



Chelsea Supporters' Trust Newsletter - March 2022

Chairman's Introduction

The first thing to say, clearly, is that the appalling events that have taken place in Ukraine over the past few weeks put everything else, including football, into perspective. Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you and your family continue to stay safe.

Cliff Auger

Chair, Chelsea Supporters' Trust.

The Sale Of The Club And Related Issues

There is an extraordinary amount going on at the moment in the Chelsea world, so here are updates to our members on a number of issues. Working through the past couple of weeks :-

The CST board issued a statement on Friday 4th March (link here

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/16247-chelsea-supporters-trust-statement-trust-in-our-future/>).

A Q&A relating to this statement was e-mailed to members and can be found here :

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/16289-chelsea-supporters-trust-qa/>.

We wrote an open letter to potential ownership bidders, setting out the imperative that supporters are an integral part of the process once there.

 Chelsea Supporters' Trust
✉ chair@chelseasupporterstrust.com
🌐 www.chelseasupporterstrust.com
🐦 <http://twitter.com/ChelseaSTrust>

15th March 2022

Open Letter to (prospective) purchasers of Chelsea FC

We are writing to you as the elected board of the Chelsea Supporters' Trust (CST). Founded in 2012, the CST is a fully democratic, legally constituted supporter group, affiliated to the Football Supporters Association and regulated by the FCA. We have a membership of thousands globally and represent the interests of Chelsea supporters with the club, the community, the media, and wider governance structures.

Founded in 1905, Chelsea FC have been in the Premier League since it started in 1992, though of course, the club history goes a lot further back than that. A series of exciting, glamorous players last century like Woodward, Gallagher, Bentley, Greaves, Osgood, Cooke, Wilkins, Nevin, Gullit and Zola through to the Abramovich era and the likes of Terry, Lampard, Drogba, Hazard and Thiago Silva. Winners of major trophies in the 50s, 60s, 70s and 90s, and serial trophy winners over the past two decades, culminating in the two Champions League triumphs in the past decade that have placed the club at the very top echelon of world football.

Chelsea have played at the same ground since its inception, one of the very few English top-flight clubs who can make that claim. Jimmy Greaves, one of the greatest goalscorers in English history, and a product of the youth system exclaimed "It is probably the greatest name in the world: Chelsea. You think about it. It conjures up the best part of the biggest city in the world. Chelsea... it's magical."

The club has long had a strong commitment to the local community. Through the initiatives of the *Chelsea Foundation*, to supporting past players, to the relationship with the nearby Brompton Cemetery, to the local cafes, pubs, restaurants which have always welcomed supporters.

The famous Gianfranco Zola quote seems especially pertinent today. "All of us – teams, directors, managers – are passing through a football club. Supporters are there always. And they never forget." An owner may be the temporary custodian of the club, but it is the supporters who are the constant presence, and we see it as imperative that supporter concerns are front and centre of owner priorities.

Once the bids closed, on Saturday 19th we put out a statement setting out how we see things and clarifying our expectations



Trust In Our Future

The deadline for offers on the future ownership of our club has now passed. For Chelsea fans eager to secure a better future for the club and for any fans who want to improve the governance of football, **the hard work starts here.**

The Chelsea Supporters' Trust (CST) has set out a number of expectations to prospective new owners. We want to give them a chance to set out how their stewardship of the club will be geared towards supporters and sustainability. And we hope to develop a respectful and mutually beneficial relationship, between the club, its new owners and its supporters.

Our most pressing ask is that fans are involved in protecting and nourishing the club's heritage, through the creation of a legally-binding *golden share*. We call on all prospective owners to confirm their plans to do this as soon as possible.

The CST has played an important role over these difficult weeks. Through engaging with MPs and the Government we have ensured the voice of Chelsea fans has been heard at the table when decisions have been made. We have ensured information has got to fans, made sure that events such as the Charity Sleepout at Stamford Bridge can go ahead, and we continue to push for tickets to be made available to supporters. We will always fight the corner of Chelsea fans in future discussions.

