

SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 20



A message from SOS Chair Paul Khan...

Well, the season is almost upon us, let's get behind Arne, the team and hope for a great season.

In preparation for upcoming away travel, our technical team have been busy working on a new booking system for the coaches, which is now live.

[You can book directly on the SOS website here.](#)

Based on your feedback to campaign for lower ticket prices, we proposed a motion at the recent Football Supporter's Association AGM to address this issue, which was supported by a huge majority of representatives with just three abstentions.

We will now work with other supporters' trusts and the FSA on a coordinated plan of action over the coming season.

Please support when action is called for.

SOS also proposed a second motion based on addressing the spending imbalance between Premier League clubs, which also passed. **[You can read more about this here.](#)**

At Liverpool Pride last month, SOS members marched side by side with our LGBTQ+ friends and Fans Supporting Foodbanks. You can read more about these events in the newsletter stories.

We realise that members' ticket and ACS sales have been a fiasco and our ticketing team have been talking directly with the club to try to address the issues and make it a better experience for supporters in the future.

**Signing off now, hope to see you at the game.
Cheers and YNWA, Paul.**

APPEAL

We were horrified at events in Liverpool last weekend and, in particular, when the Spellow Lane Library Hub was set alight.

This library also hosts a foodbank and is a focal point for local residents.

Generous donations have been flooding in to the library and we will be making a donation from our community fund and reaching out to the library and local businesses to see how we can help.

[If you would like to make a donation, you can do so here.](#)

Liverpool Pride 2024

SOS and Fans Supporting Foodbanks were again at St George's Plateau this year to meet and march in solidarity with our friends and colleagues Kops Out at Liverpool Pride, held on 27 July.

The theme for 2024 was Be Heard which aims to ensure all groups within this diverse community have a platform to air their voice. We are proud to stand alongside Kop Outs and show active allyship in their work in tackling discrimination in football and speaking out against hate crimes.

We encourage all our members and supporters to strive for the rights of all LGBTQ+ people.



Hillsborough Law to proceed

The first King's Speech of the new parliament included the news that a Hillsborough Law is to proceed.

Once passed, this legislation will create a progressive and lasting legacy for the 97 people who were unlawfully killed at Hillsborough.

The campaign group Hillsborough Law Now will continue to work alongside Government and cross-party MPs to ensure that a duty of candour for individuals and equal public funds is delivered in full.

You can find out more about the Hillsborough Law Now Campaign here.

Anne Williams Memorial Golf Day 2024

SOS sponsored Hole number 2 at the annual charity competition, held on 5 July at Huyton and Prescot Golf Club.

Now in its 12th year, this unique golf day, held in tribute to Anne, raises money to support charities in the local region.

This year, the money raised will go to Sefton Baby Baskets, an organisation to help struggling families with new baby essentials.



FSA Motions

SOS committee members Ian Byrne, George Bevan and Joe Blott joined fans and fan groups across football, including a growing number of reps for the women's game, at the FSA annual general meeting at Wembley last month (20 July).

Sports Minister Stephanie Peacock MP opened the AGM and gave her and the Government's commitment to ensuring the Football Governance Bill becomes an Act as quickly as possible. This will allow the setting up of an Independent Football Regulator (IFR) to govern the game.

The bill's delays have been frustrating, but this second bite gives us and the FSA an opportunity to seek more powers for the IFR.



Fans for Diversity celebrated their 10th anniversary with the spotlight on the great strides achieved in inclusivity, but also the challenges that remain.

One of those is how to support women who go to watch the men's game. A motion, unanimously passed, highlighted the need to encourage more women to be involved in all levels of football.

Points included the need of supporters' trusts and boards to address diversity, and access to matches for fans with very young children - kids are often barred from grounds with mums and dads because they are... too young.

Turning to SOS motions. Three of the most obvious threats to the competitive integrity of English football are the current financial imbalance between clubs, growing pressure for a PL game to be played overseas and the rise of ticket prices in excess of inflation that affects fans' ability to afford to follow their team.

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FSA Motions

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Joe moved our motion on sporting integrity/associated party transactions and George did the same regarding ticket pricing. Both were well received and passed.

We seconded the third, which was also unanimously supported, in relation to preventing PL games being played abroad.

These three key motions are now fully part of our and the FSA agendas for the forthcoming season and beyond - and are critical if we want to save the game we love.

As Henry Winter said in his summary of the event: "Let's hope the clubs are listening - and some are. English fans are rarely militant but there is a new mood in the stands and they have a forceful ally arriving in the IFR."

[The full FSA agenda pack can be found here.](#)

Advice on welfare rights?

Our community initiative with the Vauxhall Law Centre at Homebaked in Anfield is ongoing.

If you need help with benefit checks, PIP, universal credit, housing referrals or debt, you can drop in for free advice between 9.30am and 3pm every Monday.



Vauxhall Community Law & Information Centre

HOMEBAKED BAKERY

Homebaked Bakery, 199 Oakfield Road, L4 0UF

WELFARE BENEFIT & DEBT ADVICE SESSIONS

A new independent advice service taking place in the heart of Anfield with solicitors from Vauxhall Law Centre.

Get in touch

If there is something you'd like us to include in our newsletter, if you have a question, or if you just want to get in touch with SOS, you can do so by emailing: [**clubliaison@spiritofshankly.com**](mailto:clubliaison@spiritofshankly.com)