

Dear Shaun,

You may remember that at the meeting between the EFL and Blackpool fans in March 2018, BST raised the issue of the Owner and Director Test and the EFL's position that it was not possible to apply this test retrospectively. We challenged that decision based on our reading of your regulations.

Since that time, we have been able to instruct a QC to consider the EFL regulations in relation to this test and have shared with him the correspondence that passed between us at the time. We have received his considered opinion and have attached the document to this email.

As you are already aware, the situation at Blackpool FC has changed considerably (and for the better) since we had the original discussion on this matter. However, Blackpool fans are acutely aware that even now there is still a possibility that Owen Oyston could raise the funds required to settle his debt to Valeri Belokon and if this should happen before the Receiver has sold the football club, then technically he would retain possession of the club.

I hope that you will agree that such a scenario is unthinkable and that Blackpool fans deserve to have some assurance that there is no way back for Owen Oyston. We believe that this QC's opinion, which is aligned with that of BST, should signal the end of even the remotest possibility of Owen Oyston being able to hold on to Blackpool FC. Even without this, can we be assured that should Mr Oyston attempt to regain control of the football club, he would in any case need to reapply to you being as he has been removed from the Board of Blackpool FC and would therefore have to face the ODT test in the same way as a new owner?

We will share this with our members as a matter of course. We also intend to share it more widely as there has been a good deal of interest in our case in the football media, in Parliament and beyond. In our view it is important that as many people as possible understand that your (very welcome) decision not to deduct points from the club this season is only part of the problem that we have faced; until the EFL grasps the nettle of Mr Oyston's fitness (or lack of it) to hold a position of authority our club remains at risk and indeed so does any club he might choose to attach himself to in the future. You promised us at the March 2018 meeting that the EFL would not stand in the way of regime change at Blackpool. Dealing once and for all with Mr. Oyston would be a big step towards making good on that promise.

I have also enclosed (once again) a copy of the case review model that we sent to you and your colleagues in December 2017. At a time when a growing number of clubs are in difficulty, we think it vital that the EFL takes the opportunity to learn as much as it can from the recent past. Blackpool is an unusual case in that it throws up a wealth of well-documented evidence about what failure looks like, how it happened and - in retrospect - what might have been done to address it. We hope you will take the opportunity to conduct such a review of our experiences, and learn from it; there is no telling when that learning might be invaluable to you, the FA and the EPL in future.

Yours sincerely
Christine Seddon
Chair
Blackpool Supporters' Trust