



Winter Newsletter

12.2.19

Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation AGM – November 2018

In November, I attended an extraordinary general meeting between members of Supporters Direct and the Football Supporters Federation. The Saints City Trust is in membership of both organisations.

Members of Supporters Direct (SD) and the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF0) had voted to merge at their respective AGMs in July. A possible merger of the organisations had been a discussion point for a number of years. A decision had become necessary because of important changes to how SD's work can and cannot be funded once its current funding arrangements come to an end in July 2019.

Both SD and the FSF receive the majority of their funding from the Premier League Fans Fund (PL Fans Fund), a fund which is wholly funded by the Premier League. For the 2016-19 funding cycle, the PL Fans Fund committed £983,000 to support SD's work.

Towards the end of 2016, the PL Fans Fund panel asked SD to look at potential savings from operating a shared back office function with the FSF, Level Playing Field (LPF) and Kick It Out (KIO). The study found that each organisation was already run in a fairly lean fashion and showed that sharing services but remaining independent offered few productivity benefits.

This outcome encouraged the Fans Fund panel to suggest that a move to a single national supporters' organisation might benefit all. This is based on its stated belief that a single organisation could lead to:

- Less duplication and better value for money.
- Greater efficiency, creating sustainability and longevity.
- A stronger collective voice.
- The continuation of both organisations' missions, with skills, expertise and knowledge retained.

The PL Fans Fund has also stated that funding for any new organisation will be commission-led, in that it will need to deliver outcomes that have been formally agreed with the PL Fans Fund Panel. The Panel must also be satisfied that funded work is operating with maximum efficiency, with a focus on avoiding duplication. Attaining value for money will continue to be critical to the PL Fans Fund. This will be reflected in its consideration for core funding beyond the current agreements.

Work is now ongoing to create a new national football supporters' organization, which will be operational from 1 January 2019. Further updates will be communicated in due course.

Parking Restrictions in York Road

In December, new parking restrictions were introduced in York Road, which limit Saturday parking to just 2 hours and this may well have impacted on you as a supporter. I have been in contact with a local councilor for Clarence Ward and Gary Payne, the Specialist Officer in charge of Parking Development at St. Albans City and District Council. The football club were not consulted over these changes, even though it has York Road as its registered address.

A recent email from St Albans Liberal Democrats makes a comment that these restrictions may not be needed, and consultation documents on the St. Albans City and District Council website say that a review will take place on this issue in June/July.

If you have been affected by these restrictions, I would urgently ask you to email Gary Payne at either gary.payne@stalbans.gov.uk or parkingrestrictions@stalbans.gov.uk

Auditor Required for Trust Accounts

The Trust board is seeking someone with an accountancy background to conduct a yearly audit of their accounts. This entails a few hours work once yearly. The role has previously been undertaken by long-term Saints supporter Bryan Tomlinson, to whom the Trust board would like to extend its thanks for carrying out the role for a number of years.

General Knowledge Quiz Night - Friday 22 February 2019

We are holding a quiz night on the above date in the Saints Bar starting at 8:00pm. The quiz format allows for any team to win prizes, irrespective of their ability. Bookings can be made via Ian Rogers on 07714 145862.

2017/18 Saints City Trust Prediction League

The updated positions in the Saints City Trust Prediction League, as at 21 January, sees 9 people on 30 points or more. In the last 7 weeks, Davy McLean is up a staggering 48 places into 4th spot. Patrick Knock, up 26 places and Alan Turner, up 24 places also make significant moves. The biggest fallers this time around are Mick Holland, Dave Church and Simon Edwards. The results of the cup competitions are looking to be a major factor in the final outcome.....<http://www.saintscitytrust.org.uk/content/201819-saints-city-trust-prediction-league-21-january-2019>

Ian Rogers
Chairman
Saints City Trust