

O's Somme Tour 2018

Steve Jenkins reporting

Over two hundred O's fans and friends of the Club travelled over to the battlefields of northern France in June to pay their respects to the fallen of the Great War and in particular the players, staff and supporters of Clapton Orient who enlisted en masse into the 17th Bn Middlesex Regiment – The Footballers' Battalion, during the Great War, remembering William Jonas, George Scott and Richard McFadden who all made the ultimate sacrifice during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

Whilst the story is now well documented, it was also good to be able to visit for the very first time the resting place of former 'O', Lieutenant Colonel Alan Roderick Haig-Brown who was awarded the DSO for his bravery. Visits were also made to the Vimy Ridge Memorial and trench network and the Arras Memorial, where one hundred and ninety-two soldiers from the 17th Middlesex are commemorated – including Walter Tull, who was the first black outfield footballer and the first black officer.

Everyone in the group was amazed when Steve Jenkins announced during the commemoration service to William Jonas at the Thiepval Memorial, that a school teacher had enquired as to why there were so many Leyton Orient supporters present. Steve informed him that everyone had come to pay their respects and particularly to William Jonas, to which the teacher replied that the name of one of the schoolchildren in his group that morning was William Jonas!

The 17th Pals' Battalion Band performed at each memorial commemoration and also put on a special performance in Arras Town Square on the Friday evening which was very well received. During the performance Steve spoke to the gathered crowd about the O's proud service in the Great War.

It was good that Pat and Mark Smith were able to travel with the group. Pat is the Great, Great Granddaughter of George Scott whilst Mark is her son. As well as laying wreaths at both George Scott's grave and the O's Memorial in Flers, they were also invited to plant a small cherry tree adjacent to the memorial during the commemoration service.



At the conclusion of the service of Commemoration at Flers on the final day of the tour, LOSC Chairman David Dodd expressed his thanks on behalf of the Supporters Club to Steve Jenkins for his on going and tireless commitment in ensuring that the players and staff of COFC who served King and country are remembered. David is pictured presenting Steve with a plaque marking the club's appreciation.

Farewell Phil

In June LOSC were represented by Stuart Parish and David Dodd and wife Maureen at the funeral of Phil McKnight who at the date of his death on May 25 had been the oldest known living former O's player, just several weeks short of his ninety-fourth birthday. The funeral took place at the Chilterns Crematorium near Chorleywood and it was good to find that Chelsea FC from whom Phil was signed in 1954 were also represented. Phil McKnight made 169 League and



cup appearances for the O's from 1954 through to 1957 and featured in the 1955/56 Division 3 (South) Championship team. In 1960 he went on to become a coach at the club. He was awarded the Maltese Cross for his part in helping with the liberation of Malta during World War Two and although he was forced to retire from service due to a shrapnel wound he was later able to resume his football career, giving excellent service to both Chelsea and the O's.

QUIZ NIGHTS ARE BACK!

Following the popularity of two quiz nights that were staged last season we are planning several more events for 2018-19. Organised by Steve and Lee Dearing the first quiz of the new season will take place on **Sunday September 2**. To reserve a team contact Lee or Steve at the club or email lmd85@hotmail.co.uk



During the service at the British Cemetery at Couin for Richard McFadden, Steve displayed the medals awarded to our late striker, having recently acquired them. The medals had been lost for many years so it was very apt that they were shown for the very first time at Richard's grave.

During the tour, it was announced that the restaging of The Greater Game play will take place at the Waterloo East Theatre during the autumn – full details of the cast and tickets will be announced at the earliest opportunity. This promises to be a wonderful production with a special performance taking place on Sunday 11th November – Armistice Day.

This, without doubt, was one of the best tours organised to the Somme and it was good that so many O's supporters and friends of the Club had made the trip in this centenary year commemorating the end of the Great War.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Holiday Opportunity – A British family who have a holiday home in Flers and who attended the Memorial Service in the village, would be pleased to speak with and offer accommodation for any O's supporters who are thinking of making a visit to the Somme – full details can be found on their website www.dinnakenhouse.com.

CLUB NEWSLINE Summer 2018



From the Chairman...



This August marks the 40th anniversary of the opening in 1978 of the present day Supporters Club at our old 'cabin' in Brisbane Road. The club doors opened for the first time to members on August 5 1978 for the Anglo-Scottish Cup game v Mansfield Town. The O's were at the time an established Division Two club and earlier in that same year had reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup - the most successful run in that competition in the history of the club.

How many of us who are old enough to be able to cast our minds back to that era could ever have thought that the O's would one day no longer be members of the Football League, or EFL as it is now known? But, we are where we are and with the club once more under stable and professional ownership there is cause for optimism that the future of the club, irrespective of our current position within the league structure, is bright.

