



CHELSEA SUPPORTERS' TRUST NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2018

Chairman's Report

It's been an excellent start to the season for new Manager, Maurizio Sarri. Long may it continue! It has also been a busy start to the season for the Trust with the AGM, election results, the results of the Annual Survey, a very good SGM with Henry Winter as special guest and meetings with the Club and the Premier League.

As ever, there is much work to do and with the increasing dominance of TV over the game and the disconnect that many long standing supporters feel with the Club, we will endeavour to make sure your voice gets heard by the Club and the Premier League and that your views matter.

May I take the opportunity to wish all of our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your support during 2018.

David Chidgey
Chairman, Chelsea Supporters' Trust

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting on the 19th August to report to the membership on our activities over the preceding year. It was also an opportunity to engage with the members who came along and discuss the issues of most concern to them. The AGM launched the annual elections for the new Board and the Motions for the forthcoming year.

The results of the elections mean that the membership have elected new Board with Cliff Auger; David Chidgey; Henry Fowler; David Johnstone; Chris Rayburn and Dan Silver all re-elected with Paul Hay; Theresa Magee and Robert Palmer being newly elected. I would like to personally welcome the new Board members. In addition, the Board co-opted Ramzi Shammass, Tim Rolls, Stuart Kinner, Lucy Caton and Debs Coady to the Board.

We proposed 17 motions all of which were passed by over 90%. This will form our mandate for the current year. Information on the election results, the Motions and the AGM more information can be found on our [website](#).

Special General Meeting

We held a Special General Meeting on October 20th after the Chelsea v Man Utd match in the Atlas Pub.

The meeting was well attended and gave the Board an opportunity to present the results of the Annual Survey as well as Supporter Issues; Safe Standing and Community issues. Our special guest was Chief Football Correspondent

for The Times, Henry Winter. Henry spoke for nearly two hours giving us his views on Chelsea, football, his career and the importance of supporters to the game and why it is important for us to stand up for what we believe in.

We look forward to holding another SGM in the New Year and hopefully with a special guest as engaging as Henry.



Amanda Jacks, Football Supporters Federation



Henry Winter, The Times

Meetings with Chelsea FC

In November, Cliff Auger, Ramzi Shammass, Chris Rayburn and I, met with Bruce Buck, Chairman Chelsea FC, Guy Laurence Chief Executive and Graham Smith, Head of Ticketing.

This was our first opportunity to present the results of the Annual Survey which we discussed in detail. However, it was also an opportunity to discuss other issues and concerns such as Youth pricing; Away ticket allocation and loyalty point bench-marking; Kick off times and TV scheduling and Safe Standing.

In addition, the Chelsea Supporters' Trust were instrumental in bringing the issues of the Megastore to the Club's attention. We produced and presented a survey to the club reflecting the membership's dissatisfaction and disappointment with the current store and its move toward being nothing more than a generic Nike store.

These meetings remain an important opportunity to maintain and continue constructive dialogue with the Club on the issues that you the membership bring to our attention via the Annual Survey, meetings, email and in person with various Board members.

Premier League Structured Dialogue Meeting

In October, I represented the Trust at the Premier League Structured Dialogue meeting, together with representatives of every Premier League club, the Football Supporters Federation, Supporters Direct and Richard Scudamore and other PL executives.

This was the second of two annual meetings supporters have with the Premier League and is an opportunity to raise key supporter issues such as Ticketing; Safe Standing; Travel to matches; Kick-off times and VAR.

While it can sometimes feel like wading through treacle, these meetings have delivered substantive progress in the past such as the Away Ticket price cap and prove that when the supporters work together, marshalled by Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation, change can be effected.

In November, the decision to merge the Football Supporters Federation and Supporters Direct, the two most important supporters' organisations, was ratified. We hope that the new organisation will continue to represent the supporters and push the Premier League, the clubs and the Broadcasters hard to ensure that our interests, issues and concerns are taken seriously. The Chelsea Supporters' Trust will remain at the heart of this and will continue to work closely with our colleagues to make this happen.

Anyone is welcome to join the Chelsea Supporters' Trust and it's easy to do and free!

Anybody can join for free and be a non-voting member, and we are pleased to have you onboard. However, for those who are non-voting members, please consider converting your membership to a voting one where you will receive the benefit of voting on our resolutions and mandate, as well as the ability to stand and vote for the Trust board every year. And not forgetting our special pin badge that all new voting members receive. Please go to our [website](#) and click on the 'Join Now' button which takes you to the sign up page. All this for just £5 a year!

If you have any queries on any aspect of your membership, please email us at membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com. Please allow us adequate time to reply to your email if one is required.

Annual Survey 2019

Work is already beginning on the 2019 edition, which the Board anticipate presenting to the membership around the midway point of the season. The Trust feel that a move to earlier in the year will encourage an even greater response rate than in 2018, when a record number of you completed the survey. We also hope to include more questions on issues that fundamentally affected supporters, such as Safe Standing, more tickets for juvenile and youth supporters at sensible prices, the proposed Super League, scheduling of matches, and the safety of supporters in Europe.



Supporter Issues

Metropolitan Police Independent Advisory Group

The Chelsea Supporter's Trust have been invited to join the Metropolitan Police's new Independent Advisory Group for football policing. All London football club trusts are involved, along with anti-racism groups, disability groups, designated football club police offers, the British Transport Police and senior officers from the Met. There will be no representation from football clubs on the Group. We welcome the Met's invitation and intend to join in the hope that we can help make policing of football matches, and Chelsea matches in particular, a more supporter-friendly environment.

Overseas Supporters

USA - Dan Silver met with John Costello, head of Chelsea in America, prior to the recent Everton game to discuss ongoing issues with regard to loyalty points required to attend various games, such as not being able to have friends collect tickets or being able to put them on the Ticket Exchange, should they be unable to attend, and the TV companies' late announcement of live games which impacts them travelling to see matches.

AUSTRALIA - During a recent visit to Australia, Board Member Rob Palmer met with the Chelsea Perth Supporters' Club. The gathering took place during our recent goalless home draw with Everton. Due to the eight-hour time difference with London, our down-under colleagues meet at all hours to watch live Chelsea games. On this occasion a good turnout was achieved despite a 10.15pm kick off time! This was a good opportunity to recruit new members to the Trust while discussing some of the issues faced by the group when supporting Chelsea from the other side of the world. Some of these issues including kick-off dates and times, which impact on planning travel to London. Access to match day tickets was also a contentious issue. On the night the benefits of joining the Trust were explained and many new members were signed up. The Supporters' Club in Perth, which boasts more than 800 members, agreed to reach out to those not attending on the evening to encourage membership of the CST.



It seems that wherever we live, the problems supporting Chelsea appear to be universal!

Diversity

This represents a new initiative for the CST, and is intended to reach out to groups of our supporters which the Trust have not historically represented, e.g. women, LGBTQ and disabled fans.

Dan Silver and Theresa Magee have already held informal discussions with the club's diversity consultant and the Chelsea Pride group to chat about how we can best support the great work they already do, and Theresa has been in contact with the "On The Ball" group in Scotland regarding their work on period poverty – you might not think that would be an issue at Chelsea, but the term in fact covers a wide range of social groupings.

Please contact either Theresa or Dan if you have any queries or they can assist in any way.

Stadium Development

At the moment, following the summer's announcement that the expansion of Stamford Bridge is on hold, all remains quiet. However, we await any future developments with interest.

Safe Standing

A welcome development in the endeavour to introduce safe standing at football grounds in England has been Wycombe Wanderers' announcement that they will be the first club in the country to install the new 2020 seat, produced by Grand Stand Seating Systems Ltd in conjunction with Alderdale seating, which enables supporters to choose to stand or sit without having an obscured view of the pitch. The structure has been fitted in Block J of the Origin Family Stand and consists of 68 elevated seats – including accessible options for disabled fans – ensuring that all supporters' eye levels are the same regardless of whether they're sitting or standing.

The seats, which are set out in a theatre style, with off-set seat centres in alternate rows – including accessible options for disabled fans - ensuring that all supporters' eye levels are the same regardless of whether they're sitting or standing.

Although the structure is subject to approval with local authorities before being cleared for use by supporters, the 2020 seat has been cleared for installation in stadia throughout the country, with the Sports Ground Safety Authority confirming that it complies with the Government's all-seated stadium policy.

Hopefully Wanderers will be able to go live with the 2020 seats in the near future, which will be another quantum leap for the "Stand Up for Choice Campaign".

You can read more here <https://www.wycombewanderers.co.uk/news/2018/november/adams-park-first-ground-to-install-2020-seat/>

Community

Chelsea Supporters Trust are pleased to announce that in the run up to Christmas we will again be hosting a Foodbank at the Gate 17 stall opposite Fulham Broadway Station. Confirmation of dates will follow via social media and the Trust website, and we hope you can give generously as you did last year, so why not "pop" into Sainsbury's at Fulham Broadway and "drop" your donation over the road!

For further information about Hammersmith and Fulham Food Bank, visit their [website](#) or find them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

