

**TRANSCRIPT OF A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM MATT FORD TO THE CEO OF RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL** (played at a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen and members of Rugby Council.

My name is Matt Ford, the owner and promoter of Poole Speedway for the last 24 years.

I'd like to introduce myself to you, sadly I can't be with you today. Should the fight be successful to save Brandon Stadium, I'd be honoured to be considered to become the promoter of the Coventry Bees, a team thoroughly missed by the whole sport since 2018.

During my time within the sport I've regularly served on the governing body in the UK and believe I would have more knowledge than most others to take the club during its safe return back to the sport of speedway.

I believe collectively, with you help certainly, we could once again make this much loved speedway team a huge success in a very short period of time.

I currently have, easily, the largest asset base of riders within the sport, so building a strong team immediately would not be an issue.

Whilst other promoters have come and gone, including at Coventry, in my time in the sport, I believe my track record of success but more importantly the mutual respect from the riders within the sport, would make me the perfect fit to relaunch the Bees to its rightful place.

Along with my son Dan who also helps me at Poole, we have run successfully, we never spend more money than we take in. We've never owed a penny and we've never had to borrow a penny and speedway stands on its own two feet and I would have every intention of running the Bees in exactly the same way that I run Poole.

That's it, I wish you all well and I hope the Bees are successful in their return to the sport, certainly the sport needs Coventry Speedway and I look forward to hopefully meeting you all in person in the near future.

Thank you very much.