

Liveryman Chris Roycroft-Davies reports Greg Dyke's views on Football as expressed at the Annual Lecture 2022.

Greg Dyke's other leading public role was as chairman of the Football Association and he could not resist putting his outspoken views on the state of the game. "I rather regret being one of the people who helped to create the Premier League in 1992," he confessed. "I don't think that any of the people involved back then envisaged that nearly thirty years later the Premier League would have so little to do with England. It's now a league largely owned by foreigners (except Russians, of course), managed by foreigners and played by foreigners with nearly 50% of its television income coming from overseas. "In short it's an international league which just happens to be played in England. The only English element are the fans who are the only constant in any football club. The losers in all this are generations of young English players who are mopped up at ages as young as six, seven and eight by Premier League clubs, treated like kings, promised the world and then dumped in their teens without ever getting their chance to play in the big time because there are too many foreign players."

Mr Dyke favoured an independent regulator to oversee the running of clubs and urged that English football should follow the German model, where at least 51% of shares in any club are owned by the fans, not businessmen.