

FULHAM FC ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP WITH TITAN CAPITAL MARKETS!

👤 Press Release 🕒 2022-09-30 📍 England, Sponsorship 👁 390 Views



Fulham FC have announced a partnership with Titan Capital Markets, as the Club's official CFD Trading Partner for the remainder of the 2022/23 Premier League campaign.

Established in Australia, Titan Capital Markets is an integrated educational financial group providing comprehensive online and offline courses and systematic community trading training programmes to improve learners' financial mindset and Forex Trading skills.

Regulated by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), Titan Capital Markets aims to empower students with financial literacy and provide knowledge and assistance in using the right trading tools to achieve their goals of financial freedom in order to have more confidence to trade on a trusted platform.

During the partnership, the Titan Capital Markets' brand will benefit from exposure to the global Premier League audience through visibility on the Club's perimeter LED boards at matches played at Craven Cottage. There will also be opportunities to access Fulham FC First Team players for content creation.

In addition, Titan Capital Markets' official charity, Titan Foundation, will be cooperating with Fulham Football Club Foundation on their Corporate Social Responsibility. Titan Foundation recognises the importance of building strong communities. The primary focus is to provide support for underserved children and families in the areas of education, health, and human services.

Howard Yan, CEO of Titan Capital Markets, said: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. I am grateful for the partnership with Fulham Football Club and the support of our clients that has helped bring Titan Capital Markets to greater heights. We will continue to provide the best possible service and products to our clients, and to expand our reach to new markets."

Jon Don-Carolis, Commercial Director of Fulham FC, added: "We're delighted to partner with Titan Capital Markets this season. The partnership is designed to drive significant awareness across Titan Capital Markets' key territories whilst, in tandem, delivering a personalised and rewarding experience."

Australian Financial Services Authorised Representative - TITAN CAPITAL MARKETS PTY LTD 00129

Representative Summary

Name: TITAN CAPITAL MARKETS PTY LTD
AFS Representative Number: 001296165
Status: Current
Commenced: 04/04/2022

 [View](#)

Licensees Represented

Name	Number	ABN	Commenced as Representative	Ceased as Representative	Appointed by type
WHOLESALE INVES...	000530128		12/08/2022		AFS Licensees
HLK GROUP PTY LTD	000435746	93 161 284 500	04/04/2022	12/08/2022	AFS Licensees

How could a Premier League club ever take on a sponsor like this?

Fulham dump partner after MoS uncover outlandish financial claims and 'staff' who were actually actors

FULHAM last night dramatically terminated one of their newest commercial partnerships after an investigation by The Mail on Sunday found the firm ranted 'highly improbable financial returns to people in some of the world's poorest nations. Titan Capital Markets has used the club's brand and Premier League status repeatedly to establish their legitimacy and guaranteed 'at least' 480 per cent annual fits to attract investors across Africa and the Asian-Pacific. Our investigation also found that some of the glossiest promotional videos for Titan Capital Markets trumpeted as Fulham's 'CFD Trading Partner' last summer by the club — is populated largely by actors. Some of those portrayed in video as key staff members at the club's HQ in Australia are in fact models and voiceover artists. After this newspaper presented shocking findings to the club, Fulham asked a series of detailed questions about the partnership, Fulham said yesterday: 'The agreement between Fulham and Titan Capital Markets has been terminated. Fulham fans had expressed their concern that the club's name was being 'abused' by Titan. But our investigations are just the latest in a series of scandals around agreements between elite English football clubs and apparently dubious financial partners. Titan executives claim guaranteed returns of 'at least' seven per cent fortnight, or nearly 500 per cent year, a scarcely credible amount for a legitimate company. One senior figure at Titan, Emmanuel Bannor, in charge of African operations, told this newspaper that since the company was formed in August, more than 150,000 people are joining each month'. He added that, since the company started trading in Forex (foreign exchange markets) in August, they had already attracted total investment of \$300million. The MoS have been able to corroborate these claims. Titan, whose nominal office is in Canberra, is currently under investigation by regulatory bodies in Australia over fears it is defrauding investors with misleading claims about potential investment. Its website is a recent creation, geotagged in the United States and Australia.



