



Friday 20th March

Hello everyone,

Firstly, all of us at LOSC hope that you and your families are managing to avoid the Corona virus and that you continue to do so. The restrictions on social contact that are coming forward are going to change our daily routines and ways of life for some time and, as much as we will miss it, football pales into insignificance when our health and that of our families and friends is concerned.

However, it's some time since we sent our previous update to members and with football now suspended and Brisbane Road in virtual lockdown we thought that we had better get moving with another.

Club Bar

The Supporters Club has been busy throughout the season although after record bar income last season, aided by the promotion chase, there has been a slight downturn this time round, linked to indifferent results on the field. Our bar sales will of course be further affected by the postponement of the final four home games that it would seem are unlikely to be played anytime soon.

Memberships

The club Membership numbers have held up well and even at this late stage of the season we are still receiving new applications, including an increasing number from overseas. Thanks to everyone who renewed so promptly and a warm welcome to all our first time members.

Away Travel

The LOSC coach service to away game has in the main been sparsely supported although, fortunately, we do have a small but very loyal and valued band of regulars who prefer to travel stadium to stadium on the coach. Coach hire is becoming increasingly expensive and it's difficult to keep fares competitive without incurring losses on some trips. Our efforts to run on a break even basis are not helped when we suffer setbacks such as the recent postponement on the morning of the game v Forest Green after our two coaches had already arrived at the O's for an 8.30am departure. The resultant loss to the club was some £450 which was charged for driver wages and loss of use of the coaches for the day. The authorities never seem to be able to get bad weather postponements right!

Donations to the O's

Last August we donated £25000 to the O's which was used to cover the cost of stadium TV system upgrading, further improvements in the home dressing room and several smaller projects. In December LOSC made a further £6000 donation to the O's to cover the cost of the major overhaul, running costs and insurance of one of the club mini-coaches which are used for transporting the youth players to and from training and games. A further donation has been agreed this week (see below).

Another CAMRA Award

Our policy of bringing in ever more real ales to the club and serving them in excellent condition has resulted in LOSC winning another prestigious award -

The Campaign for Real Ale East London & City Club of the Year

The presentation of the award will be made at a future Gala Beer Night, hopefully early next season.

Ale price held

We have been pleased to uphold our promise made at the last AGM to keep our ale prices at the previous season's level of £3.40 per pint even though trade prices have increased year on year. We shall, however, need to implement an increase for next season to keep up with rising buying in costs. It was good to learn from the recent Budget that there is at least to be no increase in alcohol duty on beer.

Thanks!

Uncertain times for the O's, for LOSC and for everyone everywhere. Thanks for all your support and a big thanks to our club committee for their efforts and loyalty.

Keep well.

COME ON YOU O's!!!!

David Dodd
Chairman