We can also confirm that we have held positive discussions with a number of prospective bidders. We have presented them with detailed plans on how our proposals could be implemented. **We strongly welcome these proactive discussions and look forward to continuing them in the coming weeks.**

The CST is cautiously optimistic about the future for Chelsea and for football generally. Even at this complicated time for our club, we are seeing the benefit of positive supporter engagement. We now have a huge opportunity to drive positive change in football governance, with supporters at the heart of it. There is clear recognition of the need for this change and near-universal support. Our call for a golden share for fans has received cross-party parliamentary support, widespread support among Chelsea supporters, the wider football community and in the media. We cannot let this moment pass.

We urge the Government to demonstrate it is serious in its support for football fans by insisting upon a golden share for fans and implementing the recommendations of the *Fan-led review* for the benefit of all football supporters.

TRUST IN OUR FUTURE

After one of the bidders mentioned the CST in a statement, we have made it clear that we are not endorsing any individual bid at this present time.

We have given numerous press, TV and radio interviews over the last three weeks, as interest in the ownership issue has, unsurprisingly, been significant. At times of intense media interest in the club, as with the proposed Super League last year, it is the CST they regularly turn to for comment on supporter views and concerns.

To help spread the message to those in a position of influence, we have a simple method enabling you to write to your local MP to help ensure supporter views are known. Link here.

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/write-to-your-mp/>

Games Behind Closed Doors

The club's ludicrous request to play the Middlesbrough cup tie behind closed doors was rightly quickly reversed after a shoal of criticism, including from Chelsea supporters. The CST statement below was issued before the club changed its mind, but still makes the point about the importance of supporters being allowed to attend games.

Given the ticketed games we have coming up (the FA Cup semi-final, the Real Madrid games) it is essential that tickets are made available to supporters and we will be working to put pressure on the appropriate authorities to allow this to happen.



The CST has made it clear to the Government & the Sports Minister, Nigel Huddleston, that supporters must be able to watch their team.

We strongly urge Government to amend the licence and allow supporters to obtain tickets.

Playing behind closed doors does not benefit any supporters.

The CST has asked Chelsea to withdraw the request for the Middlesbrough game to be played behind closed doors.

Recent CST Emergency General Meeting (EGM)

Thank you to all who called into the virtual EGM on Sunday 6th March. It gave us a chance to update members with the latest position at that time, and for you to ask questions. An audio recording of the meeting can be found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBCNgAhJkxM&feature=youtu.be>).

Another virtual is likely to be set up in the near future and we will of course notify members as appropriate once this has been arranged.

The Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out

*A reminder that The Big Stamford Bridge Sleep out 2022 takes place on **Saturday 26th March**, i.e. next Saturday, to raise money for our friends and neighbours at Stoll.*

We have had confirmation from government and the club that the event is still able to go ahead

Thank you to all members who have signed up and are already receiving donations. To get more information, to participate in the sleep out, or if you are unable to do this to donate, please click on this link.

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/sleepout/>

CST Members Ticket Survey

The results of our recent survey of members with regard to ticketing can be found [here](#) and, unsurprisingly, make fascinating reading and is something. We had a date to meet with the club, but recent developments delayed the meeting. We are clearly keen to discuss with the new ownership as soon as is practicable.

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/16197-chelsea-supporters-trust-ticketing-survey/>

Chelsea Heritage

A reminder that pieces on the heritage of the club, particularly with reference to forthcoming opponents, are posted on the Chelsea heritage section of the CST website.

They are written by a range of authors including the [Bygone Chelsea 1905-99](#) Facebook page, [Chelsea Chadder](#) and James at [Chelsea Lookback](#).

Link here. <https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/heritage-partnership/>

They have their own Twitter account [@cfc_heritage](#) which is well worth a follow.

New CST Members

We have had an incredible surge in CST membership in recent weeks and would like to welcome all our new members.

The support of our new and existing members is very much appreciated.

Because of the sheer volume of new members, it may take a little while to post your badges out to our new voting members, so please bear with us.

If your address has changed since you signed up or is likely to change in the next couple of weeks, please email Paul, our membership secretary, at membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com and he can update your details to ensure it goes to the right place.

Contact Us / Follow Us

If you have any queries on any of the above, please :

email us at enquiries@chelseasupporterstrust.com.

Follow us on:

Twitter [@ChelseaSTrust](#)

Facebook [@chelseasupporterstrust](#)

Instagram [@chelseasupporterstrustofficial](#)

.