The past season demonstrated the faith that O's fans have in our club and its new owners, with season ticket sales reaching almost 4000, the best in recent history, and attendances holding up well despite relegation to the National League in 2017. This outstanding loyalty by the fans was mirrored at the Supporters Club where we experienced excellent support on matchdays and at our various events through the season. At the end of the financial year we were pleased to record an upturn in bar income of around £25,000 over the previous season.

Following the withholding of donations to the O's during the manic 2016-17 season, the past year has

seen LOSC re-establishing our financial support to the club with donations in the region of £25,000. In 2017 LOSC also provided a £5000 donation to the very successful LO Womens' Football Club. We shall be providing further such support to LOWFC for 2018-19. A donation to the O's Somme Fund of £1000 will also be made in support of the restaging of the successful play The Greater Game at the Waterloo East Theatre in London in the autumn. Further projects earmarked for LOSC support in the season ahead are outlined herein.

And so it can be seen that after forty years the Supporters Club continues to play an integral and constructive role at the football club. This is made possible through the involvement of you, our members, and we thank you as ever for your continued enthusiasm and support.

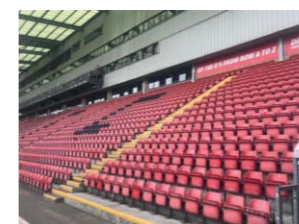
We now enclose a membership renewal form in the hope that you will sign up with LOSC for 2018-19. If you are already a three year member maybe you will pass the form on to family or friends to encourage them to join our ranks. Your new card is enclosed.

In conclusion I know that members will want to join with me in expressing appreciation to our hard working LOSC committee for all their continued efforts for the club.

**Thanks again for your support and, as ever...
Come On You O's!**

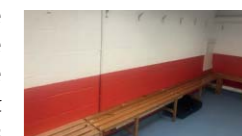
David Dodd, Chairman

Safety First



West Stand. While the stairways comply fully with the stringent safety requirements set for the stadium it has long been felt by many users of the stand that grab rails would give added reassurance when negotiating the stairs. This project is one that the Supporters Club have been seeking to assist with over the years and it is expected that the posts will be in situ early in the new season.

LOSC Funds Further Project



Following the opening of the West Stand in 2005 the Supporters Club took on the project of funding the fit out of the players and officials changing and showering areas – a project that costed out at around £120,000 and which LOSC covered over three seasons. LOSC are now pleased to announce that as a further part of our donation arising from last season's activities at the club we have agreed to fund an upgrading and refit of the home team changing room to enhance the ambience and facilities for the O's players. This project will cost in the region of £20,000 and will be in addition to the funding for the provision of the West Stand grab rails which we are also committed to.

Star Man Dinner

LOSC 2017-18 Awards

Star Man:
Macauley Bonne

Young Player:
Dan Happe

Goal of the season:
David Mooney, for his winning goal at Dover in the FA Trophy

Away Player:
Dean Brill

Captain's Award:
Macauley Bonne

Players' Player:
Jobi Mc Anuff

Leyton Orient Women's FC Player of the Year:
Sophie Le Marchand

Leyton Orient Trust Community Award:
Alex Lawless



Following O's relegation to the National League and the uncertainty over the very future of the club the climate wasn't right to be staging any kind of awards dinner in 2017. But with the feel good factor brought about by the change of ownership of the club and many requests for another dinner we were pleased to be able to bring the Star Man awards back for the 2017-18 season. And so, the 21st Star Man dinner took place on Sunday April 29 at our usual venue, the Prince Regent Hotel, Chigwell, with some three hundred guests in attendance. A special one off ticket price of £40 was set in celebration of LOSC's 40th anniversary.

We were pleased to welcome among the guests O's Chairman Nigel Travis, Vice Chairman Kent Teague and other directors, management and club staff as well as Justin Edinburgh, coaching and technical staff and of course the O's players.

Special guests from seasons past were John Mackie, Kevin Dickenson and Kevin Lisbie.

The dinner saw us welcome for the first time the players from the Leyton Orient Women's FC together with their coach Chris Brayford.



A new award for LOFC Employee of the Year was introduced with Chairman Nigel Travis announcing that the inaugural and well deserving winner was Club Secretary Lindsey Martin. Lindsey's daughter Elizabeth Freeman accepted the award on her behalf.

The evening was compared by Simon Fellman and we thank all our guests and sponsors Heineken UK and Keith Underwood for their support.

For 2018-19 a new format dinner arranged in collaboration with LOFC is planned. Watch for full details soon.

LOSC helping with the pitch

Members may recall that in November of 2017 LOSC provided the funds for the purchase of a new ultra modern Toro Procore Aerator machine to assist groundsman Colin James with the maintenance of the Brisbane Road playing surface. The machine which cost £20,000 has proved to be a great asset to Colin and LOSC's donation which related to the 2016-17 season (when funds were withheld during the uncertainty over the very



future of the O's) illustrates the on-going role that LOSC is able to play in providing practical assistance to the football club. A smaller but at the time important donation was also provided in the early summer of 2017 when football club funds were non-existent to enable Colin to purchase seed and fertiliser to prepare the pitch for what was to be O's first season participating in the National League.

