



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 email update to members and with football now suspended and Brisbane Road in virtual lockdown we thought that we had better get moving with another email.

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

And now, an update as to what's going on at LOSC - or, more like, what's *not* going on!

1) For members who were coming to the 1969/70 reunion dinner on 26th March this has now been postponed until next season as you are probably by now aware. This is a great disappointment particularly as we had arranged a special trip over from Australia for the ever popular Barrie Fairbrother so he could attend. Barrie will be returning 'down under' at the end of the month whereupon he will have to be quarantined for several weeks!

The Supporters Club were to have been the Title Partners for the dinner.

2) Although all places are sold we are not sure yet whether the Star Man dinner will go ahead due to the Corona virus. We must ensure that everyone will be safe and comfortable at the event and

the matter is currently under review. Hopefully a decision will be announced by the end of March.

3) We had reserved Monday 20th April for the **LOSC 2018/19 AGM** but now feel that it would be unwise to try to proceed. We therefore propose that the AGM is carried over to the new season when we will hold a double AGM for 2018/19 and 19/20 once the accounts for this present season have been audited. We have done this on several occasions in the past and hope that members will understand the extraordinary circumstances leading to this course of action. Copies of the audited club accounts for both seasons will be available for members perusal at the time.

4) The **Quiz Night** set for Sunday 5th April has been postponed until next season.

5) A **Beer Night** set for Friday 1st May, but not previously advertised, is similarly deferred until next season.

(We heard on Wednesday that CAMRA have suspended all social events until June).

9) **Another Donation**

The suspension of football will have a great financial impact on the O's as it will for all clubs.

We like to think that Orient have owners who can sustain the club during the crisis but if the virus and all the various restrictions on mass gatherings carry on into and beyond the summer as some are predicting, just what implication that will have is impossible to guess.

And so, as ever, when a crisis has occurred at the O's LOSC can once again play a part in assisting the football club. The committee have therefore decided that as cash flow has already become a problem for the club we should make an initial **donation to the O's of £20,000**. It won't be for a specific project this time round but a cash injection to help the club through some of the inevitable difficulties it will face. A cheque has been passed to the club and a statement on social media will be made shortly, together with an appreciation to members from the Board.

One of the principal objectives of the Supporters Club is to offer assistance to LOFC, financially and otherwise, and we should like to thank members once again for their support in helping to make these long established donations possible.

Season Ticket (card) Prices announced

Leyton Orient have now announced the prices for season tickets, or cards as they will be, for 2020/21. Prices are frozen, apart from Legends Lounge seats, and an Early Bird reduction again operates.

See LOFC website for full details www.leytonorient.com

11) **And Finally....Bar Manager**

We are pleased to announce that Mark Harrison who has been doing a sterling job in maintaining our club bar and cellar has now been appointed as our LOFC Bar Manager. Mark and his real ale committee assistant Steve Dearing will continue to work to bring in the best and widest possible range of beers to the club for members' enjoyment.

Any comments and questions regarding the above to losinfo@aol.com please

This message will be posted in hard copy to those members who don't have email access or have indicated that they don't wish to receive such communications in this format.