

SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 19



Message from SOS Chair Paul Khan

The highlight of the past month for me was the privilege of going to the Shankly Cup, hosted at The Barony Campus in Cumnock, Scotland, and brilliantly organised by SOS's Stephen "Mono" Monaghan in partnership with Adam Strain from East Ayrshire Council.

Dynamo Childwall won the Shankly Cup and The Shankly Shield went to Thomas Lane Tigers, but to be honest all the teams were winners given the spirit in which the tournament was played.

On the way to Cumnock, we stopped at the Great Man's birthplace, Glenbuck and were delighted to meet members of the Shankly family. The day was captured on camera by Grace Merritt and narrated by SOS patron and Bill's granddaughter Karen Gill.

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Shankly Cup winners 2024 Dynamo Childwall

Message from SOS Chair Paul Khan

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A special thank you goes to all at The Barony for their brilliant hosting and a massive thank you to Mono - as the Shankly statue says: "He made the people happy".

Other news to share since the last newsletter is that we have been working, alongside the FSA and a number of Premier League fan groups, to develop a motion to present to the FSA AGM on 20 July.

The motion will focus on a year-long strategy and set of co-ordinated protests aimed at forcing clubs to reduce season ticket and general admission prices and protecting the matchday culture so valued by us all. We will let you know how the motion is received.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and bring on the new season in August!

**Cheers and YNWA,
Paul**

Unbreakable bond

The Shankly Cup returned to the SOS agenda last month and everyone involved had a brilliant day.

Four Under-15 teams from Liverpool travelled to East Ayrshire to play four local sides in an event that further cements the bond forged by Bill Shankly. Dynamo Childwall picked up the winner's trophy and Thomas Lane Tigers received the Shankly Shield.

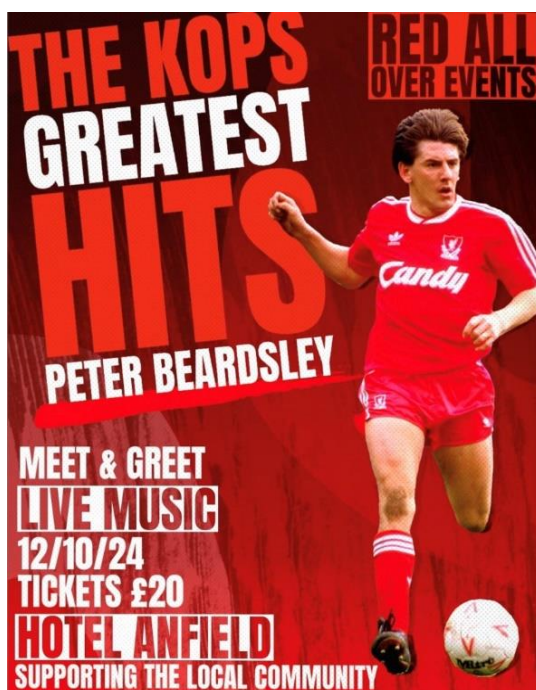
We are committed to making this an annual event and plans are already underway for the 2025 tournament that will, for the first time, be held in Liverpool. We're also aiming to go international and will be inviting teams from across Europe and beyond. [For more details see The Shankly Cup](#).

Report on Paris police failings

We welcomed the report, in June, into police failings at the 2022 UCL final in Paris that exacerbated the problems experienced by fans outside of the stadium.

For future sports events in France the report recommends changes in the use of tear gas, for law enforcement officers to wear body cams when using weapons and for French authorities to issue instructions in foreign languages to make it easier for attending fans.

Coming up: A night with Peter Beardsley



A night with Peter Beardsley - organised by Red All Over The Land fanzine - to be held at Hotel Anfield on Saturday 12 October.

[For more details and to buy tickets see RAOTL](#).

As always, proceeds will be donated to the local community initiatives.

A chat with Joe Blott, MC member and Supporters Board Chair

A lifelong Liverpool fan, Joe first got involved with SOS travelling to away games on our coaches. He has served on the MC for eight years, four of them as chair. He tells us of his pride in representing the Union.

"During my time as chair, I was fortunate enough to lead for the Union on strong campaigns such as LFC's attempts to trademark 'Liverpool', local, national and European response to the idea of the European Super League and the Paris Champions League debacle.

"People often think fans are always rivals, but we're not, we collaborate and work together to improve all aspects of the game. When LFC were one of the leading clubs trying to destroy our working-class game [with the introduction of the Super League], we responded by bringing other fan groups together to challenge this and stop it.

"However we also wanted to end this type of existential threat to our club for good and to ensure we had a long lasting legacy of improvement to fan engagement. That's why we now have the Supporters Board, which is led by SOS and enshrined in the club's Articles of Association meaning it can never be taken away from us. This unique at the time agreement now forms the model for good fan engagement as part of the forthcoming legislation around football governance.

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A chat with Joe Blott...

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"Because of all their work over the past 14 years, SOS are held in high regard across football and have helped shape fan experience not just at Anfield but across England and Europe.

"And as a result of the Union's standing nationally, I've been fortunate to be elected to both the Board and the National Council of the Football Supporters Association. This gives us direct access to the FA, Premier League, local and national government, and UEFA. Being in the room with these organisations, alongside our strong campaigning and activism, means SOS are at the forefront of changing football not just now, but for future generations too.

"I am proud of SOS's work, especially the outstanding community activities, and I've been privileged to have been involved in so much.

"If I was to pick one particular piece of work I have led on to be most proud of it would probably be the ongoing campaign around the eradication of tragedy chanting, obviously towards Liverpool fans but towards fans of other clubs too.

"Supporters have a track record of policing ourselves and we should acknowledge the good work of those who have done so and thank those who have called out others who continue to attack fellow supporters over tragedies that could befall anyone going to the game.

"Ugly chants do remain at certain games, but with some highly publicised arrests and prosecutions, there has been a significant reduction in such behaviour and overall the campaign has been a success.

"Football can inspire many things. Solidarity, community spirit, unity, inclusion, belonging. When these things combine as they do in our Union, it is special.

"I am proud to represent SOS and I look forward to continuing to work hard for our members to ensure LFC and the wider football authorities, sit up and listen to fans."

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– Joe Blott