

SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

OCTOBER 2023



New Shankly mural unveiled in Anfield

Karen Gill, SOS patron and Bill Shankly's granddaughter, was joined by LFC legends Phil Thompson and Ian Callaghan as a new artwork celebrating the legacy of the great man was unveiled in Anfield.

Afterwards, Karen said: "The mural of my grandfather on Anfield Road is an incredible tribute to him. It is especially important as the 50th anniversary of his last season as manager and winning his last trophy for LFC approaches. I'd especially like to thank SOS chair, Paul Khan, for coming along to the reveal and all members of SOS for their amazing support.

"SOS came about to make sure my granddad's ethos was kept alive, and now there is a fantastic mural to honour his legacy, too."

Created by Paul Curtis, the mural can be seen at 17 Anfield Road.



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SPIRITOFSHANKLY.COM

Ho-Ho-Nooooo!

Yet again, TV execs have given no thought to fans - or workers involved at stadiums - as they announced the latest round of televised games, including the Wolves v Chelsea match to be played on Christmas Eve.

Travelling Reds haven't got away with it lightly either, with our fixture away to Crystal Palace scheduled for 12.30pm on 9 December, Newcastle at 8pm on New Year's Day and Bournemouth at 4.30pm on Sunday 21 January.

We stand with all supporter trusts and the FSA in opposing any games on Christmas Eve and will work together for supporters to have a greater say in scheduling. [**You can read our statement here.**](#)

Real Truth Legacy Project goes national

Educational packs telling the truth of what happened at Hillsborough have been delivered to schools across the country.

The campaign to inform future generations about what happened at the disaster began in 2021 when Ian Byrne, SOS committee member and MP for West Derby, launched the [Real Truth Legacy Project](#).

Working with qualification board provider AQA, the project's teaching materials, produced in conjunction with experts including Professor Phil Scraton, have been sent to history and citizenship teachers to use in the classroom. They have also been endorsed by the FA and Premier League.



Ticketing update

Our game at the Etihad is fast approaching and in recent years we have seen our ticket allocation repeatedly reduced. Such reductions and over-zealous policing serve only to stir up unnecessary tensions.

Following a positive pre-match meeting last season we are requesting that Manchester City and GMP work to ensure our travelling support receive the full allocation of tickets as set out by the Premier League.

Instead of being reactive to supporter concerns and club updates, we're working hard behind the scenes to consider how we better manage this process and take challenges to the club. In the coming months we will be looking to survey our members to understand opinions and desires around ticketing, so make sure your membership is up to date in order to have a say.

Help with ticketing and access issues continues to be the most common request from members. We're always happy to support, but in the first instance ask that supporters contact LFC with concerns and queries.

[You can do this here.](#)

If you don't get any joy, we're happy to support where we can. In such cases please forward any correspondence you have from the club to clubliaison@spiritofshankly.com along with your membership number and a summary of what we can help with.

Toulouse Away

We were frustrated to see the allocation for this game in France was way below the minimum levels set by UEFA, leaving lots of supporters ticketless. We contacted both LFC and FSE to see how this had been allowed.

We understand the away section at Stadium Toulouse can accommodate only 1,200 supporters, however UEFA's ruling is clear:

***38.05** 'All visiting team ticket allocations and ticketing arrangements, except those related to the ticket price cap for visiting supporter tickets, may be altered by written agreement between the two clubs concerned. Any reduction in the standard ticket allocations should, however, only be agreed to if there is a specific lack of demand from the visiting team supporters for the match in question.'*

Many were left disappointed for this fixture and we have fed this back. We will continue to work with LFC and to press for the minimum allocation of 5%.

Management Committee focus on: *Roy Bentham*

Roy has served on the MC since the union's inception in 2008. He's also a member of the Supporters Board and was recently elected as Chair of the SB's Matchday Experience Forum.

Roy says: "It's a real honour to be involved. As a long-term activist since the beginning of SOS through recognition as the club's official supporters trust and the Supporters Board last year, I've strived, personally and collectively, to make LFC a better place after the failed reign of the previous custodians.

"The building blocks of fan engagement going on now will serve not just this generation, but the fans of the future and we look forward to passing the baton to them when the time comes.

"I was elected to the FSA National Council in 2015, when SOS was the most progressive supporters organisation in England and one of the most forward looking in Europe. We were very much at the sharp end of the Twenty's plenty ticket campaign that worked to bring down the cost of away tickets across the board.

