

Work & Politics As Football

At work, in your trade with employers over wages and conditions, it's like you're playing football against a team - companies or public bodies.

They wear the same kit and, tightly organised in management structures, all play together and pass the ball to each other.

You and your workmates, mostly un-unionised, play them as individuals, not as a team. You don't wear the same kit and don't pass the ball to each other.

So you usually lose to them.

You all resent it but accept it as the way of the world.

Outside work, most people like you think the same – they don't notice or speak about the significance of businesses and public bodies being organised and yourselves not being

and that you need to organise with each other too, to match up to their organization.

The employers have the rules of the game on their side from way back.

They know the rules and take an interest in them. Most people like you don't, they think they are just the way the world is.

One of the rules is that they can obstruct you from playing as a team.

If you want to change the rules, they concede to you a remote regulatory political forum - parliament, congress.

Being strongly organised and strongly committed to their own interests, they campaign in politics to keep the rules in their favour better than you do.

You aren't organised, much, so don't get much of what you want from it.

Their representatives in the forum argue that them beating you is

actually in your interests - that they know best, and wealth will trickle down to you from them, so you should vote for their people.

Some of you are taken in by that.

And they tell you your problems are from your representatives in the forum letting you down.

Some of you are taken in by that.

Or they say your problem is that the remote forum is a self-serving elite.

So, many give up on the forum.

Or turn to alternative big-talking representatives from the other team.

To play them at this game, you and your workmates need to play as a team like they do, and unionise at work.

And in politics, to see each other as people on the same side, talk to each other about the system, and organise too.