



Chelsea Supporters Trust – Newsletter – March 2014

As Chelsea enter the business end of the season, top of the league by four points and well placed to qualify for the Champions League quarter finals, here is the latest CST newsletter, updating members on a number of key issues and developments in the past month.

Safe Standing

Chelsea Supporters' Survey

Many CST members have already responded to the recently launched Safe Standing survey for Chelsea supporters. This survey is being jointly supported and promoted by around 20 supporters organisations, fanzines, blogs, websites, podcasts etc. and all involved are keen to solicit opinion from across as much of the Chelsea supporter base as possible. A link to the survey can be found [here](#). More information on what Safe Standing is (and what it is not), how it works etc. can be found [here](#).



It only takes five minutes to complete – whatever your views on the subject, please take the time to complete the survey, which closes on 16th March.

Safe Standing Roadshow

The CST are liaising with Jon Darch, co-ordinator of the Safe Standing Roadshow referred to in the link above, for the Roadshow to be displayed close to Stamford Bridge on a match day before the end of the season so Chelsea supporters can see for themselves what is involved. We will make a further announcement to our members once details are confirmed.

CST Special General Meeting

The latest CST Special General Meeting was held after the Everton game on 22nd February. There were lively discussions on a number of issues close to supporters hearts, including touting, the club relationship with Viagogo, the reselling of tickets by supporters, the merits of safe standing (including the Chelsea supporters survey), and the club stance on 'persistent standing'.



In addition, there was a wide-ranging and animated Question and Answer session on policing, stewarding and related issues with Amanda Jacks, caseworker at the Football Supporters Federation. The CST board are very grateful to Amanda for giving up her time to attend the meeting and for her openness and directness – it was clearly felt by those present to be a very valuable and informative session. Members who have problems with stewarding and/or policing at Chelsea matches (home or away) are encouraged to raise them directly with Amanda at Amanda.jacks@fsf.org.uk . Alternatively, contact any CST board member and we will pass your issues on to her. Notes from the SGM and links to the podcast can be found [here](#).

Away Days

Loyalty Points for Key Away Matches

A number of CST members have raised the issue as to why the Crystal Palace away game was not sold on a loyalty points basis. We did raise the Crystal Palace issue with the club some weeks ago. They responded as they have previously - the club only change the ticketing policy with regard to loyalty points for games of high importance. Apart from the designated games (e.g. Arsenal, Manchester United), the remaining away PL games are put on open sale to Season Ticket holders and members to give all supporters a chance to attend away games.



Liverpool away will be sold on a loyalty points basis as usual. We have contacted the club regarding Cardiff away, which could be a game of critical importance. They have advised us that they will look at the Cardiff away (and Norwich home) games nearer the time they go on sale – if they are seen to be of high importance then it is likely they will be sold on a loyalty points basis, in keeping with what has happened in previous seasons.

Events at Manchester City FA Cup Tie

A number of members have contacted us and/or Amanda Jacks to complain about their treatment by police and/or stewards at the recent FA Cup tie at Manchester City, both inside and outside the ground. A meeting has been arranged for later this week in Manchester to discuss these concerns. Those present will include a representative from Greater Manchester Police, the Manchester City Supporters Liaison Officer (SLO), The Chelsea SLO (Graham Smith), Amanda and representatives from both the Chelsea Supporters Group and the CST. We will advise members of the outcome of this meeting.

Follow Up to Arsenal League Cup Tie

Following problems experienced by Chelsea Supporters, including a number of CST members, at the League Cup tie at Arsenal in October, Amanda Jacks wrote Arsenal a letter, and received a response from the club. This response from Arsenal was perceived by Amanda and CST board members as unsatisfactory, so we have sent them a follow up. We believe that much of what happened that night was avoidable and that Arsenal can take learnings from this. A link to this correspondence can be found [here](#).

Your Own Away Experiences

Been to an away game this season? Fill in the FSF survey for their Away Fans Feedback Project: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/away-fans-2013-14>

End of Season Party

A reminder that the CST end of season party is **A Night with Joey Jones & Mickey Thomas** at the Black Bull on 9th May. Tickets are £20 to members, and are available from the cfcuk stall before any home game. They are selling well so members are advised to pick one up as soon as possible. More details [here](#).

