



Chelsea Supporters' Trust Newsletter – April 2023

Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023 for the Chelsea Supporters Trust.

In this newsletter we have details of the election results for the CST board for 2022/23. Following the elections, I was delighted to be appointed as Chair and look forward to working on your behalf on issues that are important to you as Chelsea supporters. A big thanks to Cliff Auger for the sterling job he has done as Chair for the last three years.

As a former Chairman once said when he paid only a pound to buy Chelsea.

“Ultimately Chelsea FC belongs to the supporters.

You are those supporters and important your voice is heard and important we do all we can at Chelsea Supporters Trust to do that so the work of CST continues.

In recent months we have raised a number of issues with Chelsea FC that are important to you as Chelsea supporters: We wrote to the new owners last year asking them to freeze ticket prices in 2022/23 and have done so again in 2023/24. We expect an announcement on ticket prices shortly.

We have also raised the following supporter issues:

- We have said that it important that subsidised coach travel for away games including women's team continues.*
- We have asked for the Stamford Bridge stadium ban appeal process to be reviewed.*
- We have raised the issues about finding other ways to reward loyalty for fans – how about Cobham supporter days for randomly selected season ticket holders and members.*
- We have raised a number of issues around the ticketing process- VWR, the loyalty points system, away tickets, poor communication on ticket availability, these are major issues we have said to the club. There is no easy answers or solutions but we continue to raise ticketing issues as we know this is one of THE issues for Chelsea supporters right now.*
- We have raised the issues and inconvenience to Chelsea supporters with late changes of kick times seen recently with the moving of the Arsenal away game at very short notice.*
- We have asked about staging Chelsea Heritage events for supporters at home games either at the Chelsea Museum or Tea Bar. We hope to see this place by next season.*

Also, in this newsletter we have a Members Update, we mourn the loss of the legend that was Gianluca Vialli, we have a Chelsea Heritage Partnership update and details of the recent Big Stamford Bridge Sleep out and an update from our recent Founders Day held at Brompton Cemetery where a number of club officials came along to support. Thanks to everyone who came along recently to our SGM held at Under the Bridge after the Brighton home game on 15 April 2023.

We have invited two of our new Chelsea FC Board Members to come along to a future CST meeting and both Danny Finkelstein and Barbara Charone have said they will do so. When we have a confirmed date we will let you know.

Thanks for your ongoing support of CST.

Mark Meehan

Chair, Chelsea Supporters' Trust.

Chelsea Supporters Trust Board 2022/23 – Mark Meehan

Following Chelsea Supporter Trust elections results in November 2022:

The following have been elected to the Chelsea Supporters' Trust Board 2022/23:

- *Cliff AUGER*
- *Gillian BROMFIELD*
- *David CHIDGEY*
- *Debs COADY*
- *Paul HAY*
- *Mark MEEHAN*
- *Dominic ROSSO*
- *Dan SILVER*
- *Ben WILLIAMS*

We are pleased to welcome Ben and Debs to the board.

Mark Meehan & Dom Rosso have been elected by the new board to serve as Chair & Vice-Chair for the 22/23 season.

The following have been co-opted to the CST Board:

- *Robert BLASZCZAK*
- *Tim ROLLS*
- *Kweku AMONOO-QUYS*
- *DIANE AKERS*
- *Stuart KINNER – Treasurer*

For more details about Chelsea Supporters Trust board Members and contact details:

[The Chelsea Supporters Trust Board 2022-23 - Chelsea Supporters' Trust](#)

Membership Update – Paul Hay

Our membership numbers continue to grow which means we can truly represent the thoughts of our supporters when speaking with the club.

We have had meetings around what is probably the biggest issue supporters have, which is ticketing. We are using these meetings to draft our ticketing survey, which will be with you soon. As we are expecting the club to make their announcements about ticketing for next season, we have delayed sending it out to ensure it covers any changes the club make.

We have been made aware that some of our members have not been receiving the regular emails which we send out. In almost all occasions, this is because it has gone to their junk/spam folders. Please make sure that you have chelseasupportertrust.com added to your list of safe senders so you do not miss anything we send.

Our voting members have a subscription based on the credit/debit card you used when you signed up. In some cases, the card registered has expired. If you have a new card, please update your membership record by logging onto our website <https://chelseasupportertrust.com/cstlogin/> and clicking on the "Update Billing Info" link under your "My Memberships" information. (Login in using your email as your username. if you have forgotten your password there is an option to reset it)

We are pleased to announce that we now have the ability of paying via PayPal.

We are also currently working on updating our website to make it much better and more informative. More information will be sent out when this has been finished.

If you have any issues, email us at membership@chelseasupportertrust.com

Gianluca Vialli, 1964 - 2023 – Debs Coady



We were all devastated to learn of the passing of Gianluca Vialli on 6th January 2023, at the far too young age of 58, following a dignified fight against cancer since his diagnosis in 2017.

Much has been rightly said about his life and achievements in football, at both club and international level, as a player and in management, and we were lucky enough, actually honoured, to call Luca one of our own.

On 15th January, before our league game at home to Crystal Palace, Chelsea Supporters' Trust board members met to pay our last respects on behalf of our membership. Gathered at the Vialli memorial located at the West Stand entrance to Stamford Bridge, CST Chair Mark Meehan laid a beautiful wreath with the inscription "Gianluca – Grazie di tutto" (Thanks for everything). It was a solemn moment, but we were also overwhelmed by the range of personal tributes already laid in Luca's honour.