Titan Capital Markets' promotional material profiles supposed staff members who are actually models or, in the case of the 'chief technology officer', a singer and voiceover artist



SPECIAL REPORT

By NICK HARRIS

CHIEF SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

company is not regulated in the UK. Bannor told the MoS: 'Our company is targeting the Asia-Pacific region, Thailand, Vietnam and the whole of Africa... you guys [in the UK] have strict regulations... The UK regulators are strict on websites and we'll need to get a licence to [lift the geo-block]'. Titan representatives invoke their relationship with Fulham in all their marketing. In one online seminar last week, potential investors were given several reasons for 'saying a big yes' to Titan. Prominent among these messages were: 'TITAN is in partnership with an English Premier League Club named

CLUB OWNER: Shahid Khan

FULHAM FOOTBALL CLUB. No football club will partner with a fake project and they would have run a check to be sure the company is real before allowing the company to sponsor them.' Titan's head of sales in Ghana, Coach Gideon, told the MoS: 'The world is full of scams but this is a solid project. The reason we are so passionate is that Titan gives you value for money. Forex is now a solid platform where people can make millions of dollars. Titan is giving you the tools to make lots of money.' 'For Titan to partner with Fulham, the oldest football club in England, shows that Titan has the ability to survive as a long-term project.' Fulham are London's oldest professional club, as opposed to England's. Titan executives also made

other claims to the MoS that do not stand up to scrutiny. One is that Titan is regulated globally by a firm called WikiFX. In fact WikiFX is a web-based firm that acts as an aggregation tool of Forex traders, telling users which companies are good and which are bad. It has no regulatory powers. A second claim by Titan is that, in partnership with WikiFX, it offers a unique 'Eye Protection Centre (EPC) program', whereby all Titan investors can claim up to \$3,000 if their investments fail for any reason or Titan go bust. Titan executives told the MoS this week: 'With our EPC, you literally cannot lose. We can make so much money together.' It is unconfirmed whether the EPC is actually in place. An old article on the WikiFX website talks about it as a possibility, with the brokers rather than WikiFX underwriting it. No details have been supplied to the MoS to confirm this. In messages sent by a Titan agent in Nigeria last week, to a WhatsApp group of 74 people being 'men-

tored' by this agent, they were told: 'TITAN is a business you can put your money in to work for you, then go to sleep with your 2 eyes closed. I am looking forward to working with as many persons willing to say a big yes and join me to help many souls out of poverty via this business concept. And also, make huge amount of money as well.'

In Titan's slick promotional video, as well as in written marketing literature, many of those named as employees are largely actors.

A character called Scott Gibson, supposedly Titan's chief technology officer, is in fact a voiceover specialist and actor from Malaysia. His real name is Daryl and he is also a singer in a punk band. He confirmed to the MoS he was hired by a production company to film the Titan promo — effectively a work of fiction — at a location in Malaysia this year.

Characters that 'Scott Gibson' introduces as Titan mathematicians, analysts and engineers are, in fact, catalogue models and people hired for the shoot.

Titan executives working across Africa last week offered a MoS reporter a role as a regional agent for Titan in the UK within 30 minutes, and promised commission of 10 to 15 per cent per person recruited to use Titan's services.

Titan are open about the fact their business is a 'multi-level marketing' scheme, which is, in effect, a pyramid model, where new recruits get commission for hiring more people.

Titan says its business model works first by charging between \$30 and \$300 for 'academy' lessons in how to become a trader in foreign exchange markets; and second by directly using investors money to play the markets.

Some Fulham fans became concerned about the club's relationship with Titan last month after Martin Calladine, an author specialising in wrongdoing in football, blogged about anomalies in Titan's history.

Tom Greatrex, chairman of the Fulham Supporters' Trust, told the MoS on Friday: 'Many Fulham fans will be aghast at the way the reputation of the club has been allowed to be sullied by association with Titan,' he said. 'It runs counter to everything [owner] Shahid Khan states his ownership of Fulham stands for.' It is understood Fulham used a third-party firm to conduct due diligence on Titan and found no red flags.

English clubs have come under increased scrutiny of late around the legitimacy of their commercial partners. Manchester City, Birmingham and Norwich are among the clubs to have abandoned deals or seen them collapse.

What is Fulham's new sponsor Titan Capital Markets and why are there concerns about it?



By Peter Rutzler Oct 14, 2022



The Australian financial services regulator is looking into licensing concerns relating to [Fulham's](#) new sponsor, Titan Capital Markets, and the firm's website has been blocked to view from the UK and US.