"In our 15 years, SOS are still gaining wins and big wins at that. From the Free Michael Shields Campaign in our formative years, to supporting the Walkout on 77, opposing the European Super League to the most recent fan-led review, we have made a difference collectively.

"A moral compass. A critical friend. A vanguard against greed. All things we see as football. It's also the way I, and everyone involved in SOS, see life."



Women's Anfield Derby

The women's derby match was played at Anfield for the first time on 15 October. It wasn't the result we wanted, but a great occasion for the women's team, with a crowd of 23,088 watching on. **We hope to see more women's games at Anfield, but until then we'd encourage members to show their support for the Reds at Prenton Park - the next game is against Leicester City on 5 November.**

If you have any matchday stories you'd like to see in the newsletter, please email Melissa at: secretary@spiritofshankly.com

Walking aids storage

The facility to store fold away wheelchairs and other walking aids at Anfield has been removed this season due to safety concerns. **This has led to problems for our disabled fans, and we have a 92-year-old woman having to walk to the ground. SOS are working alongside LDSA and Supporters Board to resolve this issue.**

If you are affected by this change and require assistance please email Mohan at: mohan@spiritofshankly.com

U18s lend a helping hand

Members of the Under-18 squad continue to volunteer at the food pantry in Toxteth, and were delighted to receive their SOS t-shirts, as seen below with SOS chair Paul Khan.



SOS recruitment

Our SOS recruitment drive continues and following our stand at The Church on Oakfield Road, Anfield, before the game against Nottingham Forest, we will be at the Liverpool FC Supporters Club on Lower Breck Road before the Brentford game on Sunday 12 November.

Come and say hello and if you know anyone who wants to join SOS, bring them along.

THE MARTIN GALLIER PROJECT PRESENTS

THE M G PROJECT



AN EVENING WITH PHIL THOMPSON



An evening with Liverpool legend Phil Thompson including Q&A, entertainment, auction and raffle.

9.2.2024

The Little Theatre, Birkenhead

Tickets are £20
Available on Evenbrite, The Little Theatre and The Martin Gallier Project, New Chester Road



Upcoming Events

An evening with LFC icon Phil Thompson is taking place at the Little Theatre in Birkenhead on Friday 9 February with all proceeds going to mental health causes.

Thommo will delve into his career highlights and how he became one of the most decorated players in the club's history and take questions from the audience.

[You can book your tickets for this event here.](#)

A fundraiser will be held at Anfield on Friday 17 November for Danny Smith, who suffered horrendous injuries following the CL final in Paris.

[Details and tickets here.](#)

Kevin Keegan is special guest at a night organised by LFC fanzine, Red All Over The Land at Hotel Anfield, on Saturday 18 November.

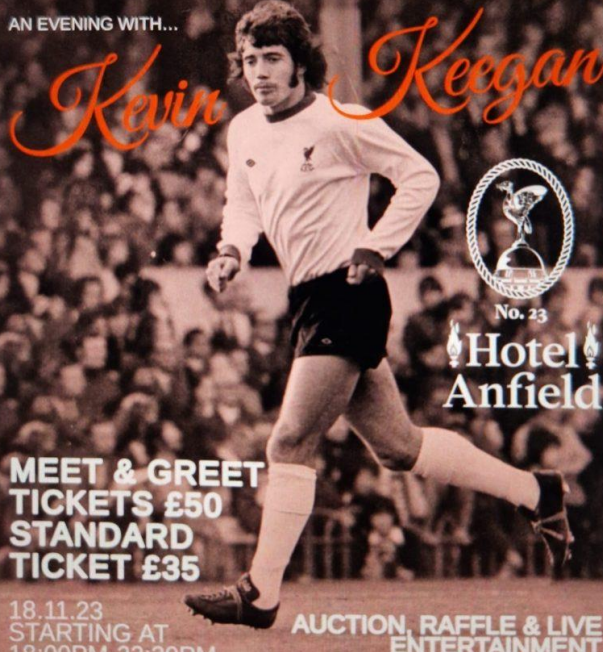

[Book tickets here.](#)

HOTEL ANFIELD PRESENTS

RED ALL OVER THE LAND

AN EVENING WITH...

Kevin Keegan

No. 23

Hotel Anfield

**MEET & GREET TICKETS £50
STANDARD TICKET £35**

18.11.23
STARTING AT 18:00PM-23:30PM

AUCTION, RAFFLE & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT