



## Vice-Chair's Report

Welcome to the first INSSA AGM. What a year this has been!

I'd like to start by saying thanks to all those who helped launch nearly one year ago and those who have served on the committee:

**Andy Johnson, Ben Tarelli, Davey Latimer, Emma Patterson, Michelle Jarrett Ruecroft, Luan Hanratty and our very first chair William Jarrett.**

In January 2024 the club were in dire straits. There was an urgent need to not only raise money to help save the club from insolvency but form a structured organisation to hold the old committee to account and commit them to a workable business plan.

Since our formation in February of 2024 I think it is fair to say INSSA has served as a catalyst for much-needed change. The club was taken over in the May and the new owners from North Shields Juniors have been a breath of fresh air. Improvements on and off the pitch are there for all to see.

The takeover changed the dynamic within which INSSA operated. Previously looked upon with suspicion and more or less shunned by the old committee we were suddenly thrust - as the only constituted fans organisation - into a position where we could immediately help out. Improving neglected infrastructure by donating monies to various projects was paramount.

And boy, we stepped up to the plate! Pitch treatment programmes, clubhouse seating, turnstile and disabled access have all had significant contributions made by INSSA. All of the contributions were raised by you our members and sponsors via fundraisers, talk ins, strip raffles, domino cards and our centre piece lottery the Jack of Clubs. Our success in raising money has also led to sponsorship of players, match balls and matches, away day travel, donations to local charities and contributions towards Percy Main FC who've suffered an horrendous year off the pitch.

This has all been done under sometimes difficult circumstances. I am sad to report that there is a culture of bullying from a tiny minority of so-called fans and certain INSSA committee members have been persistently targeted and it has taken its toll. Misogyny, homophobia, racism, intimidation and sabotage have all been evidenced and documented.

As well as the law, there is FA guidance and rules in place to deal with this and INSSA will NOT shy away from challenging this conduct. We will continue to urge the club and all fans to do all they can to stand up to discrimination and intimidation wherever they see it. Our affiliation into the FSA, which will be formalised once our inaugural AGM is complete will also help with this aim. The club cannot grow to fulfil its true potential and attract more people in until it is a safe and inclusive place for everyone in the community to enjoy.

## Independent North Shields Supporters Association



Moving forward on a positive note, our second year promises to be an exciting one with new faces on the board with fresh ideas.

As the team make progressive strides on the pitch the club is definitely on an upward trajectory. The announcement recently of an ambitious but structured 5-year plan is very welcome. As far as INSSA is concerned the urgency for us to pour money quickly into a project will be replaced by a more measured plan to consult with the club and then work in conjunction with other stakeholders. I assure you that all those major decisions will be done with your consent via members vote and regular open meetings.

The club's stability will grant us the breathing space to continue to develop our association and explore new ways of improving our platforms while planning some exciting fundraising events that will highlight local talent, promote good causes and benefit the club and the wider community.

We will continue to provide transparency in our work, represent the views of our members and hold the club to account on their behalf. We are committed to helping North Shields Football Club attain the highest standards on and off the field.

Thank you all

Graeme Cansdale