Fulham's Supporters' Trust has called for greater due diligence around the signing of future deals in light of the Titan partnership but has seen its request to be represented on an ethics committee rejected.

In September, Fulham announced they had made an agreement with the Australian-based company Titan Capital Markets to become their Contracts for Difference (CFD) trading partner for the remainder of the 2022-23 season.

A CFD trading firm speculates on the underlying price of an asset — such as shares, commodities or foreign exchange markets.

Titan Capital Markets states on its website that it is an “integrated, educational, financial group”, combining financial education courses and trading programmes from which they take a commission.

However, a series of concerns have emerged about the company, including over potential breaches of the licences it operates under and potentially misleading claims about its licensing status. On Thursday, the company's website was blocked to viewers in the UK, the US and Australia.

Access denied

Error code 1020

You cannot access titancapitalmarkets.com. Refresh the page or contact the site owner to request access.

Fulham's press release marking the deal stated Titan Capital Markets' official charity, the Titan Foundation, will cooperate with the Fulham Football Club Foundation, the club's charitable arm, to provide support for underserved children and families in education, health and human services.

How that will happen in practice is not clear, however. An Instagram post for the Titan Foundation appeared only on October 6 after *The Athletic* asked about the charity and there is no reference to them on the company's website.

The Fulham Supporters' Trust met with club representatives on Wednesday.

The Trust's chair, Tom Greatrex, said: "It is not at all surprising that Fulham supporters are concerned about how our club found themselves in this position of an agreement with this company which would involve Fulham players as content creators, and corporate social responsibility via a foundation — particularly as Titan appear to have blocked access to their website from the UK within the last 24 hours.

"The Trust suggested that the club should form an ethics committee to approve future potential agreements... The club rejected that suggestion. We understand that there is a sponsorship committee in the US. The fact this partnership agreement was approved, announced and publicised suggests that oversight could also be improved.

"It would be refreshing if the club could simply acknowledge they got this wrong and put in place an approach which would minimise the possibility of something similar happening again in the future."

Fulham say they do not comment or provide further information in regards to its commercial partnership deals.

Why is Titan Capital Markets being looked at?

Titan Capital Markets does not possess an Australian Financial Services licence as stated on its website but instead is an authorised representative of another company, Wholesale Investors. This allows it to operate as a CFD trading platform but only permits it to make offers for wholesale clients, not for retail clients — in other words, clients who are not professional or sufficiently experienced for investment business. Titan Capital Markets' marketing material, however, suggests that its business is largely based on educating those with little experience.

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission, which regulates AFS licences, is concerned by this offering of services to non-business clients and is looking into whether this contravenes the rules of the licence it is acting under.

Titan Capital Markets also states that it possesses a Money Services Business (MSB) licence in Canada, which is registered under the company Titan Global Capital Markets. However, according to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), "a registration with FINTRAC does not indicate an endorsement or licensing of the business".

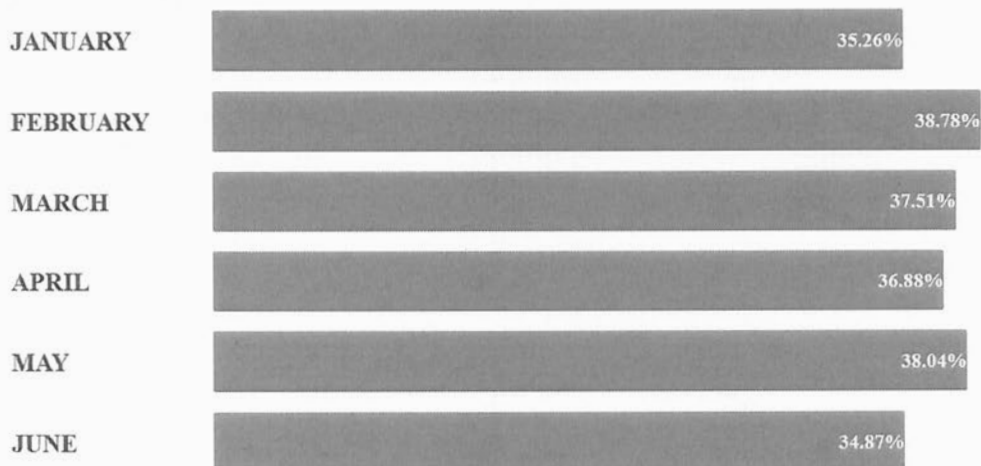
These points were put to Titan Capital Markets by *The Athletic*, which did not respond.

