



Spring Newsletter 2015

15.4.15

A Rock & A Hard Place

Seemingly, this is where the club finds itself at present regarding its immediate the future. Do we stay at Clarence Park or is a move to a new ground the only way forward? The news that the current owners cannot sustain the current cost of staying at the Park will be of no surprise to many supporters. As we have seen in the past, the revenue generated purely on match days and by sponsorship and advertising is not enough to sustain the club at this level.

The current owners have been vociferous in their campaign to seek assistance from the local council in identifying a location for a new ground [and this challenge has been taken up by supporters via an online petition]. I met recently with Michael Hill, one of the group involved with this, and discussed the situation at Clarence Park to ensure that any action is co-ordinated. The restrictions placed on any development through a covenant would prove to be costly, even if this were possible, given the considerable opposition from local residents.

Recent news that John McGowan has again approached the council regarding the former Radlett aerodrome site as a potential location for the ground has met with mixed opinions from supporters that I have spoken to. The additional travelling to games, even if a bus service was provided [as stated by Lawrence Levy at the recent Fans' Forum], is seen as a negative.

We have also seen on our travels in the Southern League the problems having a ground located some distance from the city can bring. Leamington is one such case that comes to mind. A recent survey by their Trust showed most fans in favour of a move back to a ground near the town.

The survey undertaken by the Saints City Trust 2 years ago indicated 83% of supporters who undertook the survey would be reluctant to move but would support it, if it meant the survival of the club.

Recent events and the known uncertainty of developing Clarence Park suggest that a new ground has to become the favoured option, if we wish to maintain football at the present levels. It is vital that the supporters' views are heard when these important decisions are made. Please take the time to pass your views onto Trust Board members or directly to the Club officials. We will continue to meet with the owners and chairman to ensure that your opinions are known.

What you can do now -

Sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/st-albans-city-council-to-address-the-pressing-issues-at-st-albans-city-fc>

As local councillors are around the City & District at present, ahead of the forthcoming elections, ask them what they propose to do to assist the football club to build a stadium with facilities more fitting of the high standards of City, that we live in and that we can all be proud of.

End Of Season Awards

The End of Season awards will take place after our last home match against Ebbsfleet United on Saturday 18 April. The supporter's Player of the Season will be presented by Paul Martin, MD of Harpenden Construction Ltd, on the pitch after the match and all other awards will be made in the Saints Bar at around 6:15pm.

£3.3k Donation To Floodlights

The Trust have donated funds raised from the match day raffle , golden goal and other schemes to the football club to pay for upgrade work on the floodlights.

Prediction League Update

Top 4 positions as at Monday 6th April -

Willie Watson 35
Vince Duffy 34
Dave Church 31
Vernon Hames 31

For full details on this, you can go to the Saints City Trust website at the address, shown below.

Ian Rogers – Chairman Saints City Trust

<http://www.saintscitytrust.org.uk/>