



## CHELSEA SUPPORTERS' TRUST NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017

### Chairman's Report

*Warm congratulations to all Chelsea supporters for their support in a season that exceeded many of our expectations in winning the League for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, tinged with disappointment at failing to do the 'Double' by losing the FA Cup final to Arsenal. For many it has been a season to remember and somewhat better than last season, to say the least. Thanks must go to Antonio Conte and the players for the entertainment they have given us this season and for the hope of more success and trophies to come.*

*The Board would also like to say thank you and farewell to John Terry who took his final bow at the end of this season. His has been a remarkable career the like of which we are unlikely to see again. JT, thanks for the memories and for the support you have given to the Trust and many Chelsea supporters.*

*And so to business...*

#### **Membership Renewals**

*All annual memberships currently registered with us, whether voting (paying) or non-voting (free) have been standardised and now have a membership expiry date of 31st May 2017. Therefore all existing and new memberships have a start date of 1st June 2017, regardless of when sign up is made, and all annual payments will be due on this date each year.*

*For the majority of our voting members who pay their annual subscription via an automatic PayPal payment, you need do nothing. Your membership expiry will move forward by one year when your payment is made, regardless of the payment date.*

*For those voting members who pay annually and who are awaiting a reminder, please accept this as a nudge to make your payment. Please consider setting up an automatic subscription through PayPal. This is both easier for us to administer as well as ensuring your membership doesn't lapse, and can be cancelled at any time. [You can do this via our web site here](#), just skip to the payment options at the foot of the page.*

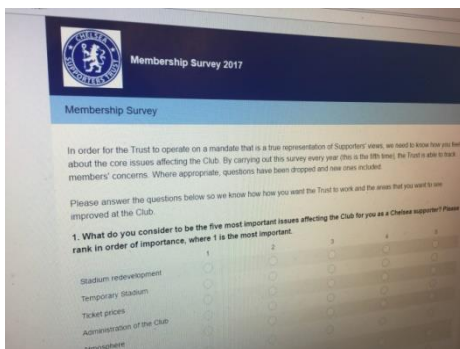
*For those who are non-voting members, please consider converting your membership to a voting one where you will receive the benefit of voting on our resolutions and mandate, as well as the ability to stand and vote for the Trust board every year. And not forgetting our special pin badge that all new voting members receive. Please go to our web site link above. 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](mailto:membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com). Please allow us adequate time to reply to your email if one is required.*

#### **Membership Survey 2017**

*The Chelsea Supporters' Trust has run an annual survey of its membership each year for the last four years. It provides a crucial benchmark and snapshot of what Chelsea Supporters think about the club they support on key issues such as the running of the Club; ticket prices and access; kick-off times; loyalty points; the stadium redevelopment and temporary move; atmosphere and performance on the pitch.*

*The results of this survey are presented by the Chelsea Supporters' Trust board in a meeting with members of the Chelsea FC board with a view to influencing how the club deal with the issues that matter to supporters most. In addition, the survey results provide a mandate to the Trust that is a true representation of supporters' views by enabling us to know how you feel about the core issues affecting the Club and to track your concerns.*



*It is arguably the most important thing that the Trust does each year to 'make your voice heard'.*

*As a member you should already have received your personalised log in to survey monkey to complete the survey, but if you haven't there is still an opportunity for you take part in the survey. For the first time we are opening the survey out to all Chelsea supporters in the UK and Overseas in order to canvass as diverse an array of opinions and views as possible. Please click on the link and answer the questions in the survey so we know how you want the Trust to work and the areas that you want to see improved at the Club.*

*The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and will run until 30th June. Enter the survey [here](#)*

### **Meetings & Events**

*The Trust held several meetings with the Club, the most important of which was to present last year's Survey results. One of the key areas for discussion was the move to a temporary stadium as a result of a specific section on this issue within the survey. In line with the survey results we discussed the need to mitigate as much disruption as possible to season ticket holders wherever we move to while the stadium is being redeveloped and urged the club to look carefully at the issues of ticket pricing, atmosphere, travel, seating and pre/post-match socialising. The results of the 2016 Annual Survey can be found [here](#)*