Are there other red flags?

Titan Capital Markets offers guaranteed returns that are difficult to achieve. For its Firefox Trading Team, it guaranteed returns of 14 per cent up until Thursday October 13, when its website was updated and the claims were removed.

The same page also cited strong returns being made in January and February 2022.

2022 Trading Performance



The company's website, though, was not created until March 31, 2022, and the company was only incorporated in Australia on March 28, 2022.

Another concern lies with the company's structure. A Titan Capital Markets presentation to potential clients suggests it is not just a CFD trading firm offering financial training packages with a complex, tiered reward scheme, but also potentially a multi-level marketing scheme, with membership fees and rewards based on recruiting new members.

Questions about Titan's statements and what it appears to do in practice were first raised by journalist Martin Calladine, author of *Fit and Proper People*, on his blog, *the Ugly Game*.

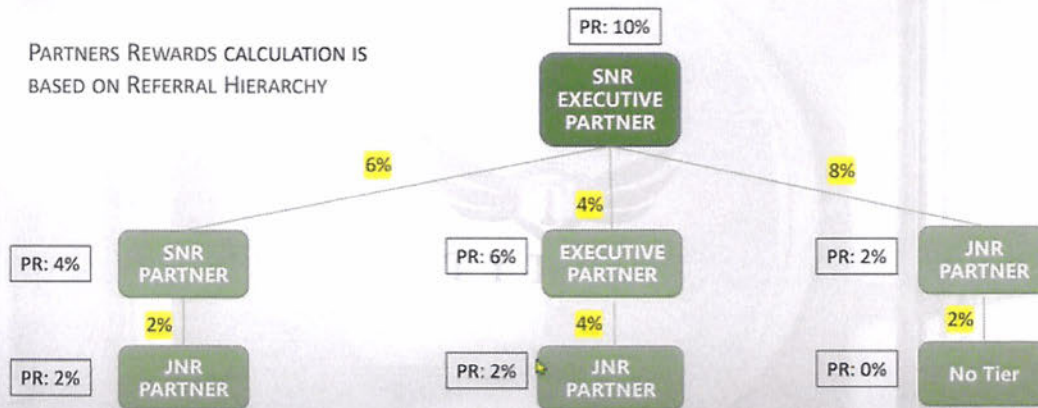
"There are three or four things that in any normal situation would make me concerned about it," he says. "But the first one, the overwhelming one, is the rates of guaranteed returns that they're offering. You shouldn't need to go any further.

"It appears to be a (multi-level marketing) MLM (firm), rather than a CFD trading platform. An MLM is a way of structuring a business. While they have a bad reputation, they are not in fact, illegal."



4. PARTNERS REWARDS

PARTNERS REWARDS CALCULATION IS BASED ON REFERRAL HIERARCHY



Remarks:

1. Partners Rewards calculation is based on the subscription amount and referral hierarchy.
2. Calculation of Partners Rewards shall be based on level difference.

Recruitment to join Titan Capital Markets appears to focus overseas. It has limited social media presence, other than an Instagram account and a series of YouTube videos uploaded in the past two months that are not directly linked to a company account.

But it does have an open Telegram channel, a type of messaging service. Within that, online seminars are advertised for countries mainly in Africa and South East Asia, from where the company's website is still available to view. Titan has held in-person "leader seminars" in Ghana, Togo and Cameroon.

It is difficult to establish the background of senior staff. In an online video, titled "Titan Capital Markets Board of Directors", it cites several key names including Michael James, chief investment officer; Scott Gibson, chief technology officer; Klaus Huber, executive chairman; Anthony Jefferson, head trader; Emmanuel Peterson, head trader, and Howard Yan, CEO.

Yan was pictured at Craven Cottage for the unveiling of the agreement with Fulham and is filmed receiving an award in Dubai in September as well as having a website.

But other than Peterson's LinkedIn and Yan's website, it is hard to establish background details.

"There's almost zero digital footprint of the senior staff," says Calladine.

TITAN CAPITAL MARKET BOARD OF DIRECTO...



On company documents filed in Australia, only one person is listed as a shareholder, and that person, Hongnang Zhang, does not appear in the above video about Titan Capital Markets.

