



Conference 2025

Equality and ethics stream: How big an issue is state-ownership of football clubs, and is sportswashing important?

10.00-11.30am Wednesday 28 May

Host of workshop: Nick McGeehan, co-founder Fair Square

The Problem

State-backed takeovers of football clubs have raised ethical questions. Does football have a moral responsibility to act, or should money be the only deciding factor?

The Assumptions

Premier League clubs now cost billions of pounds to buy

Very few people can afford it

Football clubs and their owners are role models in society

The owners and directors test doesn't taken into account ethics

Ethics are not seen as that important to football fans

The Proposed solution

Restrictions are placed on owners

Agenda

1. Quick introduction
2. Are the assumptions right? What other things need to be taken on board?
3. Does the solution...
 - a. Address the problem
 - b. Tackle the assumptions
4. Can we reach a consensus?
5. What barriers remain?
6. Who has the power to impose the solution?
7. Summary of actions