



# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Tuesday, 20 October 2020**

## **Woking Football Club Names Prospective Investors**

*American sport executives aim to guide WFC into the future*

WOKING, UK — Woking Football Club today announced the names of prospective lead investors and operators of Surrey's highest-profile football club.

The club's Board of Directors is pleased to announce its support for the group – Final Third Sport, LLC – an American outfit led by veteran sport executives John Katz and Drew Volpe.

There are numerous conditions that must be satisfied before a shares transference may occur, including the conclusion of the proposed appeal being carried out by a different organization, approval of the football authorities and appropriate timing throughout the process. Final Third Sport is not connected to the organization that has proposed an appeal.

"Since the refused planning application, fans have been asking me about a Plan B for the club," said Woking Football Club Chairman Rosemary Johnson. "John has visited the club throughout this year and realises the part that the club plays in our local community, and has spent considerable time in the last few weeks meeting with key people in the club and understanding how we can work together to achieve full-time football as soon as next season."

Speaking to the WFC Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting on 5 October, Katz confirmed that he and his partner were excited to move forward regardless of the outcome of the proposed appeal.

"The Cards are the perfect fit for us on every level," said Final Third Sport Chief Executive John Katz. "Woking is a big club with massive potential to challenge for a spot in the Football League. This club has been a big part of the community since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Our vision to grow the club relies on the history, passion and service in the community. We look forward to growing existing relationships and partnerships across Woking and Surrey, and to build new partnerships that will both take the club to the next level and pave the way for positive growth both on and off the pitch."

Volpe and Katz, along with their team of advisors, have more than a half-century of experience in operating baseball clubs and multi-use baseball grounds, along with extensive experience in English and global football.

"This club has amazing passion for the community at its core, and we are excited to join forces with the Chairman, the Board, Dowse and his management team, and the first team to continue the amazing work they do," said Final Third Sport Chief Operating Officer Drew Volpe. "John and I are both passionate people, and we believe in servant leadership. We're excited at the opportunity to become stewards for one of the top community-centric clubs in the UK."

Final Third Sport's operating ethos will increase supporter engagement, back the manager with a goal of earning promotion to the Football League in the coming years and provide a sustainable future for Woking Football Club based on sound business practises, ambition and fiscal responsibility.

"Having these blokes come in will be massive for the club," said Woking Manager Alan "Dowse" Dowson. "I've had a chance to speak with John a number of times since he's been coming 'round. He's a top sport businessman and he loves the football and we all want to see this special club kick on to the Football League."

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### **About Woking Football Club**

Woking Football Club is an association football club based in Woking, Surrey, England. Founded in 1889, the club plays its home matches at the Laithwaite Community Stadium. The club is member of the Vanarama National League, the fifth tier of English football and the highest level of non-league football. The Cards earned promotion to the National League (formerly Conference Premier) by winning the Conference South in the 2011/12 season. After being relegated to the National League South in 2017/2018, Woking rejoined the National League after finishing second in the table and winning a playoff final. The Cards are led on the pitch by Manager Alan "Dowse" Dowson and his assistants Martin Tyler and Ian Dyer. Woking Football Club's Chairman is Rosemary Johnson. For more information on Woking Football Club, visit [www.wokingfc.co.uk](http://www.wokingfc.co.uk), or follow the Cards on Twitter ([@wokingfc](https://twitter.com/wokingfc)), Facebook ([facebook.com/wokingfc](https://facebook.com/wokingfc)) and all popular social media platforms.

### **About the Laithwaite Community Stadium**

Woking Football Club plays football at the Laithwaite Community Stadium. The Laithwaite Community Stadium – originally known as Kingfield Stadium – opened for football in 1922 and has since seen two renovation projects: first in 1942 and most recently in 1995. The ground has a capacity of 6,036 – of which 2,500 are seated on grandstands. The remaining capacity is accommodated in standing terraces. The hub of professional football in Surrey, the Laithwaite Community Stadium is a gathering place for the Woking community that serves guests and supporters from all walks of life. The ground has been home to generations of Cards fans and will continue to do so long into the future.

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