Huber, who is cited as executive chairman in the video, is the sole shareholder of the company, while Yan, Peterson, Jefferson, James and Gibson do not feature. Huber is listed as a director of Titan Global Capital Markets, the company that is registered as a Money Business Service in Canada and whose MBS number is cited on the Titan Capital Markets website.

FINTRAC said: "A registration with FINTRAC does not indicate an endorsement or licensing of the business. Rather, it indicates only that the business has fulfilled its legal requirement under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act to register with the federal government.

"FINTRAC does not issue regulatory licenses to MSBs or any other businesses subject to the Act. In Canada, the licensing authority falls under provincial and territorial jurisdiction."

What does Titan Capital Markets gain from its agreement with Fulham?

Titan Capital Markets' brand will be visible on the club's perimeter LED boards at matches, which are beamed across the world during Premier League matches. The company will have access to Fulham's players for content creation, according to Fulham's statement.

Speaking at the WikiFX awards in Dubai in September, head trader Peterson was asked about their agreement with Fulham. He said: "It actually brought us greater brand awareness. It adds more credibility to our brand. We're a company with a lot of financial resources and assets. We can afford to strike partnerships with prominent sports clubs.

"It's not only Fulham, the partnership with Fulham allows us to expand our reach. Later we will go into golf, NBA, we're eyeing F1 clubs. But that's in the future. We have the resources. We will expand our brand exponentially. It shows us that we are not just one of those companies that comes and goes. We want to be here for many years."

Why are clubs making these types of agreements?

Fulham already have gambling firm W88 as their principal partner and shirt sponsor. Gambling sponsors are pervasive throughout English football and W88 has sponsored Wolverhampton Wanderers, Aston Villa and Crystal Palace. W88 accesses the UK market through a 'white label' arrangement, which means the site is operated through someone other than the brand owner.



W88 appears on the front of Fulham's shirts this season (Photo: Visionhaus/Getty Images)

Financial pressures are tight. In Fulham's case, commercial and matchday revenue falls a long way behind some of their rivals. Their latest accounts detailed losses of £93million (\$103.1m) during the 2020-21 season, which included work on their Riverside Stand development. From sponsorship, they recouped £11million, which is below comparable rivals like Crystal Palace (£16million) and a world away from the best teams in the division, such as [Arsenal](#) (£142million).

In order to try to compete in the transfer market, and to comply with financial fair play regulations that limit owner investment, they have to reduce their overall losses by increasing revenue. That means high-value agreements become more appealing. In the case of W88.com, Fulham said the deal was a "club record" for their principal kit sponsor.

Fulham are not alone in receiving criticism for sponsorship decisions. [Norwich City](#), for example, ended an agreement with obscure Asian gambling company BK8 after they used highly sexualised images of young women in social media promotions.

"It is a systemic problem, with all clubs in the top few divisions massively under pressure financially, especially after COVID-19," suggests Calladine.

"We've seen it pretty widely across football and it needs to be addressed at a much higher level because clubs have no incentive, other than the occasional embarrassment, to try and correct it.

"Action needs to be taken on a much higher level. Fulham deserve a lot of criticism but they are, I think, a symptom of a much wider and bigger problem."

"Across football, clubs seek to generate revenue from partnership and sponsorship agreements," added Greatrex, "including with companies whose target audience is overseas and not necessarily football supporters. There is nothing wrong with that. But, given the reputational risks involved, there should be some due diligence applied to potential sponsors and partners.

"We understand that Fulham do undertake due diligence — and other potential partners have not progressed as a result — but it seems to us that either the checks are not thorough enough, or they weren't applied in this case."

Fulham terminate controversial partnership with Titan Capital Markets



By Peter Rutzler Nov 6, 2022



Fulham have terminated their agreement with controversial partner Titan Capital Markets.

The Athletic reported last month that the company, who claim to be a CFD trading firm while offering educational courses, were under investigation by Australian authorities due to concerns about their license.

The Athletic also outlined a series of red flags about their operation. These included potential breaches of the licences under which they claimed to operate, their structuring as a Multi-Level Marketing firm, the unclear nature of whether key staff or the company's charity existed and offering unachievable "guaranteed" returns — which were later removed from their website.

The company's website was then blocked to viewers in the UK, the US and Australia on Thursday October 13, hours before *The Athletic* published its story.