Membership Renewals

The CST was one year old last month and we have been sending out renewal letters to our paid-up members. Annual membership is only £5 and obviously we hope that as many of you as possible will choose to do this. The level of renewals so far has been very pleasing, especially given the relatively short period since notices were sent out. When you renew you can opt for an annual subscription which makes renewal more convenient. More details of this option will be on the renewal notice.

Fans' Forum

The next Chelsea Fans Forum is being held before the Stoke City home game on 5 April. If CST members have any issues they would like our representative, Julian Beattie, to take forward please let us know (at fansforum@chelseasupporterstrust.com by 23 March.

Supporters Direct

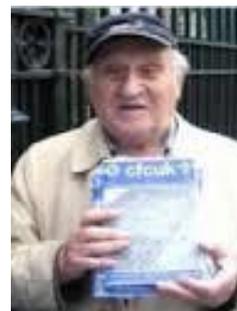
Any CST members wishing to join Supporters Direct can do so [here](#)

Individual membership is free. Members of SD receive a fortnightly media briefing as well as other content.

Featured Article – cfcuk Fanzine

Every newsletter we plan to highlight one of our affiliate members. This month, it is cfcuk fanzine.

cfcuk is currently the only Chelsea supporters' fanzine on the market. The aim of the fanzine is to provide a platform for 'grass-roots' Chelsea supporters to air their views on all things connected with the club from their own perspective, as opposed to the often corporate, 'brand' slanted utterances that emanate from the official sources.



Costing £1 (UK price), the cfcuk fanzine is on sale at every Chelsea match, at home, away and in Europe. As well as a 'hard-copy' version, cfcuk is also available via online

subscription. Details can be obtained from our website, the address of which is www.cfcuk.net. You can visit the cfcuk stall on home matchdays, the location being directly opposite the entrance to the Fulham Broadway shopping centre on Fulham Road.

cfcuk is extremely proud to be an affiliate of the Chelsea Supporters' Trust.

And Finally...

Reminder re membership badges – you can collect these from cfcuk stall where there will be a CST board member present before all home games for the rest of the season.

If you have comments or questions on any of the above information, or any other CST activity, please let us know:
enquiries@chelseasupporterstrust.com.



We'll be back next month with the latest news from the Chelsea Supporters Trust – Making Your Voice Heard.

Further Reading

Here are few links which we feel might be of interest to members. Some are Chelsea specific, others relate to wider issues.

Historical Football Kits have updated their section on Chelsea, thanks to official Chelsea historian (and CST member) Rick Glanvill:
<http://www.historicalkits.co.uk/Chelsea/Chelsea.htm>

Everyone's equal in the eyes of the law – unless you are a football fan. A thought provoking piece by Martin Cloake:
<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2014/02/everyones-equal-eyes-law-unless-you-are-football-fan>

Football League to lobby Government in major move for safe standing areas:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/football/competitions/championship/10623219/Football-League-to-lobby-Government-in-major-move-for-safe-standing-areas.html>

Give football fans a stake in their clubs, say MPs and peers:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26171455>

Download Issue 3 of the STAND Fanzine on Safe Standing for free:
http://www.distantecho.co.uk/stand_3_download

Transport Information

Advance train ticket alerts from thetrainline.com. Please be aware fixtures are subject to change due to television demands, before booking:

<http://www.thetrainline.com/ticketalert/football/premier-league>

Travel to the Bridge by train? Weekend travel news from TfL:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/livetravelnews/realtime/track.aspx?offset=weekend>

TfL customer email updates registration:

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/email/>

If you have comments or questions on any of the above information, or any other CST activity, please let us know: enquiries@chelseasupporterstrust.com

We'll be back next month with the latest news from the Chelsea Supporters Trust – making your voice heard.



'Making Your Voice Heard'

Chelsea Supporters Trust

Email: enquiries@chelseasupporterstrust.com

Twitter: [@ChelseaSTrust](https://twitter.com/ChelseaSTrust)

Facebook: [Chelsea Supporters Trust](https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaSupportersTrust)

Website: www.chelseasupporterstrust.com