

# SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

JANUARY 2024



## From Gladness to Sadness

What an end to January! From the high of the hard-fought draw at Fulham that took us through to our record 14th League Cup final, singing our song about Jürgen making us glad - to the sadness of his bombshell on Friday!

I would imagine last Thursday everyone was thinking about tickets, travel plans, and the day or weekend out with mates at Wembley. Then the devastating news on Friday morning. Like most people I was in complete shock, it really did feel like someone close had passed away. All the highs Jürgen has given us, the way he gets us and our city, he has transcended what a manager means to a club. The biggest compliment you can give him is that he is one of us.

**I'm so glad that Jürgen is a red...**

However, we have to respect his decision. When you look at photographs of him when he first took the job to now, you can see how much he has aged.

We know Jürgen is sincere and we have to accept his reasons for leaving and wish him well.

So what next? I like to use quotes from artists I respect and on this occasion the only song that comes to mind is the Manic's *From Despair to Where?* First off, we have to enjoy the rest of the season and hope beyond hope we can win at least one or two trophies - and in our dreams the quadruple.

The time for speculation on our next manager is to come. The only solace I can take is remembering when I was a 10-year-old lad coming out of Anfield Junior School for my dinner and hearing the news about Bill Shankly. I was distraught and thought this is the end, my Dad did too. Of course Liverpool FC is bigger than any individual and along came Bob Paisley and the rest, as they say, is history.

**So the message has to be: keep the faith, enjoy the rest of the season and Support and Believe.**

YNWA, Paul

# Anfield atmosphere report update

SOS committee member Roy Bentham has been involved in producing a report on the atmosphere at Anfield. It was commissioned by the Matchday Experience Forum on behalf of the Supporters Board and Roy worked alongside SpionKop1906, LDSA, Kopouts and OLSCs.



Roy said: "After the debate and talking points around the atmosphere prompted by Jürgen's comments, those of us on the Matchday Experience Forum have put together a report, in consultation with many fans, which we hope will help find ways to improve many aspects of it. We hope the club will embrace it and action it as much as possible."

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## Liverpool legends remembered

January was a month of recalling some fabled Reds. Legendary manager Bob Paisley was born 105 years ago on 23 January in the village of Hetton-le-Hole, near Sunderland. In his nine years as boss he won 20 trophies, including six league titles and three European Cups.

A memorial to the great man was unveiled in his home town in 2008 and the SOS coach always makes a point of stopping off en-route to games in the North East.

We also remembered Paul Rice, founding member and chair of SOS, who passed away 12 years ago on 21 January. Much loved and sorely missed, Paul gave so much for SOS, the club and the city he adored. His memory lives on in all we do.



# Thank you and RIP Harry

Reds fan Harry Woodroffe sadly passed away on 20 January at the age of 13 - his mum and dad David and Jacqui, and little brother Oscar by his side. Harry was incredibly brave throughout the 18 months since his diagnosis of a brain tumour and right to the end was looking out for his mum, dad and brother.

Before the Nottingham Forest game last October, SOS and LFC arranged for Harry and his family to meet Jürgen and the players. Harry's family sent the following message to us:

*"I would like to thank everyone who was involved that day from the bottom of our hearts. That day meant so much to Harry to meet his heroes at Liverpool, the fact meeting the players and Jürgen was one of the things we were able to do via yourselves, in his short but exceptional lifetime, is huge comfort to us all.*

*"If you could also please pass on a further huge thank you to Trent Alexander-Arnold, who took time for a picture with Harry and Oscar, Trent also sent a Birthday message a week later - I didn't think I could love that guy anymore but I do... and thank you whoever arranged that message in the background.*

*"All the players, staff and SOS as a whole have been immense and I have personally have never been prouder to be a Liverpool fan. One last thing I am not sure if you can do but if you can please win the league for my forever fellow red Harry Woodroffe."*

YNWA.

Kind Regards  
**Matt Woodroffe**

## Green Football Weekend

This Sunday, 4 February, one or two of our MC members will join LDSA, reps from LFC and Arsenal support groups before kick-off at the Emirates in support of the Green Football Weekend initiative.

**Details at:**  
[greenfootballweekend.com](http://greenfootballweekend.com)

## Community Update

The Welfare Rights sessions, held at Homebaked on Monday mornings are expanding soon to cope with demand. We will publish new times once they are in place. The Arts club continues every Monday evening, starting at 4pm, and guitar classes are on Thursday from 4pm-7pm at The Church on Oakfield Road.

**Please pass on details to anyone who is interested.**





# Management committee update

Many thanks to all those who responded to our call-out to join the MC. We're going through all the applications and will be back in touch soon.

## Management Committee focus: *Mohan Singh Randhawa*

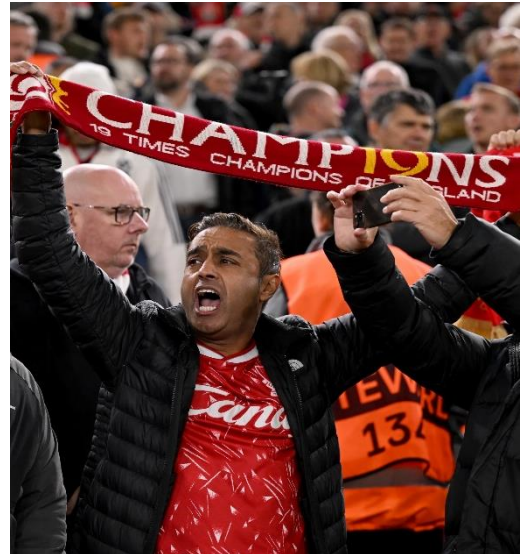
Elected to the MC in 2021, Mohan is lead on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group and a member of the Supporters Board. Born in Birmingham, and British-Asian, he is the first Sikh to be on the MC and the first disabled member.

Mohan's personal experiences have equipped him well to take up members' issues and he is currently working with the club and LDSA to find a solution to storing mobility aids for our supporters and helping individual fans, including a 92-year-old woman.

Mohan says: "I wanted to get involved in SOS to make a difference. Before I stood for election I got to know John Nicholson, who was helping me as a member of SOS with ticketing and diversity matters. I have huge respect for John, who suggested I stand for the MC.

"It's an honour to be involved with Spirit of Shankly and I enjoy helping other Liverpool fans. John and I helped start the newsletter and I'm also involved in the Constitution sub-group. In 2022, I organised the LFC Foundation match between ex-military Reds and SOS MC at Melwood. I've also been involved in SOS recruitment drive days before matches at pubs around the stadium.

"My love for LFC started when I was a kid. Bob Paisley was manager and my favourite player was Kenny Dalglish. When I was a teenager, I started going to watch us at Anfield in the late 80s, and later I got a season ticket on the Kop. I love Liverpool, the city, and the people, who welcomed me with open arms as a shy 16-year-old who walked into a new city on my own. I was humbled by the love of the people of the city and wrote a letter that was published in the *Liverpool Echo* in 2001."



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