





**Grant Jones**  
Simmons Gainsford  
Gibraltar LLP

*"Some people believe football is a matter of life & death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that"*

**Bill Shankly**

Football is a business like any other, but it's a strange complicated business. So when the business dies, what is the role of the insolvency practitioner and how should they tackle it?

Some may claim that normal economic rules do not apply to football clubs - its finances are in transition, its stakeholders are unique and its employees are often highly (over) paid. There are also the new 'financial fair play rules' that need to be considered, which were brought in to prevent professional football clubs spending more than they earn in the pursuit of success and in doing so getting into the financial problems which we so often hear about. However, how is this managed in practice and how can the IP and legal counsel work within these rules?

With CVAs prominent within the game there are rules that need to be applied but football insolvency rules are unusual and have to be dealt with carefully. There are also other areas to consider such as public relations and media, both of which can be immense and take over a case if managed incorrectly. By its nature it is also a highly competitive market and can be an extremely sensitive matter.

This course brings together three star players, all former R3 presidents, with considerable expertise in football finance and the legal issues that surround a job. We also have sessions run by those at the forefront of local football collapses, whose issues are just as complicated. To guide the fans, Chairman Grant Jones will referee the event and send off those who don't play fair!

In London, a drinks reception will follow the course with a sporting themed after event speaker to entertain with some 'dressing room' stories. You will also be given the opportunity to have a tour of the pitch at the Emirates Stadium to add a bit of sporting action to your day.

**Register today as this promises to be a premier league event.**

#### **Who is this course aimed at?**

This course is for insolvency professionals, solicitors and legal counsel looking for an insight into legal developments, Football League rules in insolvency and the practical applications of football finance. The case studies would also be of interest to anyone working on CVAs outside of the sporting arena.



<b>13.30</b>	<b>Registration &amp; coffee</b>
<b>14.00</b>	<b>Chairman's introduction</b> <b>Grant Jones</b> , Simmons Gainsford Gibraltar LLP
<b>14.10</b>	<b>The history of football insolvency and working with The Football League</b>  This session will be a grand tour of football insolvencies looking at its timeline from the early days of the League to what happened following the Court of Appeal decision in HMRC v Wimbledon Football Club.  Together with Nick Craig, the League's director of legal affairs, John prepared the insolvency policy for the Football League and here he will talk about his experiences with working with the League on the newly designed Rules, his take on their objectives and his opinion on what this means for football insolvency in practice for the future.  <b>John Verrill</b> , Chadbourne & Parke (London) LLP
<b>14.40</b>	<b>Football finance</b>  This session will open with an overview of the statistics of football finance, produced by Deloitte's Sports Business Group. It will look at areas such as revenue and profitability, wages and transfers, stadium operational costs and the finances of running a club. It will also highlight some of those clubs who went into administration and the figures behind it.  Brendan has described running a football club as "like being in a tumble dryer!"  Once we have covered the financial state of the Game we will move on to the questions of "how to trade with no money in the bank" and "how to finance a club". We will discuss the football creditor rule and the problems that this brings as well as exiting from administration. Brendan will also cover the issue of deferrals (a five year one in the case of Portsmouth FC) and the accounting minefield which this produces.  <b>Lee Manning</b> , Deloitte LLP <b>Brendan Guilfoyle</b> , The P&A Partnership
<b>15.40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

<b>16.00</b>	<b>Legal update</b>  This legal update session will give an overview of the latest developments and cases of interest including: HMRC v The Football League, Wimbledon, Coventry City Football Club, Plymouth Argyle, Portsmouth and Barnet football clubs. We will also discuss the impact of the Companies Act 2006, share transfers and the scope for judicial review of League decisions.  <b>John Verrill</b> , Chadbourne & Parke (London) LLP
<b>16.30</b>	<b>Football insolvency – the top players</b>  We will take a practical look at the 12 key players involved in a football trading insolvency (11 in the team plus a substitute!) including: the IP, the lawyer, HMRC, the Professional Football Association, the chairman and the directors, the bank, the fans and the media, the players themselves, their agents, the managers and The Football League.  <b>Julie Palmer</b> , Begbies Traynor LLP
<b>17.15</b>	<b>Conference league administration</b>  This session will look at the legal and technical areas to be aware of concerning the Conference Leagues, highlighting the differences between running this type of job, which is so unlike the premiership and other sporting insolvencies. It will also cover some practical issues based on case study examples of The Conference League club administrations.  <b>Kate Breese</b> , Walsh Taylor <b>James Moore</b> , Bird & Bird
<b>17.45</b>	<b>Panel debate and questions</b>
<b>18.05</b>	<b>Chairman's close</b>

**This half day course runs back-to-back with CVAs.**

For more information about this course, please refer to the brochure.

- **Grant Jones** is a licensed insolvency practitioner, solicitor, New York attorney, chartered accountant, arbitrator and an honorary Nottingham University law professor. He practices out of London and Gibraltar.
- **Lee Manning** is a partner in Deloitte's Restructuring Services and has extensive experience both in an advisory capacity and as an administrator of professional football clubs including Millwall, Swindon Town and Bradford City. He also regularly provides expert evidence and testimony for litigation support assignments covering issues such as causes of insolvency, breaches of fiduciary duties and the conduct of office holders.
- **Brendan Guilfoyle** is a partner at The P&A Partnership and specialises in sports administrations. He carried out the investigation into the conduct of directors at Leeds United and led the rescues of Luton Town, Crystal Palace, Plymouth Argyle and most recently Bradford Bulls.
- **James Moore** is an Associate Solicitor at Bird & Bird LLP. He has vast experience in football finance having advised various parties on every football administration in the Premier League and Football League over the past 7 years. This includes having advised the administrators of Portsmouth FC, being the first and only trading Premier League insolvency. He has also advised administrators, buyers/bidders and creditors in relation to the administrations of Glasgow Rangers, Crystal Palace, Leeds United, Coventry City and Plymouth Argyle. James has acted on a number of Football Conference administrations, including Farnborough, Truro City, and Farsley and has general legal football experience, including advising on disputes with Real Madrid and AC Milan."
- **John Verrill** is a partner at law firm Chadbourne & Parke LLP. John has acted for The Football League in insolvency related matters for over 10 years during which time he has advised on over 20 cases. With Nick Craig, the League's director of legal affairs, he prepared the insolvency policy following the Court of Appeal decision in HMRC v Wimbledon Football Club. John is an insolvency lawyer and also an insolvency practitioner with over 20 years experience in the industry.
- **Katie Breese** has over 11 years experience in insolvency and is Walsh Taylors' sole appointment taker, being promoted to Director in 2010. She has extensive experience in all aspects of personal and corporate insolvency in a variety of industries and sectors. She was also the administrator in The Football Conference League administrations of Farnborough FC and Turo FC.
- **Julie Palmer** is regional managing partner for the South West region of Begbies Traynor. Julie takes all forms of insolvency appointments, both personal and corporate, together with turnaround and restructuring assignments. She has significant sector experience in healthcare, leisure, professional practices, construction and the insolvency of both football and ruby clubs.

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**London**

6 March 2014 – Emirates Stadium

- £225 + VAT (£270) Fellows
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The London course will be followed by a **networking reception and guest speaker**, which is included in the course fee. This drinks reception is also open to those not attending the course at an additional fee of £39.

- £39 + VAT (£47) Drinks reception

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**CPD Accreditation**

The course constitutes structured CPD to meet the requirements of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA), the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), the Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA), the Institute for Turnaround (IFT), Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and the Bar Council.

Solicitors Regulation Authority/Bar Council CPD accreditation  
Ref: ABR/RTAB – **3.5 hours**

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