*An informative SGM was held in February at a new venue for us, the Lillie Langtry pub. We were well looked after and the venue worked well for the meeting where Charles Rose, Chairman of Chelsea Pitch Owners was special guest. Charles answered questions on why the CPO continues to be important; what the CPO's involvement with the Stamford Bridge redevelopment is and what the future of the CPO is after the move back to the redeveloped Bridge.*

*Full details and an audio recording of the meeting can be found [here](#)*

*In line with our commitment to hold three public meetings a year we plan to hold a 'Virtual General Meeting' at 7.30 pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. As our third meeting of the year falls outside of the football season, we will be holding it*

'virtually' i.e. we will broadcast it live via the Chelsea FanCast's internet radio site – [mixlr.com/chelsea-fancast](http://mixlr.com/chelsea-fancast). This has the benefit of allowing members who are usually unable to attend our SGM's in person due to time or physical distance to participate. Questions for the meeting can be emailed to [membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com](mailto:membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com) by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June and they will be raised during the meeting. Please put VGM in the subject line of the email. Questions can also be raised during the meeting by posting in the mixlr chat room. A podcast recording of the meeting will also be released.

To listen live on your computer go to the mixlr site [here](#) or download the app for your phone/lpad. Board members participating in the VGM will be David Chidgey (Chairman); Ramzi Shammas (Membership Survey); Richard Weekes (Atmosphere) and Dan Silver (Overseas Membership). An agenda will be emailed shortly before the meeting.

Talking of meetings, we will be looking to hold our Annual General Meeting on the first weekend of the season 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August whichever day Chelsea is not playing. The AGM reports back on our activities over the last year in the annual report; presents the motions to the membership and launches the election for the new Board. The formal notice will be going out in a couple of weeks' time, but a key date to bear in mind is the 28<sup>th</sup> July by which time we will need your suggestions for any new motions and also if you wish to stand for election to the Board, your nomination forms. Further information on motions and the nomination/election process will be emailed to you around the 19<sup>th</sup> June. If you have any queries on standing for election to the Board or proposing a motion then please email [membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com](mailto:membership@chelseasupporterstrust.com)



It was great to see many Trust members and most of the Board attending the recent launch of the 'Eddie Mac Eddie Mac' book at Under the Bridge, another fine contribution to chronicling Chelsea's history by the talented group of writers among the Chelsea support. We were delighted to be one of the sponsors at this prestigious event celebrating a much loved manager and team and it was fantastic to see Eddie McCreadie return to his 'home' after 40 years. We were grateful for the opportunity to promote the Trust via the event programme and the opportunity to speak about the Trust in a Q&A with Jason Cundy. Books and events like this underline how important it is for Chelsea supporters and the Trust to highlight our history and protect its legacy.

### **The Chelsea Supporters' Trust Needs You!**

The Chelsea Supporters' Trust is operated by a team of volunteers who give their time for free and most of whom already have very busy day jobs. As the Trust, its activities and remit have grown we are finding it increasingly difficult to manage many of the operational tasks essential to administer the Trust and communicate with the membership, the lack of regular newsletters this year being a prime example (apologies once again!).

Debs Coady has done a superb job this year filling the hole left by Celia Mindelsohn's departure, by managing all of the Membership Administration/Communication, the Website and Social Media (any one of those tasks would be enough for one person!). Quite understandably Debs needs a rest and has decided not to seek re-election in August, but that aside, the Trust still needs help to manage these vital administrative and communication functions going forward.

If any of you has the necessary administrative, computer and social media skills and crucially the time to help us out with any of these functions please contact me directly at [davidchidgey@chelseasupporterstrust.com](mailto:davidchidgey@chelseasupporterstrust.com)

As indicated above ideally these functions should be split between two or three people. As these are operational tasks not functional ones, if any of you has the expertise to help you will not need to be elected to the Board to do so. We are entitled to co-opt anyone to the Board who can help us out with specific expertise or help operationally and your presence at board meetings is not mandatory. You are, of course, welcome to stand for election or attend board meetings in a co-opted capacity if you do not.

It would be a great help so don't be shy!

