

SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 21



A message from SOS Chair Paul Khan...

I hope you enjoyed the summer, what there was of it! On a brighter note, what a great start to the season, let's keep it up and hope we again go gathering cups in May.

First piece of news involves the Supporters Board. Joe Blott has decided not to seek re-election as Chair and stepped down on 17 August 2024. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Joe for his sterling service and good work.

In line with the constitution, SOS committee members have conducted a voting process for a new SB Chair and I am delighted to announce that Jay McKenna is the successful candidate. Jay is a former chair of SOS and will bring passion, great experience, and outstanding communication and organisation skills to the role. Jay will take up the position in the coming days and I am sure you will wish him well as he begins his term.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are developing a plan of action to address ticket prices and the matchday experience. Central to this action will be the strapline *Stop Exploiting Loyalty* and you will see banners with this message at most Premier League games as the season progresses. To get the ball rolling, we have been in conversation with our friends from West Ham, Hammers United, and agreed to hold a dual protest outside the ground at the upcoming Carabao Cup game with a *Stop Exploiting Loyalty* banner. If you are going to the game, please try and join us. More details of the protest will be released on our social media channels nearer to the date.

The Premier League have picked up on our motion and have asked, via the FSA, for a meeting with SOS to discuss. As part of our action, I have also written to Billy Hogan at the club to make him aware that moving forward we want constructive dialogue with the club on ticket prices. **You can view the letter [here](#).**

I'd also like to say a big well done to all SOS members, including Stephen Monaghan, Ian Byrne, Kieth Culvin and John Nicolson, who completed the Camino de Santiago in aid of the charity, Lads At Larks. Great achievement.

And finally, it's great that we have a couple of Saturday 3pm home kick-offs coming up. Enjoy and let's hope we pick up the points!

**Cheers and YNWA
Paul**

Ticket price campaign

As we highlighted in the last newsletter, SOS are working with the Football Supporters Association as part of the national ticket price campaign.

Throughout the season, matchgoers from many clubs will unite against the recent wave of price rises, the idea of dynamic pricing and attacks on concessions.

We are also pursuing a policy of opposition to any underhand increases and will look to widen the campaign as we move forward.

Debt advice available

Our partnership with the Vauxhall Law Centre is expanding to include debt advice. **If you have debt problems and seek confidential help, an expert adviser will be at Homebaked on the last Monday of the month, starting from 30 September.** Our regular welfare advice sessions continue as normal

Welcome back Arts Club

The brilliant weekly Arts Club for youngsters has started up again after the summer holidays. Classes are held on Monday evenings at The Church on Oakfield Road.

The Guitar Club and Unistar Drama are on Thursdays.

If you would like more details, please email peter@spiritofshankly.com



Spellow Library Hub

SOS donated £1,000 from our community fund to the Spellow Library Hub, following the recent unrest in Walton.

The destruction of the pivotal venue brought a massive community response with more than £250,000 raised to help in rebuilding.

Union joins campaign to End Tragedy Chanting

The North West and Irish branch of the GMB trade union showed solidarity with the campaign to End Tragedy Chanting at the end of last month, when union organisers reached out to all Premier League clubs and North West MPs to ask for their support.

The union's message is clear and simple: keep the rivalry on the pitch; respect each other in the stands.



Foodbank unity

SOS continued the tradition of making a donation to the opposition team's local foodbank collection before an away game, when reps visited Old Trafford recently.

MC members Roy Bentham and Ian Byrne stopped off at MUST headquarters before the recent game against Manchester United.



Camino de Santiago

Earlier this month, MC member Ian Byrne and former MC members Stephen Monaghan, Kieth Culvin and John Nicolson joined more than 50 others from Liverpool to walk the Camino de Santiago to raise money for prostate cancer support.

The group walked a 75-mile path from Valença/Tui, on the Spanish/Portuguese border, to Santiago de Compostela over six days, in what was an emotional and spiritual journey meeting fellow walkers from around the world.

The group raised a lot of money for Lads at Larks and would like to thank SOS and their members for the many generous donations and messages of support.

You can read about how the idea for the walk began here and look out for the full story on our site soon.

Please spread the word to all your male family and friends aged over 50 to ask their GP for a PSA blood test. It could save their life!



Red or Dead

Coming next spring to the Royal Court theatre in Liverpool is an adaptation of David Peace's novel about Bill Shankly. *Red or Dead*, starring Peter Mullan, of *Ozark* and *Westworld* fame, as Shanks, the production will run from 21 March 2025.

More info available [here](#).



PETER MULLAN
AS BILL SHANKLY

RED OR DEAD

BY DAVID PEACE

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE AND DIRECTED BY PHILLIP BREEN