



CHELSEA SUPPORTERS' TRUST NEWSLETTER – January 2020

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Chelsea Supporters Trust, keeping our members up-to-date with recent activity. In this issue, we have information on activities and initiatives that the Trust have been involved with, as well as updates on the SGM.

If you have comments or questions about this newsletter, or any other CST activity, please let us know: membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com

Hopefully see you sat the forthcoming SGM.

Cliff Auger
Chair, Chelsea Supporters' Trust

CST Initiatives and Supporters Issues

CST Special General Meeting

We now have a new date for the Special General Meeting which was postponed last November. It will now be held on Saturday 22nd February from 15.00-17.30 after the Spurs game at the Atlas pub. The SGM is open to **paid, voting members**.

After our normal business we are pleased to say that we will have a question and answer session with **officers from the Metropolitan Police** who deal with football matches at Stamford Bridge and across London.

To enable our guests to be able to give detailed answers, if you have a particular question, we ask that you **send your question in advance**. Send your questions to the email address membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com by Tuesday 18th February, so that we can forward them on.

Venue

The meeting will be held in the upstairs room at The Atlas, 16 Seagrave Road, London, SW6 1RX
<https://goo.gl/maps/KDBHqTbbkN9c6Mdu5>

FA Cup Kick-Off Times and Ticket Pricing

The CST put out a statement after the ludicrous 17.30 kick-off time was chosen for the game at Hull City. This received a lot of positive feedback and we will continue to push on the issue.

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/5527-4th-round-kick-off-times/>

We also put out a statement, and talked to the club, following the unexpected and unjustified ticket price increase for the Liverpool game. As many of you know, **the club promptly reversed that decision**, citing concerns raised through the CST as the reason they did this. This is unlikely to be the end of attempts by the club to increase ticket prices and you can rest assured the CST will remain vigilant and will intervene as appropriate.

CST Annual Survey Results

The Annual Survey results were published last week, and discussed at a meeting with the club. The results given very clear indicators of supporter opinion, form the basis of CST board priorities and are clearly of interest to our members, club and other stakeholders.

The link to the results announcement is here :-

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/5520-cst-annual-survey-2019-results/>

In addition to presenting the survey results a full and frank exchange of views was held with the club management and the CST continued to voice our opposition to the increase in ticket prices for members this season and the re-introduction of an admin fee for purchases of all tickets from Chelsea FC.

VAR Update

Twitter surveys are not particularly scientific but can be useful in judging a mood at a moment in time. We carried a 24 hour survey out on the subject of VAR and the results are illuminating :-

5,801 votes were cast, a very high number considering our 20,000 followers and indicative of the level of interest in the subject. The question asked was 'What would you like to do with VAR?' and three options

- Keep it as it is 6.0%
- Scrap it completely 37.7%
- Change it slightly 56.2%

These results were taken to a special Fans' Forum which received a presentation from the Premier League on VAR, officiated by former referee Chris Foy. The informative session focused on the rationale for why certain decisions were made by the VAR throughout the season, as well as showing a behind-the-scenes look on the process the officials follow when making a decision.

The session also gave an opportunity for FF representatives to ask questions. Several members of the CST Board were present, including our FF representative Nick Stroudley, and able to put forward the fans dissatisfaction with how bad the stadium experience currently is. The issue of no replays being shown during the decision making process was aired firmly. Although the PL are currently bound by FIFA rules preventing this to happen, they agreed to take this feedback away for future discussion. It was clear from our flash survey that our fans strongly believe the system needs an improvement, which was noted by the PL representatives.

The Football Supporters Association are planning a pan-club VAR survey later this season, and we will give you more information on this initiative as we have it.

Premier League Fan Network Meeting

CST board member, Dom Rosso, attended a recent meeting of Supporter Trusts and other supporter groups from across the Premier League. The meeting notes can be found here

<http://chelseasupporterstrust.com/wp-content/uploads/PL-Network-Meeting-300120.pdf>

Chelsea Pitch Owners

At the recent Chelsea Pitch Owners AGM, Charles Rose announced his intention to stand down as chair. If any CST member is potentially interested in the position, more information is given here :-

<https://www.chelseafc.com/en/cpo/cpo-news/cpo-seeks-new-chair>

FSF Away Fans Feedback Project

Have you been to an away game this season? Fill in the FSF survey for their Away Fans Feedback Project:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/awayfans-2019-20>

The Big Sleep Out

The Big Sleep Out held at Stamford Bridge last November was a huge success. We raised a superb £27,500, split between two highly deserving homeless charities – The Oswald Stoll Foundation and Glass Door. We are hoping that there will be pitch side presentation before the Everton game.

Foodbank Collections

We continue to be grateful for the generosity of many of you who regularly donate to the CST collection for the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank before every Saturday and Sunday home game. The collections take place at the CFCUK stall opposite Fulham Broadway main tube entrance. Your generosity is massively appreciated and makes a real difference to the lives of local residents, who for whatever reason, find themselves unable to feed themselves and their dependents. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for announcements for the next collections.



CFC Foundation “Say No to Antisemitism” Campaign and Commemorative Mural

Several of the board members were kindly invited to join the launch of the “Say No To Antisemitism” campaign at the Imperial War Museum. Speeches were given by Bruce Buck, César Azpilicueta and Petr Cech as well as long standing supporter, Peter Trenter



Board members were also privileged to be present at the unveiling of the Commemorative Mural on the side of the West Stand.



Thank you for your continued support