

Work & Politics As Football

In your job, it's like you're playing football against the most assertive people, and possibly the most able.

They are organised into teams – companies - and public bodies.

They wear the same kit and pass the ball to each other.

You play them on your own.

Your workmates do too - you and your workmates don't wear the same kit or play as a team.

You keep losing. You resent that, but accept it as the way of the world.

Most others like you think the same and don't notice that to match up to their organisation you need to organise with each other too.

The other team you are playing against 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, thinking, again, they are just the way the world is.

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

They campaign and organise for it better than you.

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

Their representatives in the forum argue that you're better off voting for them, saying that them winning is actually best for you - that they know best, and wealth will trickle down to you from them. Some of you are taken in by that.

They tell you your problem is that your representatives in the forum let you down.

Some of you are taken in by that.

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

So, many give up on the forum.

Or turn to alternative big-talking representatives put up by the other team.

To play this game, you at least have to play in a team like they do. You and your workmates need to unionise at work and, in politics, at least talk to each other as people on the same side.