



Chelsea Supporters' Trust Newsletter – August 2024

Chair's Introduction

Welcome to the new football season and the first CST newsletter of the 24/25 season.

As well as a new season, we have a new manager and we welcome Enzo Maresca to Chelsea FC and wish him good luck and a successful season ahead.

A new season should be a cause for optimism but before our Premier League campaign has begun what continues to be a cause for concern is the critically low feeling amongst many Chelsea supporters before a ball is kicked and the continued disconnection felt by supporters that reared its head last season and has returned for some supporters like a bad hangover from the end of last season to this, a major driver a transfer strategy many do not understand and the loss and treatment of academy players such as Conor Gallagher and Trevoh Chalobah that many supporters just do not agree with plus the pricing of the Inter Milan friendly that excluded many supporters from purchasing and the emotional blackmail of buying a ticket just to get the 5 points towards a season ticket that will realistically never come.

This is the third year of the new ownership group. This could be a make or break season for them with their goal to “earn the trust and confidence of supporters.” On the pitch a positive start to the season will help enormously and supporters will be looking to see some signs of improvement and better still a successful end of season with hopefully a cup final win in Wroclaw to look forward to. Then we really would have won it all.

We will on occasion see things differently to Chelsea FC but we are pro Chelsea FC. We want the club to be successful. We all want what is best for Chelsea FC and just as importantly what is best for its emotional shareholders – its supporters.

We always seek to be constructive in our dealings with the club and are thoughtful about any criticism made as we know that criticism alone is not going to solve things or change things for the better. We have been encouraged and impressed by the willingness of the club , especially Danny Finkelstein, Michael Cornall and the wider Supporters Relations Department to work with the CST, the FAB and other supporter groups.

We welcome Sam Curteis Supporters Liaison Officer, Hannah Travers Disability Access Officer and Ethan Windsor Resident Relations Officer all of whom have already begun working with closely with Trust Board Members on various initiatives.

Congratulations also to Danny and the Supporter Relations staff on Chelsea being recognised by the annual Fan Engagement Index Awards and receiving a merit award for significant improvements on how they have engaged with fans over the last two years.

More details below:

[Fan Engagement Index & Awards 23/24 released! - Think Fan Engagement](#)

There is of course a lot more that Chelsea need to do and at the CST we will continue to suggest ways of working with and engaging with our wider supporter base to address concerns held by supporters. We believe that a greater sharing of the club's strategic vision with the wider supporter base could be a good way so start. An early season update to all supporters on stadium redevelopment plans would be even better.

At CST during the summer we have been busy once more and the newsletter below will share in greater details some of our activities post season supporting our friends at the Chelsea Supporters Group in arranging the return of the annual supporters tournament, making an off season donation to LBHF Foodbank, sponsoring the first ever Chelsea Ladies Legends Charity Match at Dorking FC on Sunday 26 May, arranging a visit with Chelsea Foundation to Barons Court Homeless Project for the opening of their new garden for homeless guests and buying new football boots to enable young girls to play football for the first time.

I would also say well done to CST Vice Chair Dominic Rosso for the work he has done with Sheffield United, the Premier League and Chelsea to establish a compensation scheme for Chelsea fans financially impacted by the cost of replacement train ticket when the Sheffield United game was rearranged at short notice last season.

This should be the bench mark in future for any football supporters financially impacted by last minute changes. They should be compensated. We have ensured that the Football Supporters Association have been kept informed of progress.

Talking of whom, I attended the Football Supporters Association AGM at Wembley Stadium last month and would encourage all Chelsea supporters to read the meeting summary particularly the important motions on ticket pricing across football and the risk of competitive domestic league games being played overseas.

Our annual CST AGM will take place at 2pm on Saturday 7 September 2024. The venue for the AGM will be at Stamford Bridge and details will be confirmed shortly. Members unable to attend in person will be able to participate via Zoom.

Before then, on Sunday before the Manchester City home game, do come along and meet some of the CST Board Members at our pop in session from 3.15pm to 4.00pm outside Oswald Stoll Building even just to say hello and happy new season.

Come on you Blues.....

We welcome all feedback and members are encouraged to contact us with specific queries, comments, and concerns via our [website](#).

Yours faithfully,

Mark Meehan - Chelsea Supporters' Trust, Chairman



Foodbank

With the new season approaching, the Chelsea Supporters' Trust is again pleased and proud to be supporting the Hammersmith and Fulham foodbank.

The foodbank's case load has more than doubled over the last few years and donations are needed more than ever to help local people.

With no collections being made during the close season, members of the CST board went shopping with existing funds and dropped off much needed items to the Foodbank warehouse near Barons Court.

Our regular collections will recommence before the Man City game on August 18th outside the Stoll gates at 2.00pm.

More info [here](#).



First of a Kind Compensation scheme

The CST is delighted to confirm that a compensation scheme administered by Sheffield United, in respect of return travel, following the Sheffield United vs Chelsea Fixture which took place on April 7th, 2024, is now live.

More info [here](#).



Meet the CST: pop-in session

Ahead of Chelsea v Man City, the Chelsea Supporters' Trust will be holding a **Meet the CST pop-in session**.

We will be based on Fulham Road next to the Stoll Gates from 15:15 - 16:00.

Senior members of the CST Board will be available to speak with supporters about matchday problems and wider issues experienced. We will use this as an information-gathering session. Relevant feedback will be reported directly to club officials.

More Info can be found [here](#).



AGM

The Chelsea Supporters' Trust will host its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 7 September at 14:00.

The meeting will be held in person at Stamford Bridge and virtually via ZOOM.

Further information can be found on our [website](#).



Supporters Tournament

We were pleased to organise, alongside the Chelsea Supporters' Group, the Chelsea FC Supporters Tournament at Cobham on Sunday 6 July.

We would like to thank the club for their support and use of facilities.

More info [here](#).



Barons Court Project

We recently visited our friends at the Barons Court Project as they opened their new garden and shower room.

The Barons Court Project is a local day centre that who support people that are on low income, homeless and/or vulnerable to mental health issues.

We are excited to work with them in the future



Future Ball Hertz

The Chelsea Supporters Trust is pleased to have made a donation of £250 to the "Future Ball Herz."

"Future Ball Herz" is the community campaign run by Chelsea supporter Dean Mears on behalf of his Chelsea FCW podcast, Went To Mow Kingsmeadow, that provides new football boots to young girls across the

country to get them playing and emulating their Chelsea FCW heroines.

Info [here](#).



Ladies Legends Charity match

The Chelsea Supporters' Trust (along with the Chelsea Heritage Partnership) were delighted to be match sponsor for the first ever Chelsea Ladies Legends Charity match game that was played at Dorking Wanderers FC on Sunday 26 May, 2024.

Full details of the event can be found [here](#).



Chelsea DSA

We are thrilled to announce Chelsea FC have a newly appointed Disabled Access Officer Hannah Travers.

The Chelsea Disabled Supporters' Association steering committee have been working hard with Hannah ahead of the new season.

Full details about what the DSA have been up to can be found [here](#).
