

STATEMENT FROM THE JUST FOR STAN COMMITTEE

You will have seen the recent press releases from the Club on both the launch of *The QPR No. 10 Foundation* and on explaining the structure of the pricing for Stan's Benefit Match.

I am a member of the official committee and would like to take this opportunity to explain how we, as a committee, got to where we are as regards to the Foundation and Stan's Benefit Match and to allay some of the fears expressed by some of the fans that the Club has in some way been obstructive in getting the match on. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Benefit Match sees Premiership opposition at Loftus Road. Not only that, but in Bournemouth we have a team that plays open and attractive football. To get Bournemouth as the opposition is a fantastic achievement and the Club's involvement in making this game happen should not be underestimated.

In the months leading up to the finalisation of the opposition, the Club and the owners have been instrumental in the formation of *The QPR No. 10 Foundation*. There has been talk in the past of a Foundation but previous owners of the Club did not see this as a matter of any great importance. Our current owners, with the full support of our CEO Lee Hoos, saw things differently. The Foundation is a fantastic new initiative. It is innovative and born out of the planned Benefit Match. The clue to the synergy between the two is in the title. The shirt number 10 is special at QPR and has been worn by some fantastic players but Stan will always be the most fondly remembered of all the number 10's, so it is fitting that the Foundation is coming into fruition at around the same time as Stan's Benefit Match.

However, in coming about at the same time as Stan's Benefit Match it has possibly caused some confusion amongst fans who may have been thinking that the Benefit Match proceeds were solely for Stan. Whilst Stan will be the first beneficiary of funds generated from the Benefit Match, government and charity trust rulings do not allow Stan to be the sole beneficiary. The recent press release from the Club explains how the Foundation is structured.

This is my 50th year of supporting QPR. Like so many others, I idolised Stan when he played for us and I have been lucky enough to know Stan as a friend for many years when his playing days were over. He has supported the soccer schools that I ran many years ago and attended many charity functions with me over the years, and in doing so raising an inordinate amount of money for these charities.

As a member of the official committee I can wholeheartedly vouch for the assistance and integrity shown to Stan's cause by Lee Hoos and all of the personnel within the Club. I have organised testimonials and benefit events in the past and they are not easy to organise. It is not as easy as simply picking a date and opposition as some fans might think. That might work in a Fantasy Football situation but it does not work in reality. Finding a suitable date and suitable opposition, is a most difficult task and one that becomes even more difficult when one has to ensure that the Club and the committee complies at all times with the rigorous rules and regulations that HMRC have in place, as well as abiding by the strict guidelines as set by the Charity Act.

The Club has also recently gone to great lengths to explain the ticket pricing strategy for the Benefit Match. I can categorically state that what we end up with is truly the best pricing structure that enables Stan to benefit to the maximum financially, given the strict parameters the Foundation will have to work within. Solicitors and accountants have all been engaged to ensure that the best structure is in best. I would not have stayed on the committee had it been otherwise.

Some fans might immediately pick up on the wording within that Club statement that explains the ticket pricing that talks of a minimum amount of £15,000 going towards the new Foundation. This is the wording required to make the statement HMRC compliant. The plan is for Stan to get the greater part of the £15,000 and this is just a minimum expected figure. With the good will and support of the fans we should achieve considerably more than that. The purpose of the Foundation is to take care of the needs of deserving players and that includes ongoing care, no matter how long that takes. The simple reality, to get this £15,000 figure higher, is for more fans to come along on the day and also for more fans to donate extra via Gift Aid.

Gift Aid is a fantastic tool in the fundraising arena and is the way we can increase incoming amounts by 25% (a fantastic percentage increase). The Club is making Gift Aid available for you to donate more than the standard ticket price so please use it if you can and please encourage others to use it.

At the end of the day, we want to make sure we raise and continue to raise enough money to take care of Stan.

We, as a committee working for Stan and the Benefit Match, fully endorse what the Club has proposed and thank Lee Hoos and all at the Club for working so hard alongside us towards the ultimate goal of ensuring that gate receipts and donations are able to be used in the most tax efficient of ways.

At present there is £27,921 in Stan's gofundme account. With Stan getting the greater proportion of the £15,000 minimum that we hope that the Benefit Match generates from straight gate revenue, together with the recent fundraising initiatives, will get us to around £45,000. We have the opportunity to get that figure to beyond £100,000 if as many of you as possible top up the ticket price by the Gift Aid donation route. Even at £20 (the £12 ticket price plus say a £8 donation) your admission would be considered cheap when compared against other such events – you will be seeing your beloved QPR pit our wits and skills against Premiership opposition. You will be able to see how we are placed for the coming season and you will be helping Stan. It will be the first game at Loftus Road since the end of the season AND the sun should be shining. So that has to be worth £20 plus of anyone's money.

Colin Hale