Before kick off, the whole stadium, including many of Luca's former team mates who were assembled around the centre circle, showed their appreciation of the great man; banners were proudly displayed from both the Matthew Harding and Shed ends during a period of celebratory applause, followed by a moving accolade shown on the big screens. Doubt there was a dry eye in the house during all the dignified tributes, as we shared our own memories of the great man, his influence and his legacy.

The club recorded the day's events in this lovely web site piece [here](#).



Chelsea Heritage Partnership – Debs Coady

For members of a certain age, and younger ones interested in our club's rich history, we have a dedicated [web site](#) and [Twitter](#) feed where you can go to read about and discuss our fascinating past, through good times, and not so good times! A [motley crew](#) of the most dedicated of Chelsea historians have come together under the banner of #CFCHeritage, offering articles, updates and footage of memorable events - facts, figures and insights into all things Chelsea.



Not just an online presence, we organise occasional clean up sessions of Brompton and other cemeteries and will set up the occasional crowd funding campaign to pay our respects to notable and influential individuals who deserve our help to bring their last resting places up to a fitting level. We also make sure that our founding fathers' inspiration is recognised at our annual wreath laying event as close as possible to the anniversary of our club's formation.

One exciting initiative to look out for is our planned live match day events. Working with the club to find a suitable venue at Stamford Bridge, we look forward to inviting you all to join us and share memories in surroundings dedicated to our fine heritage. A perfect pre-match reminisce – watch this space for further details.

If you have any questions or ideas for us please contact Debs at heritage@chelseasupporterstrust.com

The Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out 2023 Update – Mark Meehan

We have now raised 26k - thanks for all your support.

The Chelsea Supporters Trust, in full co-operation with Chelsea FC, staged the fourth Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out on Saturday 25 March 2023 to raise money for our next door neighbours Stoll Veterans.

A hardy cohort of season ticket holders and members arrived on the evening of 25 March at 8pm with nothing more than a sleeping bag and a pillow and a supply of cardboard boxes to lay on. We gathered on the concourse of the East Stand lower tier and slept there overnight in support of veterans struggling through homelessness and lack of wellbeing.

The evening was a great success. It was a pleasure to be joined by representatives from Stoll including Jill Taylor and resident Terry Cyrille who shared his experience of homelessness and how Stoll helped him obtain a new home but also how the money makes such a difference to homeless veterans. We have now raised £26k to date including gift aid which exceeds the amount we raised last year.

We were also joined on the night by Chelsea Academy Manager Mark Robinson along with some of his backroom staff, and Academy players Ethan Wady, Dione Rankin, Dylan Williams and Alfie Gilchrist.

Mark and Carys Dalton Head of Player Care at the Academy had invited Mark Meehan and Cliff Auger from the CST down to Cobham along with George Bageya from Stoll and Terry to talk to all the academy players about the Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out and the work of Stoll. Many of the players following the visit then made a donation to the Sleep Out pot and were encouraged to come along on the night and speak to supporters sleeping out. Many thanks to Mark and Carys and the Chelsea Academy players for their support. We hope to do more community work with Mark and the Academy in future.

Thanks to everyone who took part, donated, or supported or promoted the event including many past Chelsea players Pat Nevin, Kerry Dixon, Eddie Niedzwicki, Colin Pates, John Bumstead, Mickey Thomas, David Lee, Gary Chivers, Nigel

Spackman, and Jason Cundy who sent videos of support to those Chelsea supporters braving a cold March evening. The event was a huge success and over £25k has been raised to date for Stoll.

The money raised will make a real difference to our neighbours lives at STOLL. We plan to hold a further Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out next year and we look forward to continuing our successful fundraising campaigning.

For over 100 years, Stoll has been working with Veterans in Fulham who are experiencing homelessness, issues around mental including PTSD, supporting Veterans who have a physical injury from armed service, access to skills and training as they transition into civilian life, and a health and wellbeing programme to support the different needs and ages of their Veterans.

In the last four years here at the CST we have raised £77,000 for Stoll and another £13,500 for the Glass Door homeless charity. We think that is something we can all be really proud of.

One night sleeping out will never replicate the experiences that rough sleepers have to go through every night, but here at the Chelsea Supporters Trust we hope the money raised will continue to help STOLL in the good work that they do for former homeless veterans.



If you have not yet donated but still wish to do so you can go to our Just Giving website link : [The Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out 2023 - JustGiving](#) and click the “give now” button.

A report on the Big Stamford Bridge Sleep out was on Chelsea FC official website. If you have not seen article see link below:

[Stamford Bridge Sleep Out goes from strength to strength | News | Official Site | Chelsea Football Club \(chelseafc.com\)](#)

We hope that we will be able to make an on-pitch presentation to Stoll before our home game with Nottingham Forest on Saturday 13 May. Once confirmed with Chelsea FC we will post details on this website and our social media pages.

Founders Day – Cliff Auger

Prior to the Everton game on March 18th, the CST once again commemorated Founders Day at Brompton Cemetery. Rick Glanvill, the official Chelsea historian, was kind enough to give a guided walk that highlighted and gave some history to the majority of the Chelsea FC related graves in the cemetery. We were joined on the walk by some of the senior management and a director of the club who all commented that they were glad to be informed of the history and enjoyed the tour. Luckily the walk managed to escape any heavy rain on a very wet day and it ended with a wreath laying at the Mears Memorial where we were joined by Gus Mears great grandson, Chris Mears. Wreaths were laid by Chelsea FC and the CST. They joined the one already laid by the Chelsea Graves Society. This was the fourth occasion that we have commemorated Founders Day and we very much intend it to be an annual event with support and participation by Chelsea FC.



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