



CHELSEA SUPPORTERS' TRUST NEWSLETTER – May 2020

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the latest CST Newsletter. It feels strange to produce this in May, when the team are usually embroiled in the business end of cups and fighting to optimise their league position, with no top-flight football taking place in this country and no certainty when there will be. The current crisis has impacted all of us.

A number of issues raised below reflect the unique and unsettling situation that the nation, and the world, finds itself in. It needs to be borne in mind, of course, that it is only football and that matters, literally, of life and death rightly command the attention of all of us but, given that, there are still issues we felt it worth raising with you, our members..

We hope you and your family continue to stay safe.

Cliff Auger

Chair, Chelsea Supporters' Trust

CST Annual General Meeting / Annual Elections / Annual Survey

As you are aware, we normally hold our Annual General Meeting the weekend of the first League game of the season, produce the Annual Report in advance of that meeting and hold the online board elections immediately afterwards.

Because of the current uncertainties we are not sure what the implications of current and potential future restrictions will be in terms of whether we will be able to host a physical AGM in the foreseeable future and, if not, the logistics/limitations of a possible 'Zoom-style' meeting etc. We are talking to the Football Supporters Association (FSA) to identify best practise and will revert to you, our members, with more information when the situation is clearer.

Because our Annual Members Survey feeds into the AGM, again there is uncertainty as to the optimum time to hold that. The board are discussing the issue and, again, will notify members when a decision has been made.

Survey On Possible 'Project Restart' Options

We have been involved, with other PL supporters trusts, in providing input to the FSA on 'Project Restart' and related issues, issues that affect all of us and that we all have opinions on. We are keen to identify supporter opinions on this complex issue and, to this end, plan to issue a short, sharp survey in the next few days.

Expressions Of Thanks To Roman Abramovich And Bruce Buck

Our Chair, Cliff Auger, has written to Chelsea Chairman Bruce Buck, praising the club, their staff and the owner for their various actions to help the community during the Coronavirus crisis. It is a clearly a matter of pride to so many supporters that the club has taken such prompt, positive and generous actions and we wanted to reflect this. Cliff also sent an email of gratitude on behalf of the CST and its members to Roman Abramovich, which the owner has thanked us for.

2019/20 Season Ticket Refunds and Munich Costs

Season Tickets

It seems clear that remaining 2019/20 PL games, if they take place, will do so behind closed doors. Given this, we are in discussion with the club on season ticket rebates and away season ticket rebates, and expect an announcement from them in the near future. Until there is more clarity about next season, and that clarity may be some way off, it is unlikely season tickets will be put on sale

Munich Travel / |Accommodation Costs

The CST lobbied the club with regard to reimbursement for those who had incurred irrecoverable travel and accommodation costs for the cancelled Munich trip. It is pleasing that nearly 700 supporters have received, or will be getting, those costs back from the club.

H&F Food Bank and Charitable Donations

Link to H&F Food Bank

Our friends at Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank have sadly seen an inevitable rise in demand during the current crisis and it is frustrating that we are obviously unable to hold our regular pre-match collections. Any donations of food by local members or cash donations to allow them to purchase food, will be very gratefully received. Details on how to donate to the H&F Foodbank here :

<https://hammersmithfulham.foodbank.org.uk/>

Charitable Donations

In these times of so many difficulties for so many people, the CST board unanimously voted to release some funds for charitable donations. £250 were each given to the Stoll Foundation and the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank. A further £600 was donated equally to six member-nominated charities - Samaritans, Combat Stress, Princess Alice Hospice, Red Cross, Shelter, and the Chelsea FC Appeal for Refuge.

Chelsea Pitch Owners Shares

Chelsea pitch owners have appealed on social media for supporters to continue to buy CPO shares. More information on how to purchase a share in this unique body here :

<https://www.chelseafc.com/en/cpo/buy-a-share>

Sleep Out On Hold

Plans to hold the second CST sleep-out in the autumn have had to be put on hold as it is by no means clear whether restrictions will have been lifted in time, and whether participants would feel comfortable taking part at that time. We are still very keen to organise one, and there has been a lot of interest in such an event, and it is our intention to do so when it is safe to do so and we have given sufficient time to optimise fundraising.

FSA Resource Pack for Young Supporters

The FSA have created a few worksheets for children to do whilst at home, specifically around football and what it means to be a supporter. Hopefully these can help by offering another creative and learning activity to add to their schedule.

They are mostly appropriate for primary school age children, but can work as a prompt for ideas and writing topics for middle and secondary school children too.

<https://thefsa.org.uk/news/resources-for-young-supporters/>

<https://thefsa.org.uk/news/resources-for-young-supporters-part-ii/>

Thank you for your continued support and please, Stay Safe