



Chelsea Supporters' Trust Newsletter - September 2021

## Chairman's Introduction

*To start with, a very warm welcome to our first newsletter of the new season,. A fair bit has happened both on and off the pitch since the last issue, including the magnificent Champions League victory in Porto. Let's hope that this is a successful season for us.*

*Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you and your family continue to stay safe.*

**Cliff Auger**

**Chair, Chelsea Supporters' Trust.**

## Annual General Meeting

*We hope to hold our Annual General Meeting in early Autumn, and will let members know as soon as details are firmed up. The annual CST Board elections will follow that AGM.*

## Rail Seating

*At the end of last season, Chelsea announced that Rail Seating would be installed across the Shed and Matthew Harding Lower at Stamford Bridge. The CST has been pushing for rail seating to be installed at our stadium for a number of years and we are thrilled that supporters will be able to experience it from this season. Last month, members of the CST board were able to visit the new seating during the final stage of its installation process. We are delighted that the club have introduced this to Stamford Bridge.*

*We would also hope that the unacceptable delays involved in completing the MHL seating, meaning hundreds of supporters could not take up their seats, will have been completely and satisfactorily resolved before the Aston Villa game.*

## 'Over the Line' Mental Health Initiative

*The Chelsea Supporters' Trust launched a mental health initiative at the start of this season. Called '**Over The Line**', the website has been set up to provide mental health support to Chelsea football supporters who might be struggling with their mental health.*

*'Over the Line', which, importantly, is supported by Chelsea FC, was inspired by the Sunderland Supporters Trust who set up a mental health match day walk-in hub at the Stadium of Light, as well as Everton, Leeds Utd, Newcastle, and Liverpool supporters who have all set up mental health initiatives.*

*The aim is to help Chelsea supporters come to terms with their own mental health issues and to help them take the next step; to get them 'over the line'. The hope is to support, educate, inform, and encourage visitors to the website to find and explore solutions for themselves. The site provides a place to find help and information so that you can*

finally take that first step 'over the line' into support and recovery. The site contains information on what a mental health problem actually is, to break down the stigma that mental health often carries and advises where to go if you need help.

By launching 'Over the Line' we hope to help people recognise their problems and then find the resources to do something about it. The website will hopefully be the first point of call for Chelsea supporters to take that next step and talk to someone about it. It gives links and contacts to crisis services and talking therapies should they be needed.

Whether supporters are struggling with their mental health or not, we hope that this is something they can get behind and support by following the 'Over the Line' twitter account or engaging with the website, which features films of two well-known Chelsea supporters opening up about their mental health struggles. More films are planned, as well as blogs written by Chelsea supporters discussing their issues. We have also recently undertaken a survey of Chelsea supporter's mental health to guide us in the direction we need to take.

Website: [www.overtheline.uk](http://www.overtheline.uk) Twitter: [@getovertheline](https://twitter.com/getovertheline)

## 'Say No To Anti-Semitism' Event

CST board members attended a Chelsea Foundation 'Say Not To Anti-Semitism' event at RAF Hendon. The Chelsea Foundation and the RAF Museum have announced an extension of their partnership for a further three years.

The London exhibition is already home to an iconic Avro-Lancaster which was 'adopted' in 2020 by Roman Abramovich and the Chelsea Foundation to commemorate the many Jewish Hidden Heroes of Bomber Command. More information on the club's Anti-Semitism campaign here <https://sayno.chelseafc.com/>

## The Big Stamford Bridge Sleep Out

Following The Big Sleep Out that took place in March, board members were delighted to hand over a cheque for £16,490 to Stoll. This was done at the club museum at Stamford Bridge. Of course, it was made even more special by seeing the Champions League Trophy (s!) up close. Thank you once again for everybody that participated and donated to this wonderful charity.



Due to Covid restrictions we had to hold this event virtually. We are already starting to plan for next year's event which will hopefully be back at the Bridge. However, our experience of being able to involve those around the world means we will try incorporating a virtual element as well.

More information about the night can be found here

<https://chelseasupporterstrust.com/15468-the-big-virtual-stamford-bridge-sleep-out-2021-update/>

## Food Bank Collections and Relationship With Stoll

*Following the cheque presentation to our friends at Stoll, CST board members have been talking to them regularly about how we can mutually help each other going forward.*

*We have agreed with Stoll that they will help us with our food collections for the Hammersmith and Fulham foodbank. We will now have our collection point just by the Stoll gates where the veteran's kitchen used to be. All the donations that we receive will then be stored in one of the Stoll buildings, a few metres away prior to being collected by the foodbank van.*

*Our first collection will be before the Aston Villa game on September 11th. Obviously, we have been unable to collect for the last 17 months or so, so we hope to have a bumper collection this time.*

*We are working on further ventures with Stoll and really hope that they come to fruition for the benefit of their veterans and Chelsea supporters too. The CST will keep you fully informed about what is happening as soon as we have plans in place.*

*In the meantime, if you see one of their veterans, Alex, who is holding the cheque in the photo, making his bucket collections in the Fulham Road please drop him some money if you can.*



## Membership Update

*It is great to see how our membership has grown. Thank you again to all our existing members for your continued support and also to the new members that have joined in the last few months.*

*With so many new members, we had a delay on getting the badges as we needed more manufactured and then we had to post them out. This was no mean feat given the quantities!*



*They have now all been sent. Thank you for your continued patience. Please be aware that the badges being sent to those living outside the UK were sent via airmail and can take a number of weeks to arrive.*

*We have been made aware that some of those in Europe have been asked to pay a local customs charge to receive the package. Certainly, Brexit has played its part as packages from the UK are now outside EU and individual countries can apply their own rules to incoming mail. I am not sure why they think it warrants the extra charge, as the customs form on the envelope clearly states it is a gift and of nominal value.*

*Unfortunately, this is out of our control and is down to the rules of your local mail provider. However, if this happened to you, it maybe worth pointing them to the details on the form.*

## New Email Service

*You may have noticed that recent emails look a little different. With all the new members joining we have changed the way we send out emails. We have signed up with a service called MailChimp. This will make sending emails to you all much simpler and quicker. To ensure you receive our emails, please check your junk folders and add **\*@chelseasupporters.com** to your safe list.*

*To comply with GDPR, the emails will have an unsubscribe link at the bottom. However. Please note that as our only way of reaching you is through email, if you unsubscribe, we will need to remove your membership record and you will no longer be a CST member.*