## Atmosphere

**From Richard Weekes, Head of the Atmosphere Working Group**

We continue to hold an open dialogue with the club over both the visual and vocal atmosphere at Stamford Bridge. The most recent meeting was with regard to the John Terry tribute prior to the Sunderland match in The Matthew Harding end (the last Premier League fixture of the 2016/17 season). The CST also work closely with groups like 'We are The Shed' with a particular interest in the stadium rules and regulations that might currently hinder certain display ideas.



David Johnstone put forward ideas and input in to the design were given for the John Terry tribute banners in the Matthew Harding Stand (Lower and Upper tiers) and also the 'All Six Major Trophies' banner and the 'suspended' Pride of London' banner which were displayed at Wembley.

If anyone would like to join the discussion on atmosphere, has any ideas or questions, please email [richardweekes@chelseasupporterstrust.com](mailto:richardweekes@chelseasupporterstrust.com)

## Supporter Issues

**From Cliff Auger, Head of the Supporter Issues Working Group**

### Premier League Structured Dialogue

As part of the structured dialogue process between supporter representatives and the Premier League, Tim Rolls from the CST board attended a meeting with PL executives, including Richard Scudamore, on April 25th. The Football Supporters Federation and PL notes from the meeting can be found [here](#) and are worth reading. Although a range of important issues were discussed including fixture scheduling, match day travel, safe standing, ticketing and disabled

access, the sheer number of attendees (c30) makes decision-making very difficult so the majority of detailed work is done through sub-groups, to try and ensure these twice-yearly meetings are more than a box-ticking exercise.

The sub-group on kick-off times and fixture scheduling, which Tim is a member of, have had meetings with Sky, BT Sport and the PL where the impacts on match-going supporters of antisocial kick-off times, short-notice rearrangements and inadequate rail travel / line works were reinforced. A report (see [here](#)) analysing the impact of rearranged and antisocial kick-off times on travelling supporters, and making a series of recommendations, has been produced, circulated to and discussed with those stakeholders. That group is now looking to get round the same table with the Premier League, Sky and BT Sport to try and get agreement on steps to improve the lot of match going supporters. This would include taking into account scheduled rail works, especially on Sundays, which make rail travel very difficult.

The 2017/18 fixtures are announced on 14th June. Those fixtures will be analysed and a response sent to the media shortly after that announcement, together with the 2016/17 report mentioned above.

### **Ticketing & Loyalty Points**

We held a meeting with the Club to specifically discuss the issues around ticketing for away games and loyalty points. Ticket allocations and rationing them by loyalty points is arguably one of the thorniest issues among Chelsea's match going support and appears on the surface insoluble to many.

Nevertheless, Tim Rolls prepared a paper with an excellent analysis and benchmarking exercise which we presented to the Club in an attempt to open up the discussion and find a way forward. Clearly this is an issue where you can't please all of the people all of the time, but we feel that by at least attempting to get it on the agenda with the club and mitigate some of the obvious inequities is at least a start. Tim's paper can be found [here](#).

### **Representation**

An important remit for the 'Supporters Issues Working Group' is to provide representation for supporters facing banning orders from Stamford Bridge, often imposed arbitrarily even if the case has been thrown out of court.

We work closely with Amanda Jacks at the Football Supporters Federation and for example, are currently helping a couple of the lads who face bans for pitch encroachment at Goodison Park from the Everton v Chelsea match, by appealing the bans they have received from Chelsea FC.

Several months ago we were heavily involved in supporting the case of a young autistic lad who faced a ban from the club for trying to enter the London Stadium for the away match against West Ham with flares (pyro). We supported the defence mounted by David Hislop QC and the FSF which resulted in the Football Banning Order being quashed in the courts and then the ban from the Club being suspended. There is no doubt that without hundreds of Chelsea supporters sending emails in support of the young lad, the outcome may have been very different. More information about the case can be found [here](#)

If you need assistance with policing & stewarding issues then as well as contacting the Trust, get in touch with FSF Caseworker Amanda Jacks at [amanda.jacks@fsf.org.uk](mailto:amanda.jacks@fsf.org.uk) or 07703 519555 who can refer you to specialist lawyers for legal help. Follow Amanda on twitter [@FSF\\_FairCop](#)

## **Stamford Bridge Redevelopment**

**From David Johnstone, Head of the Stamford Bridge Redevelopment Working Group**

We continue to work with Hugh Rosen regarding the stadium redevelopment, liaising with him on several issues. Apart from several minor issues which come with a project of this magnitude, all is going well.



