**Panel of Experts – Alternatives to the European Super League Proposal**

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The Times asked a panel of experts about their views on the ESL plan and what alternative plans they would recommend. Their views are summarised here.

**Graeme Le Saux**: former England player, director/consultant Real Mallorca. Problem is financial model is broken, hyperinflation at the top, huge gulf in wealth, need to control outgoings especially wages.

**Simon Jordan**: businessman, broadcaster and former owner Crystal Palace. ESL plan not driven by greed of owners but by inflation in players salaries. ESP owners wanted to maximise income to address this by changing the financial model and to create their own digital platform, a Netflix for football. Football would sell its own content eg with 100 million subscribers globally paying £10 pm. An alternative model with this but not the negatives – ie there would be promotion and relegation, and the top clubs would not get a guaranteed place in the competition but guaranteed annual income from founding shares.

**Piara Powar**: Exec Director of anti-discriminatory body FARE. Redefine football and its governance as having a social purpose rather than an investment vehicle for the globally rich. Put social values at its core with focus on emotional and cultural values, becoming a beacon of inclusivity. Look at German 50+1 model, a football regulator and requirement for more racial and gender diversity

**Paul Marshall:** businessman and part of Red Knights group who tried to buy Manchester United. Need to have reforms which will make the EPL attractive to international capital but also protect local communities from owners who do not want to invest but to extract. Four reform proposals: all clubs to have a supervisory board with supporters having 50+1 majority: supervisory boards to have reserved powers which would include permission to join new leagues or to raise ticket prices: fit and proper persons test for owners: independent regulator.

**John Barnes**: Liverpool and England. Put a salary cap in place but on the squad not on single players. This will stop the big six from buying all the best players. Place a limit on number of transfers a club can make, stop them making transfers twice a year as now, and limit to once every two years. If players get injured they will have to rely on youth/

**Professor Laura McAllister**: ex Wales player now Prof of Public Policy and Governance Cardiff University. Governance needs an urgent overhaul to promote much greater diversity – women, black people, younger people, the voices of all who love ther game. Should redefine meaning of owners to make them short term custodians and make fans the principal stakeholders.

**Mike Atherton:** Cricket correspondent of The Times. Time to give the supporters a voice.

**Ed Warner:** Chair of Crystal Palace Palace for Life Foundation. Govt should introduce a levy on all commercial and media income from football and create a fund that would sustain the pyramid all the way down to the grassroots. Current system depends too much on allowing the EPL decide itself how much they want to redistribute. Put in place an independent body to redistribute the cash.

**Simon Brodkin:** Comedian. Owners should recognise the importance of the supporters, invest in them, allow supporters on the board, invest media income in services, pay for them to come to the game on the grounds that fans are as important as players.