

SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

JUNE 2023



Introduction from new SOS Chair Paul Khan



My name is Paul Khan and I have been given the privilege and honour to take on the role of chair of SOS.

In the first instance, I would like to thank the outgoing chair, Joe Blott and his vice chair Graham Smith for the outstanding work they have done over the years in very difficult circumstances. Times

were not 'normal' during their tenure, having to respond to Covid, the Super League debacle and the near tragedy in Paris.

I also recognise the great work of the previous chairs - the late great Paul Rice, Fran Stanton and Jay Mckenna and thank them for getting SOS into the position it is currently in.

I realise these are big boots to fill. However, we are fortunate to have a great new vice chair in Peter Hooton and a fantastic and committed management committee who work hard to support our members. Please remember that all of the committee give up our time for free.

I was fortunate to be sent a video of a speech made on the SOS coach coming home after the final match of the season at Southampton that focused on the unbelievable work done since Paris.

The union helped gain an apology from UEFA and the Premier League and all ticket holders who purchased tickets from LFC were given a refund.

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Introduction from Paul Khan (continued)

It made me think of the power of the union and that our vision moving forward must be to become the 'biggest, strongest, most effective fan union in the world'. With your support, we can achieve this ambitious aim.

A lot of people don't know me so I'll give a very brief introduction. I was born and brought up just off Anfield Road, a couple of streets from the ground. I attended all my schools in Anfield - infants, juniors and comprehensive. I have been a Kop season ticket holder for 40 years and been there both in the glory days and the tragic days. I have held a number of director positions in the public and private sectors and a chair position at the Greenhouse Project Educational charity based in Toxteth.

I was fortunate to be able to take early retirement and decided to dedicate my life to helping others who need it most. I was asked to become a member of the Fans Supporting Foodbanks management committee, which runs six pantries across the city providing much-needed food for people during this dreadful cost of living crisis.

I personally organise and volunteer at the SOS-funded pantry which is delivered in partnership with FSF and the Greenhouse Project. My work previously with SOS has been centred mainly on community-based projects.

To the future and ways of working. I believe in both inclusion and autonomy - words that may seem to be at odds with each other, but they don't have to be. In terms of autonomy, we attended a management away day recently, discussing all the various dealings we have with the club and decided it would be good to create groups that can focus on specific areas. There are 15 groups, which demonstrates both the operational and strategic challenges the union face.

The groups are: Ticketing, Club Strategy, Advisory, Planning, Organisation, Community, Media, Partnerships, Supporters Board, Technical, Travel, Equality and Diversity, Marketing, Executive and Finance.

This brings me to inclusivity. We need to engage with SOS members on a more regular basis and we need to understand what is important to you.

As a first step, we will send a presentation to every member detailing the responsibilities of each group and ask you to vote on what you believe are the top three priorities. This will enable the management committee to direct key resources to these priority areas.

Introduction from Paul Khan (continued)

Each group leader has agreed to select the people in their group who can assist them the most - this will involve both current and former committee members who have specific expertise to add value and knowledge. They will produce a short one-page document detailing what they hope to achieve over the coming year and we will share these with you so there is full transparency.

SOS was set up as a campaigning organisation and it remains so. Some people have asked whether we are a friend or foe to the club? The position is that we will always engage with the club, listen and take a view, and if action is required we will consult the management committee and members.

As my friend Dave Kelly, chair of Fans Supporting Foodbanks says, it is better to "jaw, jaw than war, war". Hopefully, we will always arrive at a sensible resolution for both the club and supporters.

I have tried to condense a lot of information into a small message on these pages. I have also recorded a video message that will provide more detail and hopefully answer the questions sent in by members.

The video has been published in two parts and you can watch these below and online [here](#).

[Part one - Introducing Paul Khan and his plans for SOS](#)



Introduction from Paul Khan (continued)

Part two - Answering members questions



I hope you feel able to trust in the management committee. Please be assured we will all do our very best for you.

To conclude, I always use a quote from the late great bluesologist and social activist Gil Scott-Heron: "Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something."

If we work together and utilise the collective strength of all our individual members, then we will achieve our aim of becoming the "biggest, strongest and most effective fan union in the world".

Strength, unity, and solidarity. Up the Union and up the Reds!

Paul Khan

Greenhouse Project Mobile Pantry

Over the past year we have provided food and household goods to 12,684 family members. This is a tremendous achievement, helping those who need it most. All credit to the SOS membership for providing funding and to all involved.



Gemma Bonner, who led the LFC women's team to two league titles and re-joined the club in January, has been volunteering at the pantry along with her partner Willi Isa, a Samoan rugby international who plays for Wigan Warriors. Gemma has also volunteered to be an ambassador for our football operation promoting women's football.

Community Update

- The Welfare Rights Advice drop-in sessions are every Monday 10am to 12.30pm at Homebaked on Oakfield Road, Anfield, offering free advice on welfare, benefits and debt.
- Our Arts Club is held on Monday afternoons at the Church, Oakfield Road. This after-school club is attended by more than 20 local youngsters who are developing their artistic skills with the Creative Balance Art project.
- On Thursdays, a new drama club has started from 4pm to 7.15pm for 10 to 16-year-olds. The classes are run by ex-LIPA graduates Lottie Lazenby and Mollie Mc.

A red poster for Anfield Youth Theatre drama classes. The text on the poster reads: "EVERY THURSDAY STARTING 8TH JUNE", "OUR FREE DRAMA CLASSES IN ASSOCIATION WITH LIPA AT THE CHURCH", "OAKFIELD RD, ANFIELD L4 OUF", "ANFIELD YOUTH THEATRE AYT", "10 - 12 YEAR OLDS 4PM TO 5.30 THEN 13-16 YEAR OLDS 5.45 TO 7.15PM!", and "@LOTTIELAZENBY @MOLLIEMAC95 ON TWITTER OR EMAIL PETER@SPIRITOFSHANKLY.COM FOR MORE INFO OR JUST DROP IN". The poster features a white mask icon in the top right and a black mask icon in the bottom left.