

# The Fulham Supporters' Trust



**Registered Office:**

**P.O. Box 63958,  
London,  
SW15 9AH.**

**23rd.** June, 2014

## **Clear out at Craven Cottage in Preparation for Championship Football**

Dear Member,

Despite our cautious optimism prior to the beginning of last season, Fulham's very poor form on the pitch resulted in relegation. A large number of players have departed and it is expected that more will follow before the start of next season, when a much-changed Fulham side will start the first match against Ipswich Town FC on 9th. August, 2014. Although there is great promise from some of the younger players, it may be expecting too much for an immediate return to the top flight.

The Trust membership has voiced its extreme concerns over governance of and poor communication from the Club and we have sought to gain some answers from the Club (*q.v.*). The turnover of managerial staff and the apparent confusion of specific roles was considered to have contributed to the overall disorder, with most demanding to know why a decisive managerial change had not occurred in the 'close season' in summer 2013. The lack of progress with the redevelopment of the Riverside Stand continues to worry the membership, as does the absence of an clear statement of intent from the Chairman.

## **Prior to relegation: Meeting with the Club in April, 2014**

On 14th. April, 2014, a delegation from the Fulham Supporters Trust, led by Vice-Chairman Gerry Claydon, met with Fulham Football Club at the team's training headquarters, Motspur Park. A detailed set of notes are appended, with apologies for the delay in their circulation. It will be evident that some of the Club's aims and intentions have been rendered obsolete by Fulham's relegation to the Championship.

## **Supporters' Consultation Meeting in Parliament**

Following our response to an on-line survey on some key issues facing football today, conducted by Clive Efford, MP (Shadow Minister for Sport) with a view to holding meetings across the country, the Trust has been invited to and will participate in a consultation to be held at the Houses of Parliament on 2nd. July, 2014. The Trust's responses to the survey were mindful of (i) the lack of progress following the 2011 Department of Culture, Media and Sport's enquiry into football governance in England and (ii) last year's hearings of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Mutuals (emphasising supporters' trusts).

## **Football Supporters Europe (FSE) and the 7<sup>th</sup>. European Football Fans' Congress**

Following our attendance of the FSE's 6<sup>th</sup>. European Football Fans' Congress, held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in 2013 and the submission of a report for the Committee, the Trust applied for membership, this being accepted after some administrative delay. Its 7<sup>th</sup>. congress will be held in Bologna, Italy between 3rd. and 6h. July, 2014 and the Secretary will attend. Aside from the FSE AGM, in which we'll be able to vote, there are two major panel discussions and a series of workshops, one titled intriguingly 'Keep Football Dirty', which will be celebrating rivalries, rather than requesting Ron Harris and Mickey Droy to expound on their footballing 'philosophies' (*sic*).

## **Supporters Summit, 2014**

The Football Supporters' Federation (FSF) and Supporters Direct (SD) will host the joint annual Supporters Summit in London, at Wembley Stadium, on 26th July 2014, and the Trust has registered three delegates to attend. The event brings fans together from across the UK and Europe, from clubs and supporter organisations, to debate the issues at the heart of the game. The AGM's of both organisations will be held on Friday 25th July, with the Trust secretary attending both.

The event provides an opportunity for likeminded fans to help change football for the better, and will include workshops focussed on the treatment of away fans, protecting the identity of clubs and other areas of SD and the FSF's campaign work such as financial fair play, club licensing, diversity, supporter liaison and Safety Advisory Groups – the all-seeing, though relatively unknown bodies who make many of the big decisions on matches.

Of these, safe-guarding the identity of clubs derives, in large part, from the recently-attempted change of playing name by the owner of Hull City FC. Along with many other clubs, FSF and SD, the Trust submitted to the FA panel considering the application a written objection. In early April, 2014, the application was rejected and Hull City's owner responded to this with good grace, by leaving the name of the club off the shirt intended for the forthcoming campaign.

A collection of writers from the respected football quarterly 'The Blizzard' will be hosting one of their Q&A sessions which have packed venues around the country at the Supporters Summit, allowing fans to put their questions to leading football writers about matters both on and off the pitch. There will also be a panel featuring leading figures from the worlds of print and broadcasting discussing the profile of fans' issues and campaigns in the media.

### **Election of the Fulham Supporters' Trust Board, 2014**

At the Committee meeting held on 28th. May, 2014, the Procedure and a working timetable for the election of a new Fulham Supporters' Trust (FST) Board were agreed. The Secretary has convened an Election Management Group, comprising three current members of the the FST and an independent scrutineer.

The terms of all of the current board will expire on 23rd. July, 2014. According to the FST constitution, the Trust Board should have not more than nine members. Although all of the current 7-strong Board have agreed to stand for re-election, candidates are sought for all nine positions which will become available.

Full details, candidate's nomination form, election rules and timetable are attached.

### **Renewal of Memberships for Season 2014/2015**

The new membership year commences on 1st. July, 2014 and so we request that all members renew their subscriptions. Rates remain the same: (i) £10.00 for adults and (ii) £5.00 for under-16s and the over-60s.

For those wishing to renew by cheque, please send your remittance to the Trust's P.O. Box address (see above), enclosing a cheque made payable to 'Fulham Supporters' Trust'?

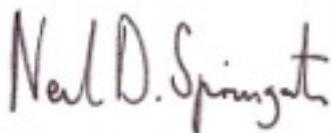
Payments may also be made via standing order and PayPal, the latter working well since its inception in late 2013. Should you have changed your bank account, please ensure that the standing order mandate has been maintained?

Please notify the Trust of any change of contact details, particularly e-mail addresses, by post or via the Trust's e-mail? Please do likewise, if you have any queries with regard to membership?

Please encourage others to join us? Membership and standing order forms are available from the Trust's web-site.

We look forward to welcoming you back as a Member for the coming season.

Yours sincerely,



Neil D. Springate,

p.p. Committee, Fulham Supporters' Trust: Gerry Claydon, Dan Crawford, Jamie Doak, Barry Gilbertson, Chris Gilbertson, Lorcan O'Connor and Neil Springate