



## Silkmen Supporters' Trust Newsletter August 2016

Dear Silkmen Supporter

I would like to thank you for being a member of the Silkmen Supporters' Trust. We would not exist without your support. I would also like to give you an update on what we have been up to in the last year and how your support has helped us to help the Club and the fans of Macclesfield Town FC.

### Expenditure

- £400 provided to the Club to enable the refurbishment and re-opening of the London Road Tea Kiosk.
- £500 provided to the Club to buy merchandise for the 15/16 season. In return members were given discount vouchers to spend in the Club Shop.
- Sponsored John Askey's home and away kits - £300
- Purchased the trophies for the Player of the Year Awards evening
- £1000 share purchase in the Club

### Fundraising

- Christmas Raffle - £950
- Silk Pledge - £2028.30
- Easyfundraising - £460
- Auction of items donated to the SST - £245

### Administration Activities

**Silk Lotto** – The SST continues to provide the banking and accounts for the Silk Lotto and to cover its activities under our Lottery License. The Silk Lotto is now providing £500 towards the Club every month. If you want to join the Lotto for £1 a week and take part in the weekly £100

prize draw, forms can be obtained from our Website ([www.silkmensupporterstrust.co.uk](http://www.silkmensupporterstrust.co.uk)), the Football Club or on request from the SST (see end of newsletter for contact details).

**SOS Player Fund** – The SST played a major role in the collection of monies for the SOS fund. We used our Postal address to collect cheque donations and took part in, counted and banked the bucket collections. The Crowdfunder and other donations were paid directly into our Bank Account. The total raised was around £39,000. During the year, the SST liaised with John Askey and as and when he identified players he wished to sign, we made arrangements to transfer the necessary money to the Club.

Including the Lottery money, SOS funds, membership subscriptions and other fundraising activities a large sum of money passed through the SST Bank Account last year and we are extremely grateful to Clive Westbury who carried out the independent audit of our Accounts thus saving the SST a significant amount of money.

## **Voluntary Activities**

Voluntary work for the Club included working in the Club Office, ticket office, running a stall at the Christmas market, assisting with bucket collections and selling 50/50 tickets.

## **The Silkmen Supporters' Trust Survey**

Earlier this year we conducted a survey to try and determine what Supporters liked and disliked about the Club and what areas they wanted the SST to concentrate on.

**Communication** – The survey indicated that people wanted the SST first and foremost to provide a communication bridge between the fans and the Club and that there was a lack of meaningful two way communication between the Club and the fans. In response to this we have lobbied the Club for Fans' Forums and we are pleased that there have been two Fans' Forums in the last few months. We also held regular meetings with Club Management and before the last meeting we encouraged fans to submit questions to us, to ask the Management on their behalf.

**Direction of the Club/ Change of owner** – Some fans felt that there was no clear direction or plan for the Club’s future and a change of ownership is necessary. Members of the Silkmen Supporters Trust met with the Chairman of the Operating Committee, Mark Blower, and raised these issues with him. The full details of our discussion can be found on our website, however, in short -

The amount of shares and secured loan(s) held by Amar Alkahdi means that it is impractical for the SST to try and arrange a change of ownership on its own. While Amar is no longer regularly investing in the Club, he does not take anything out, nor does he interfere in the running of the Club, which he leaves in the hands of an Operating Committee staffed by volunteers. Having met with the Club Operating Committee and attended the fans’ forum, we are satisfied that the Club is being well managed and that the Club is moving in the right direction and the debt level continues to be reduced.

**Fan Behaviour** A number of fans have expressed a concerns over the behaviour of a small number of fans at the Moss Rose and we have met with the Club’s Welfare Officer to raise these issues with him and we also assisted in the revision of the Club’s Code of Conduct in order to ensure that while it allowed the Club to properly police behaviour at the Moss Rose, it would provide fair treatment of the fans.

**Future Projects** – We asked fans what they disliked about match days and two of the most common responses were the inaudibility of the Public Address system in London Road and also the condition of the toilets. We have now agreed to pay to replace the speakers and wiring in the London Road and we will be shortly conducting a review of the toilet facilities with a view to making improvements where possible.

We have published the full results of the survey on our website.

## **Ways You Can Help the Trust**

**Renewing your membership** – Unless you are in the first four years of a five year or life membership, then your membership will run out in September. We currently have 160 members in the SST and membership subscriptions play an important part in the running of the

SST. However, more importantly, the more members we have, the louder voice we have in the Club and the greater the opportunity to put your views forward to the Club.

Our Membership Secretary will be shortly contacting everyone whose membership is due to expire.

**Easyfundraising** – do you shop online? If you do then you can raise money for the SST with just a couple of mouse clicks. We realise that there are a lot of requests for money to help the Silkmen, but shopping online via the Easyfundraising site raises money for the SST but doesn't cost you a penny. Last year we raised £460 from Easyfundraising. We currently have 53 members signed up – think what we could raise with 500.

Those of you who have not yet signed up please take a look at the Easyfundraising page <http://www.sstrust.uk/fundraising/easyfundraising/>

Registration doesn't take long and after that you're helping the Club every time you shop online.

## **Finally**

Thank you once again for your support. We will produce another newsletter at Christmas to keep you updated but until then keep watching the Silkmen!

Steve Mundy

Chairman

Silkmen Supporters' Trust

## **Contacting the Trust**

Email your name and contact number to [comms@sstrust.uk](mailto:comms@sstrust.uk) or leave us a message on Twitter at [@silkmensuptrust](https://twitter.com/silkmensuptrust). Don't forget to check our Facebook page 'Silkmen Supporters Trust' for updates too. Alternatively you can write to us care of c/o SAS Daniels, Churchill Chambers, Churchill Way, Macclesfield SK11 6AY.