The termination of their agreement follows further reporting by the *Mail on Sunday*, in which they allege some participants in a promotional video about the company are in fact actors. This includes the supposed chief operating officer Scott Gibson, who it is claimed is actually an actor from Malaysia called Daryl who is also a singer in a punk band.

Concerns about the company were first raised by journalist Martin Calladine on his blog, *the Ugly Game*. The Fulham Supporters' Trust then brought up the issue in a formal meeting with the club last month.

In a statement, Trust chair Tom Greatrex said: "There have been serious and credible concerns around Titan for a number of weeks and this agreement should have been terminated much sooner.

"What is now important is that lessons are learnt, responsibility is taken and a much higher standard of due diligence of future potential partnerships put in place.

"Perhaps some at the Club should also reflect on their attitude towards supporters raising serious issues — the reputation of our club should never be sullied in this way again."

Fulham's agreement with Titan to become their CFD trading partner was initially for the 2022-23 season and was confirmed in September.

The Athletic has contacted Titan for comment.



Martin Calladine

@uglygame



One of two Head Traders at Titan Capital Markets, Fulham's CFD partner, does not have the MBA he claims, raising questions about the identities and CVs of the company's senior staff. It increasingly seems that some may be actors, others using false identities.

#FFC

1/12





Martin Calladine @uglyg... · 11/10/2022 ...

Having seen that the company promises obviously impossible returns (equivalent to a guaranteed minimum of 248% a year) and publishes claimed monthly returns for before the company began trading, I've been trying to establish if its senior staff are who they say they are.

3/12

Monthly Guaranteed Returns

14%

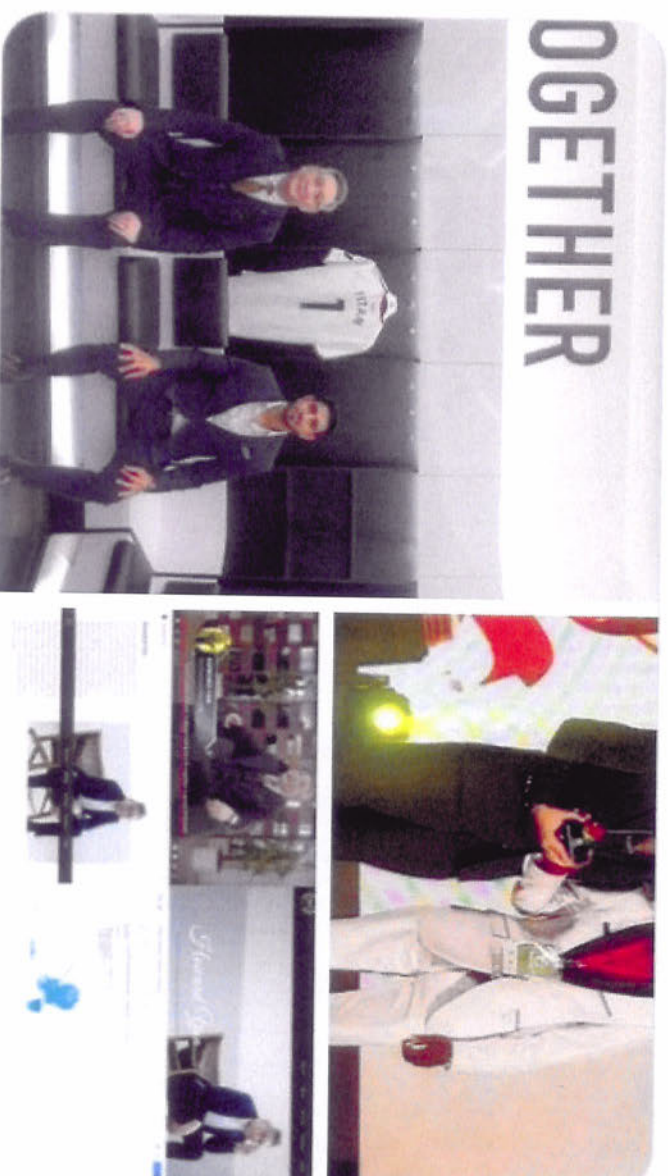




Martin Calladine @uglyg... · 11/10/2022 ...

Howard Yan, who claims to be the founder and CEO and who appeared in the publicity pictures, has a limited digital footprint and is neither a director nor a shareholder of Titan Capital Markets Pty Ltd, the Australian company with whom Fulham partnered.

4/12



1



1



7

