

# SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 18



## Message from SOS Chair Paul Khan

First, thank you for taking the time to complete the VAR survey - 61% of respondents believe it would be best to scrap VAR and 39% would prefer to keep it, albeit with a number of suggestions for improvement.

**We received 46 pages of comments which is some reading!**

The club have now voted in favour of VAR to remain. However, we will feedback your views and comments to them.

**Joe Blott and I met with Andy Hughes, Jo Kirkham and Amanda Jacks from the club to discuss meaningful engagement. We had expressed our disappointment regarding the lack of consultation around season ticket and general admission price increases among other things. They assured us this will not happen again.**

We also suggested a "retrospective" meeting should be held with the Supporters Board past and present members, and the club to discuss what has worked well, what hasn't and what we need to improve moving forward.

It was also agreed that the eight SB meetings to be held over the next two years should have specific themes. Once we have agreed on these, we can share them with you and gather your thoughts before we attend. **As I have said on many occasions, we are only representatives of you so it is important that we understand what you would like us to question the club about.**

We also explained to the club that the two key priorities for SOS are ticketing and matchday experience. We must protect the matchday culture we have all developed and nurtured, and something that makes us unique.

### The survey said...

#### Results on VAR

Following our survey asking should VAR be abolished, 61% said yes, 39% said no - with many answers coming with caveats. As we have said, we will share the result with the club.

# Message from SOS Chair Paul Khan

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We have also been engaging with the FSA about how we work together with other clubs' supporters groups to combat the price hikes the majority of us are facing. As the banner on the Kop says "Unity is Strength" and we want to work constructively to challenge our clubs and the Premier League. We will provide a further update once action has been agreed.

**To sign off, I think we gave the great man a send-off that merited his vast contributions to our club and city. As I said in a talk I was asked to give, at an event to honour Jürgen's back room team, we at Liverpool never forget - and Jürgen and his staff and what they achieved will be embedded in our folklore forever.**

We obviously need to move forward, so our focus now has to be giving Arne and his team the same great backing and support. Onwards and upwards, let's continue to Support and Believe.

**Cheers and YNWA, Paul**

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## Auf Wiedersehen, Jürgen...

**The last match of the season against Wolves was our chance to say goodbye and thank-you to Jürgen Klopp for the past eight-and-a-half years.**

A party atmosphere at Anfield ensured a memorable afternoon and we want to say thanks to all those involved in the mosaics around the stands and the brilliant display of banners. It was a great spectacle and a worthy send-off for the boss.

**"We're so glad Jürgen is a Red."**



# Welcome to the SOS Management Committee, Graham Manley

One of our new recruits to the Management Committee (MC), Graham has been a member of SOS for many years.

A matchgoer since he was a child - he can remember a time when he paid £4.50 to stand on the Kop and he's travelled extensively through Europe following the Reds.

## Here he tells us why he got involved.

*"I believe in community engagement and community activism, and obviously Liverpool FC is a global community of its own. So by getting involved, I want to help make sure that supporters trust was reflective of its membership.*

*"I used to go the game with a good friend, Darren Wycherley who unfortunately can't get to Anfield anymore after being confined to a wheelchair following serious illness.*



*"Darren is a good man and going to the match with him again would mean the world to me. We travelled everywhere that great season of 2005 when we won the European Cup again.*

*"I want to make sure people like Darren and others outside of actually going to the game are connected. I want to see how we can get them involved in SOS and get them involved in the community.*

***"I have a trade union background and I work for the NHS, so I bring organisational and co-operation skills with me. I'm looking forward to making a difference"***

**– Graham Manley**

*"I have a trade union background and I work for the NHS, so I bring organisational and co-operation skills with me. I'm looking forward to making a difference."*

# Time runs out on the Football Governance Bill

With the announcement of a General Election on 4 July, and subsequent dissolution of parliament, the Football Governance Bill did not pass into law.

In a letter, backed by SOS and more than 170 fans groups, the FSA and former sports minister Tracey Crouch have called on party leaders to support a new bill in their election manifestos.

**Following the election, we will continue to push those in power to ensure better governance and an independent regulator of our game to protect its heritage and values.**

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## Hillsborough Law Now

As another shameful scandal hit the headlines with the findings of the Infected Blood Inquiry, we will continue to back urgent calls for a Hillsborough Law to be implemented in full in parliament.

**Yet again, decades-long systemic lying, denial, cover-up and gaslighting of victims by the state and relevant authorities were exposed. And it's time it ended.**

**You can read our full [statement here](#).**



### Updating our Tech

SOS's newly set up tech group is having an overhaul of all things digital. Over the coming months, they will review user experience, UX, and interface, UI, across our platforms to make it the best it can be for our members and wider support. **Watch out for a phased roll-out of updates and steady stream of improvements on areas including website pages and communication, subscriptions, bookings, etc.**

## Shankly Cup

**On Saturday 8 June, two coaches will leave Liverpool at 6.45am for the Shankly Cup.**

The youth tournament sees 4 teams from Liverpool play four from East Ayrshire.

En route, we will stop at Glenbuck to pay tribute to Bill Shankly, where the kids can meet the Shankly family and have photos, before the games kick off in the afternoon.

Afterwards, all the teams, coaches and supporters will mix and have a meal together before heading home.

**It's a brilliant initiative and a great way to keep a link with the people and birthplace of Shanks.**

**Good luck to all the teams!**



## Kop on the road

The SOS coach made its last journey of the season to Villa last month, and all those members who travelled with us throughout the year were delighted to discover on the day that this one was free, thanks to a donation from the Twelfth Man Pub.

**Big thanks to Robbie for his generosity and to all those who were on the road with us during 2023/24.**

**See you in August!**



## Community SOS

The Monday advice centre continues weekly, from 9:30am to 3pm, at Homebaked on Oakfield Road. Expert advisors can assist with universal credit, personal independence payment, employment, support allowance and disability living allowance for children. The music and arts clubs will pause over the school summer holidays but will start up again in early autumn.