



CHELSEA SUPPORTERS' TRUST NEWSLETTER – December 2019

Chairman's Report

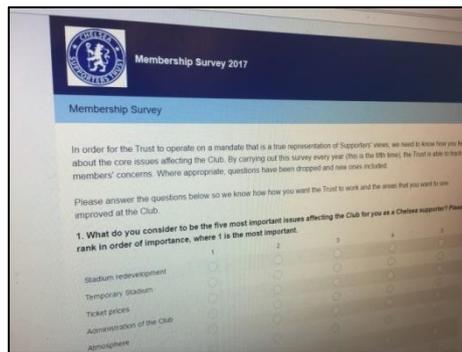
The Chelsea Supporters Trust board apologises for the lack of regular newsletters in recent months and commits to communicating with members on a more regular basis, hopefully monthly. This edition is partly a catch-up of recent events and partly a look forward.

Special General Meeting

We were forced to postpone our recent Special General Meeting, which was to include a Q&A session with representatives of matchday police officers. We are hoping to rearrange this for February, depending to fixture rearrangements, and will notify members as soon as we have a confirmed date.

Annual Survey 2019

Thank you to those that responded to this year's Chelsea Supporters' Trust annual survey. The results will be sent out in early January once we have delivered the report to the club.



Community

The Big Sleep Out

The Big Sleep Out held at Stamford Bridge last month was a huge success. We raised a superb £27,500, split between two highly deserving homeless charities – The Oswald Stoll Foundation and Glass Door



Thank you to all those that participated. It is our firm intention to hold another one next autumn and details will be given nearer the time.

If you wish to make a donation, there is still time. Here is the link to the donation page.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ChelseaSupportersTrust>

Here are links to a couple of pieces about the sleep out that members might find of interest.

<https://www.glassdoor.org.uk/news/cfcsleepout>

<https://theathletic.com/1386009/2019/11/19/my-mum-didnt-know-where-i-was-i-was-18-sleeping-for-three-weeks-in-a-car-canoville-and-wilkins-are-dual-inspirations-for-fundraiser/?source=shared-article>

The CST are also planning other initiatives supporting Stoll in the New Year – watch this space.

Foodbank Collections

As many of you know, and many of you regularly donate, the CST collect for the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank before every Saturday and Sunday home game, from 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. We hope the next collection will be before the Burnley game on 11th January.



Supporter Issues

Stadium Redevelopment

Board members are regularly asked about the redevelopment project and whether the on-hold nature of the project is likely to be lifted in the near future or, indeed, if the club are likely to make another statement. The reality is, the club have made no recent statement and we are not aware of any project progress in recent times. If we do, we will of course share that with our members.

Issues at Manchester City

In addition to the 'rent boy' chants at the game last month, there were dreadful sexist comments directed at a number of our female supporters and appalling comments directed at other supporters, including children. It isn't just Chelsea supporters who are targeted, it seems to happen to our supporters at The Etihad every season, it seems almost normalised behaviour there and it just is not acceptable. The matter has been taken up by the Football Supporters Association and we will keep you posted.

Fans Forum

The CST board have always had reservations about the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Fans Forum but have, since our formation, had a representative on that body. Nick Stroudley attended the latest Forum in November, and the minutes can be found here :-

<https://www.chelseafc.com/en/community/fans--forum/fans--forum-minutes-of-meetings>

Football Supporters Association news

The CST are active members of the Football Supporters Association (FSA) and have representation on the FSA-coordinated Premier League Fans Network. The notes of their latest meeting are here :-

<https://thefsa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Premier-League-Supporter-Engagement-Meeting-29-10-19-FINAL.pdf>

The most recent meeting between representatives of that network and representatives from the Premier League discussed, among other issues, VAR, a mooted European Super league and continued frustration of rescheduled kick-off times at the behest of TV companies. Meeting notes here :-

<https://thefsa.org.uk/news/fan-reps-meet-premier-league-autumn-2019/>

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>

If you have comments or questions on any of the above , or any other CST activity, please let us know:

membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com.

*Finally – on behalf of the CST board, festive best wishes to our members, their families and friends. Here’s to 2020. We’ll be back next month with the latest news from the Chelsea Supporters Trust – **Making Your Voice Heard**.*

Cliff Auger

Chairman, Chelsea Supporters’ Trust