

SPIRIT OF SHANKLY

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS

ISSUE 27



A message from SOS Chair Paul Khan...

Hi All,

Well, the results against PSG and Newcastle were disappointing, particularly the Newcastle game - on the pitch and the terraces. Both the players and us, the fans, need to dust ourselves down and really push on until the end of the season. As the great man said, our "bread and butter" is there for us, we must come together as one to make it happen.

With regards to the final, alongside the Newcastle United Supporters Trust we wrote to the Football League regarding key concerns around ticket allocations, pricing and kick-off times for the Carabao Cup final. We have received a response and are pleased that the EFL has engaged with our concerns and agreed to meet with us for further discussions.

The EFL's response outlines the current structure of ticket distribution and pricing, explaining the factors influencing allocations and costs. While we welcome its transparency, we believe there is still room for improvement to ensure fairness and affordability for supporters.

Most importantly, the EFL has expressed a willingness to continue dialogue and discuss these issues in greater detail. This is a step in the right direction and we look forward to constructive conversations alongside NUST to push for better outcomes for fans.

We will keep members updated as these discussions progress. As always, our priority remains ensuring supporters' voices are heard, and that football remains accessible to those who make the game what it is.

It has been interesting to watch how other club's fights for fairer ticket prices, as part of the Stop Exploiting Loyalty campaign, are panning out. Six have frozen costs - West Ham, Tottenham (although fans are concerned about other increases that will impact them), Leicester, Brentford, Wolves and us. ([Read our statement about the LFC freeze here.](#))

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A message from SOS Chair Paul Khan... (continued)

Disappointingly six clubs have upped their prices. There has been an average 5% increase at Newcastle, Brighton and Manchester United, while Forest have gone as high as 8.5%. Arsenal's prices have gone up 3% or 5%, depending on seat location. Our neighbours Everton are also increasing prices, the cheapest season ticket up by 16%. The other eight clubs have yet to make an announcement.

Irrespective, the Stop Exploiting Loyalty campaign will continue with our full support to help keep prices fair and protect our cherished match day experience.

Time to sign off now.

Support and Believe and YNWA.

Paul

Strike a chord

In addition to our regular music workshops, youngsters from Central Youth Club, in Kensington, Liverpool, have enjoyed music sessions courtesy of SOS. Club members had guitar and drum classes, led by an experienced music tutor.

In a show of appreciation, a note sent to SOS read:

"Many thanks to Spirit of Shankly for all the support and funding for music tutor Josh who came to Central Youth Club, Kensington in January this year to teach our young people guitar and drums.

"Between 6-12 members aged 8-18 were involved and really enjoyed the music sessions. Parents bought guitars to help out. Without the support and funding of Spirit of Shankly this would not have been possible, so once again, thank you so much."

Pauline and the young people of Central Youth Club.

Stanley Park Market returns

Ricky Tomlinson was on hand to officially reopen the award-winning Stanley Park Market on 19 March, after its winter closure.

The market, which scooped the Best Community Market for 2025 gong at the Great British Market Awards, takes place every Wednesday through to December.

Ricky, a staunch supporter of SOS, opened the event, cutting the ribbon as the market prepared to welcome visitors from across the North West.

**Stanley Park Market, Stanley Park Car Park (free parking), Priory Road, Anfield L4 0TQ
Wednesdays: 9am - 3pm**



Red or Dead



The stage adaptation of David Peace's iconic novel by the Royal Shakespeare Company and Clwyd Theatre Cymru's Phillip Breen is now playing at the Royal Court in Liverpool.

We caught up with Peter Mullan to ask how he went about perfecting the role of Bill Shankly.

Peter said: *"Physically I'm not like him. I'm broader, but I worked on the voice. He lived and worked in England and you often have to change the way you speak to make yourself understood.*

"Shankly did it for such a long time that he developed this quite theatrical way of speaking, so I worked on that. I had to get the voice of a theatrical Shankly along with his delivery.

"There's more licence in theatre. If this was to have been on TV, I don't think they'd cast me because I don't look like him.

"The play's detail on football is microscopic, it's fanatically obsessed, but you need that, anything else is patronising.

"I love Liverpool, I grew up with its culture, its music and sitcoms. Anyone from my generation is very familiar with Liverpool. So I don't feel any pressure, I'm here to do Philip Breen's play - his tribute to the club of Liverpool, and to Liverpool itself. It's wonderfully rich in texture. It's as much about life as it is Liverpool Football Club."

The show runs to 19 April.

Congratulations Yonit

We'd like to say a big thank you and congratulations to Yonit Sharabi, LFC's Supporter Liaison Officer, who recently celebrated 15 years at the club. Yonit is a constant presence for LFC supporters at home and abroad and goes out of her way to help fans in difficult situations.

From everyone associated with SOS, thank you Yonit. You're a credit to the club.

Away in Europe

Our Champions League adventure is over for this year but looking back we'd like to thank LFC for their positive engagement this season, which made it a better experience at away grounds for supporters.

In particular, they have facilitated meetings with local police and authorities, and ourselves, to help them understand that we are coming to support our team and enjoy the city. We have been able to ask questions and challenge protocols and policies that would usually be applied on matchdays - for example, taking power banks into the ground is often not permitted, but we made a case for supporters to be allowed to take these in and were successful in getting this overturned.

We have also seen and welcomed improved facilities for disabled supporters. And it is reassuring to see a team of friendly LFC stewards at the grounds to support fans when needed on matchday.