## Affiliations

### **From Cliff Auger, Head of the Affiliations Working Group**

We continue to work closely with both Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation to protect the rights of supporters and get their voice heard by Broadcasters, The Premier League, Football Association and lobbying Parliament.

Tim Rolls, Cliff Auger and Debs Coady regularly represent the interests of Chelsea Supporters in attending meetings organised by Supporters Direct and the FSF, and in particular the Premier League Supporters Trusts group. The Trust will have reps at the Football Supporters Federation / Supporters Direct Summit at St Georges Park on July 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Supporters Groups**

As part of our effort to engage more effectively with official supporters groups and affiliates Trust Chairman David Chidgey and Board member Cliff Auger will be attending a Swindon Blues meeting on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to hold a Q&A about the Trust. We are also currently arranging a suitable date to hold a Q&A with Hastings Blues and are keen to go out around the country and meet with other supporters groups who would like to know more about what we do and raise issues that are of concern to their members. If your supporters group would like to host a Q&A with us at one of your meetings then please contact [davidchidgey@chelseasupporterstrust.com](mailto:davidchidgey@chelseasupporterstrust.com)

### **CPO**

We continue to work closely with the CPO to encourage share ownership and assist in reaching a successful and amenable agreement in relation to the freehold in any way we can. You can of course purchase CPO shares by emailing [info@chelseapitchowners.com](mailto:info@chelseapitchowners.com) or visiting <http://www.chelseafc.com/fans/chelsea-pitch-owners>

## Community

### **From Cliff Auger, Head of the Community Working Group**

### **Jack Whitley Campaign**

In March we launched a campaign to raise £5,500 to provide former Chelsea Player, Jack Whitley, with a memorial stone on his grave in Brompton Cemetery. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Chelsea supporters and football supporters in general and within a very short time the target figure was reached. Thank you for your generous donations and tremendous effort in helping us to do this.



This will allow us to go ahead with the project and our hope is that we will be able to lay the stone close to the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Chelsea debut on 23<sup>rd</sup> September this year. Rick Glanvill, Chelsea historian, has made contact with the remaining members of Jack's family – his Granddaughter and Great Grandson – and we very much hope that they will be able to attend the ceremony.

The crowd-funding page will remain open until July 4<sup>th</sup> so it is not too late to make a donation. Any excess over the amount needed to pay for the plot, administration and the memorial stone will be used to continue to fund the CST's Brompton Cemetery Clean Up group which works hard to maintain and tidy up Chelsea related graves in Brompton Cemetery.

More information on Jack Whitley can be found on our website [here](#) and donations to the campaign can be made at the crowd-funding site [here](#)

## And Finally

### **New Business member**



We are delighted to welcome Merlin Plastering as a Business Member of the Trust.

Merlin Plastering Ltd are sub-contractors to the construction industry, specialising in plastering, dry lining, partitions, all types of suspended ceilings and fire protection, floor-screeding and all associated works. They have carried out contracts for a wide range of contractors, local, national and multi-national and have experience with many types of contract; new and refurbishment; residential and commercial, specialising in the education sector and high specification prestige housing. Their area of operation is generally within and around the M25 motorway, and further out to the South coast. Further details can be found [here](#) and contacts for references can be furnished if required.

Merlin Plastering joins our other Business Members: The Chelsea Pensioner and Jeffreys Henry LLP and we are very grateful for their support. More information can be found [here](#)

### **Congratulations & Good Luck Beth Wild & Torino Carlo**



Congratulations to Beth Wild on marrying Carlo on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Texas. Beth was one of the founders of Chelsea in America and has been a massive supporter of the Trust since we started and was instrumental in Chelsea in America becoming one of our most significant overseas affiliates.

*Beth is now passing the baton of running Chelsea in America on to others but we would like to thank her for her support and sage advice over the years and wish her all the best in her new life together with Carlo. Beth, keep following the Chelsea over land and sea, and Texas!*