

ADVISORY PANEL

ROBERT STEPHENSON

Founder of Blastbeat and The Football Initiative www.footbeat.org. Robert is an award winning Social Entrepreneur with 30 years experience in all aspects of the Entertainment, Music, Multimedia, Education and Third sectors. Creator / Founder / CEO of Blastbeat, a multi award winning programme and a charity teaching young people how to be social entrepreneurs. 14 years running Blastbeat Internationally. Artist manager, mentor, Independent record label owner, consultant for major international & Independent recording & publishing companies, negotiator & interface between artists & the entertainments industry.

MIKE BOHNDIEK

Head of IT at West Ham United FC, a lifelong Arsenal supporter and a highly experienced commercial and IT professional in the sporting realm. Mike is committing much free time to help the Blastbeat Charity, adding considerable strength to the Footbeat project development utilising his mentoring background and sporting knowledge.

MARK WOLLNER

Co-founder and owner of Good for Sport, a sports financing specialist. Mark is a former Finance Director of Orange and has over 30 years of experience across sectors that include sport, telecoms and insurance. Since leaving Orange, Mark has launched a number of businesses that include sports financing, sports coaching apps and property finding. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

NICK LOFTUS

Head of Education & Welfare at Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Co-ordinates and monitors the academic progresions made by schoolboy players aged 8-16, and oversee and manage the education programmes of all full time players at Wolves Academy and oversees welfare strategies for all Wolves Academy players. 35 years Co-ordinator/Team Manager/Coach in schools football (School, District, County), 23 years teaching experience (3 Secondary Schools), Head of Education & Welfare at Wolves Academy, Safeguarding Officer at Wolves (5 years), Secretary of Wolverhampton Schools FA (18 years), Chairman of Wolverhampton Schools FA, Council Member of West Midlands Schools FA (34 years), Chairman of West Midlands Schools FA (34 years), Chairman of West Midlands Schools FA 2011-13.

RORY MCKEOWN

Young experienced Professional Footballer currently Free Agent Summer 2017. Played for Ipswich town FC, Kilmarnock FC, Southport FC, Raith Rovers FC

GORDON DONKIN

Educated at Newcastle Business School, Gordon Donkin has over 25 years working in the ICT and L&D industries. For over ten years he was Head of Business Communities for the Chartered Institute of Marketing. After winning the prestigious Catalyst award, he was elected to serve for three years as Chair of SCIP. He now serves as a non-executive board member of Fletcher CSI, a global strategy and consulting firm. Gordon's interest in fast growth companies remains. He is a serial investor in a range of technology-based start up companies most notably in the world of sport, technology and corporate wellness. He assists with fund raising, business planning and go to market strategies. He currently works as a consultant for London Sport on the Open Active Initiative.

CHRIS GREEN

Highly respected sports author, broadcaster and managing partner of Chris Green Media, a multifaceted communications company which inspires people and organisations to communicate better. A former BBC radio reporter and producer, Chris has written five highly acclaimed sports books include Every Boy's Dream – England's Football Future on the Line, which was nominated for the 2010 British Sports Book of the Year. He also edited the official Beijing 2008 Olympic Games website. Chris Green Media are responsible for all strategic communications of the project including PR and social media.

MARK FOSTER

A Non-Executive Director and Board Chair with CEO/MD experience from the Digital Media, Music, Event Cinema and Property Development sectors, demonstrating an extensive, successful track record in cutting-edge multi-territory Brand Building, Campaign Management, Business Development and Digital Transformation.

SHERIDANS

A leading sports, media and entertainment law firm, located at Wardour Street, London. They specialise in Sports and Music sectors and their practices focus primarily on commercial, regulatory governance, disciplinary, arbitration and dispute resolution across these two sectors.

CHRIS PAGET

Chris acts for a broad range of clients within the entertainment sector. I advise clients on a range of commercial issues related to the sports, music and entertainment industries. I have experience acting for musicians, athletes, talent agencies, independent recording and publishing companies and national governing bodies.

ANDREW NIXON

A Partner and Head of Sport referred to by Chambers & Partners as a 'notable practitioner', and as 'having extensive regulatory knowledge in the sports field'. His practice focuses solely on the sports and eSports sectors, and principally on non-contentious and contentious commercial and regulatory matters. His clients include governing bodies, rights holders, sports data and tech companies, sports clubs, sports agencies, sponsors and individual athletes. His eSports practice focuses on acting for leagues, teams and individual eSports talent.

JAMES WOLSEY

General Counsel Legal and Business Affairs - Blastbeat. James is an entertainment lawyer with over 30 years of international experience. He is qualified as a Solicitor in Ireland, England & Wales and Hong Kong. Having read law at Trinity College Dublin, he was called to the Bar and practiced in Ireland as a Barrister before joining EMI Records in its Business Affairs Department in London. He subsequently became Director of International Operations at IFPI, the record industry's Swiss based trade association. In private practice as a Solicitor James headed up the Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Department of Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens in Hong Kong; ran the entertainment law practices of the London firms of Hamlin Slowe and Biddle & Co. and was Managing Partner in Ireland of the US firm Holme Roberts & Owen. His clients included U2 and the Rolling Stones as well as many of the major multinational entertainment companies such as Warner Bros, Sony and Universal Music.

EDUCATION, MENTAL HEALTH AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PATRICK MCLERNON

Education Director, Blastbeat Education UK. Patrick is an award winning "Best Blastbeat teacher UK over a 5 years period and won the title 'Blastbeat Super Teacher' He is now coming onboard as Education Director with a view to adjusting the Blastbeat programme to make it certifiable for BTec and GCSE accreditation and eventual A level accreditation. BA honours Marketing, PGCE secondary teaching business studies. Teaching 10 years, 7 years head of department in two successful London schools. Pastoral leadership experience including head of sixth form & house leader.

CHRIS PLATTS

Lecturer from Sheffield Hallam University in the Sport Development and Sport Business Management. He did his main thesis on the football academy issues we are tackling this programme. Chris is advising the project from the impact assessment point of view. Chris has introduced FootBeat with the Sport Industry Research Centre at his University. Chris is an expert on the main issues that FootBeat is geared to tackle since he wrote his thesis on Education and welfare in professional football academies and centers of excellence: A sociological study <http://hdl.handle.net/10034/253657>

P.F. JOSEPH CAMPBELL M.Sc

A researcher in education. His Specialist area is Learning Technologies. His roles have included; software and online courseware development; public presentation to academics, education practitioners and primary school students and is a trustee on the BOM of the Wicklow Sudbury School in Ireland.

PÁDRAIG MCALISTER

Musician, Music Producer, Graphic Artist, Web developer, Social Media Manager and Blastbeat Alum and Youth Mentor with a successful early career as a recording artist with touring bands.

TREVOR GRAY

Trevor is a psychotherapist in private practice who works mainly with performers - particularly sports people (including current British and European champion athletes and footballers) and professionals in the performing arts. Trevor is heading up the Blastbeat Football Academy Scholars Mental Health support team. Previously a Premier League Youth Academy Development Coach and Top 10 Music Recording Artist and film/tv/games Composer, Trevor was also the Behavioural Therapist and Support Mentor at the Brit School for Performing Arts & Technology in London www.trevorgraytherapy.co.uk