

Good afternoon everyone and a warm welcome to the Moss Rose this evening's Vanarama conference fixture match against Southport FC. On behalf of the Silkmen Supporters Trust (SST) may I extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of The Sandgrounders.

Once again the season is here upon us and expectations are running high after last year's fantastic season when John Askey and the boys missed out on the playoffs by a gnat's whisker. John has shown that not only does he have an eye for spotting players with talent but also those who are willing to give their all for the cause. We know we can't match some of the teams in this division in terms of budget but we can certainly match them in spirit and desire. I was proud to be a Silkman last season and I'm very much looking forward to this season.

Trust News

I will start with our most recent news. At the end of July the SST contributed £3000 to Macclesfield Town's playing budget, which together with contributions from local businessmen, enabled John Askey to secure the signing of exciting midfielder Danny Whitehead. Although this was a major part of our cash fund, the Board wanted to support John and Danny's impressive pre-season displays helped the decision process.

A big thank you to all our members and to the people who have supported our fund raising initiatives – it is you who have helped make this happen.

SST Objectives

The SST had a review at the end of the season to re-assess our aims and objectives. A number of new policies were decided, a full list of which can be found on our website <http://www.silkmensupporterstrust.co.uk> , however in short they are

- Improving the match-day experience for supporters and providing a communication bridge between the fans and the Club
- Encouraging the raising of funds to benefit supporters, the community and the Club
- Encouraging supporter-led projects and, where appropriate, provide financial, administrative and media support

SST AGM

Our AGM is at 7.45pm Monday 17th August in the McIlroy Suite and is followed by an open meeting of the SST Board which people are welcome to attend if they wish to find out more.

SST Fundraising

Once again we are running the Silk Pledge, which had been a fantastic success over the last two seasons, raising almost £4000. I would urge all of our “pledgers” to take part again this year. The details are on the opposite page.

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online then you can raise money for the SST just buy going to your chosen website via the Easy Fundraising site. It costs nothing, takes seconds and has raised over £600 for the SST. Check out <http://www.silkmensupporterstrust.co.uk/shopping-portal/>

Contacting the Trust

If you want to contact the Trust, please email your name and contact number to sstcomms@yahoo.co.uk or leave us a message on Twitter at [@silkmensuptrust](https://twitter.com/silkmensuptrust) and your message will be passed onto the SST board. Don't forget to check our Facebook page 'Silkmen Supporters Trust' for updates too.

And finally

Let's get behind our teams and enjoy a great game. A safe journey home to everyone.

Steve Mundy

SST Chairman