



BWFC Supporters' Trust

The University of Bolton Stadium

Burnden Way

Bolton

BL6 6JW

www.bwfcst.co.uk

 enquiries@bwfcst.co.uk

 [@bwfcst](https://twitter.com/bwfcst)

Date: 05 April 2019

Ref: BWFCST/EFL

Mr Shaun Harvey (Chief Executive)
The English Football League
Edward VII Quay
Navigation Way
Preston
PR2 2YF

By email

Dear Mr Harvey,

Re: Bolton Wanderers Football Club

Further to your reply dated 14 February 2019 in response to our letter of 06 January 2019, we would record the following observations:

1. In our letter of 06 January '19, we expressed our ongoing grave concerns about the financial stability and sustainability of our club. In your response, you stated that "*The Club continues to manage its own financial affairs to ensure they have a long-term future and, following recent discussions, the EFL remain satisfied the Club has the source and sufficiency of funds to meet its obligations as a member of the League to at least the end of the season.*"
2. Within 14 days, the club failed to pay players and staff and were close to having a prohibition notice placed on the stadium (ahead of the home game against Millwall on 09 March '19) by the local council as a result of the SAG not being satisfied that the club could comply with their staffing responsibilities. Wages were paid to temporary staff a few days ahead of that game and the threat was averted, with the delays in payments being blamed on the failure to conclude a sale of the club.
3. As you referenced in your letter, you acknowledge that "*the EFL continues to receive information that there is some change of control interest in the Club*".
4. As of today's date, no sale has been concluded, some 7 weeks after your comments.
5. In the meantime, there have been two HMRC winding-up petition hearings, both adjourned, in the High Court, with another hearing scheduled for 08 May 2019. The reason given at both hearings for the Club requesting an adjournment was that a deal was close to completion.
6. Once again, the staff and player wages for March were paid late, with the players wages still outstanding at the time of writing.
7. Payment of overdue temporary staff wages only yesterday did allow the local council to withdraw the prohibition notice that had been placed on the stadium on 02 April '19 for two home games scheduled for the next 7 days.
8. There is continuing speculation that a certain Mr Laurence Bassini is close to purchasing the club and has today conducted a public interview stating the same.

We appreciate that you are, no doubt, fully aware of all of the above. However, what we are struggling to understand is how, within 14 days of your reassuring statement as noted under item 1 above, the club failed to pay wages and has since gone on to have prohibition notices issued and made two High Court appearances.

Perhaps the EFL would wish to make some comment as to the credibility of the discussions held between the EFL and the club that resulted in your statement of satisfaction.

Furthermore, the person now being named as the likely future owner of the Club, Laurence Bassini, made an appearance in the High Court on 03 April '19 at the latest hearing of the BWFC/HMRC winding-up petition. He claimed to be the party who is on the verge of purchasing Inner Circle Investment's (Ken Anderson) 94.5% share in Burnden Leisure Ltd, which would give Mr Bassini control of Bolton Wanderers Football Club.

As the EFL have to sanction any take-over of the club we would like to draw to your attention the following information relating to Mr Bassini that is available in the public domain:

- Laurence Bassini - [Profile](#)
- Companies House Information - Officer Appointments: [reference 1 \(active\)](#), [reference 2 \(past\)](#), [reference 3 \(past\)](#).
- Watford Observer – [Change of Name/Bankruptcy \(2011\)](#)
- Watford Observer – [Watford FC Takeover \(2012\)](#)
- The Guardian – [3 Year Ban \(2013\)](#)
- Watford Observer – [High Court Action \(2013\)](#)

In the interests of the future stability and sustainability of our Club, we request that the EFL use their best endeavours to ensure that the next owner of BWFC is able to pay staff wages and meet the other obligations as a member of the League for the short, medium and long term.

If you wish to meet to discuss any aspect of the above, we would be pleased attend at your convenience. We feel that your offer to meet in June could be somewhat too late.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely
Bolton Wanderers Supporters Society Ltd

The BWFCST Board

cc Ms Debbie Jevans CBE (Interim Chair – The English Football League)
Mr Mark Rowan (Communications Director - The English Football League)
Mr Malcolm Clarke (Chair – Unified Football Supporters' Organisation)
Sir David Crausby (Member of Parliament for Bolton North East)
Mr Chris Green (Member of Parliament for Bolton West)
Ms Yasmin Qureshi (Member of Parliament for Bolton South East)