficient time prior to decision by the Club to allow for:

- Meaningful discussion to take place between the Panel and the fanbase, proportionate to the importance and complexity of the issue
- Representation to be made to the Club reflecting the views of the fanbase.
- The Club to reflect on these representations and, if appropriate, to engage in further dialogue