Saluting BBW

Last November the Supporters Club was pleased to arrange a first visit for many years to the O's of former O's Chairman Brian Winston OBE.

It was Brian who gave the go ahead for the creation of the present day Supporters Club in 1977 and entrusted David Dodd and his committee to get the club up and running at the old 'Brisbane Road 'cabin'. It was Brian's 80th birthday in October and it was felt to be an ideal opportunity to present him with a plaque in celebration of his special birthday and expressing appreciation for bringing about the birth of LOSC, or Orient Supporters Club as the club was then known. Brian attended together with some of his family for the game v Dover Athletic and LOSC arranged for a group of O's players of his era, Mickey Bullock, Peter Allen and Peter Kitchen, to be present as surprise guests. Brian was awarded the OBE in 2002 for his work with children's charities.



Away Travel Service

In recent years support for the LOSC coach travel service to O's away games has dwindled almost to the point where if the trend continues we shall need to consider whether it can be sustained in the longer term. The past two seasons have resulted in a combined loss in the region of £5000 and rarely have we managed to fill a coach.

However, we have a loyal, albeit small, group of regular travellers who we don't wish to let down and so will continue with the service for the forthcoming season for selected trips. For some trips we may have to use smaller coaches and shall reserve the right to withdraw the service if support for a particular trip is exceptionally low. If the O's are featured live on television we generally screen



these games at the Supporters Club and will review the feasibility of running a coach in the lead up to such games, dependent upon demand.

For the new season In an effort to assist fans who bring children with them we are reinstating the half fare concession for children aged 15 and under. Concessions are for: Aged 18 or under and 60 or over. Children aged 15 and under (must be accompanied by an adult). Non-members surcharge of £3 applies to 'Adult' category fares

To book call the Travel Line on **07722 135970** or visit the club on any matchday.

Here are details of the trips for August and September:

Saturday 4 August: Salford City, leaving 6.30am – £25 Flat rate for all categories
Tuesday 14 August: Maidstone United, leaving 4.30pm – £23 Adults / £20 Concessions / £11 Children
Saturday 25 August: Gateshead, leaving 7.30am – £36 Adults / £33 Concessions / £18 Children
Saturday 1 September: Chesterfield, leaving 8.30am – £28 Adults / £25 Concessions / £14 Children
Saturday 8 September: FC Halifax Town, leaving 8.00am – £32 Adult / £29 Concessions / £16 Children
Saturday 22 September: Harrogate Town, leaving 8.00am – £32 Adults / £29 Concessions / £16 Children

Football Supporters Federation

Tony Roome Reporting



The Football Supporters Federation is going through interesting times at the moment.

Firstly, its long standing campaign to allow football fans to have the opportunity to stand at games if they want to – particularly in properly-designed safe standing areas – is having an effect. The Minister for Sport said, in response to an application from Aston Villa to include a standing area in their refurbishment plans, that the Government believed all seater stadia was the answer and that 'only a small vocal minority' was interested in standing. That small minority launched a petition, and it was signed by over 120,000 people in a week! Then the Labour Party came out in favour of safe standing areas, the Sports Ground Safety Officers said they were in favour and, finally, the Government has now launched a formal review of the situation - due to report by the end of the year. Maybe they'll also look at other football-specific legislation – maybe allow drinking in sight of the pitch (allowed at all other sports) and review the use of football banning orders – particularly for non football-related crime.

There is also discussion about merging FSF with Supporters Direct – the fans' organisation dedicated to governance and supporter ownership issues in football. The issue will be debated at the annual meetings of both organisations in London on 28 July. All FSF members are welcome (you can join for free and register for the meeting at www.fsf.org.uk). Its worth being there to address national issues. As an example: after the debacle with our last owners, at last year's meeting I proposed a strengthening of the Owners and Directors Tests used by the Premier League, EFL, and National League and other significant changes to the rules for how owners can buy and manage clubs. The idea was accepted by the meeting and came to define FSF policy on the issue. It then went to a joint working group of FSF and Supporters Direct and the resulting policy is now to be discussed with the hierarchy of the Leagues and the FA. So lessons learned by us at Orient are directly affecting future national football policy.

In the meantime, if you have any views on FSF issues please let me know at tony.roome@fsf.org.uk

Ale, Ale, Ale

The LOSC's commitment to serving ever wider varieties of real ale continued apace last season. Not only did we have on pump more than three hundred different ales spread over the matchday sessions but we also staged six gala beer nights focussing mainly on niche and lesser known breweries. In April we were pleased to be presented with the CAMRA East London & City Branch Club of 2018 award.

Our next gala night will be on **Friday August 24** from 5.00pm and will consist of a selection of ales, several appearing for the first time, from breweries of North London. As ever, admission is free to members and non-members. Be sure to come along!

