

Letter from the President

Members,

It was another great year to be a member of OLSC Raleigh. We had our first official group trip to Anfield, and despite conceding a late goal against Bournemouth to settle for a draw, it was an incredible atmosphere and memory that all attendees will cherish. We also were able to host Steve Nicol at the pub, which was a personal highlight for me. We introduced our 5-year anniversary scarves which were quickly snatched up and no longer available. As the holidays approached to close out the year, we produced a limited-edition Raleigh jersey in white with green letters. They were made available at my favorite event of the year, the annual holiday party. The annual potluck holiday party is easily my favorite match at the pub, mostly because we get some great raffle prizes to give out to our membership. I want to personally thank my wife Tori, winner of a raffle ticket that she "smartly" used to grab the signed Dejan Lovren kit instead of the still-available tickets to Anfield for the Stoke City match. Ian Storrs thanks her for that as well!! LOL!!



I am excited for the prospects of another great year in 2018. We have some fantastic things to share in this newsletter. As always, my door is open to new suggestions. I may not always be at the pub on matchday, but you can email me at kkendra@lfcraleigh.com. Thank you for all that you do to make Raleigh probably the best OLSC on the planet! YNWA.

Ken Kendra

Steve Nicol Comes to Raleigh!!!

Last April, the club invited former LFC legendary defender Steve Nicol to the London Bridge Pub for another fantastic evening. Steve arrived to tell some fantastic stories back in his glory days, signed autographs, took pictures with our members, then joined a few V.I.P. members for dinner at Oro.



It was an incredible evening that everyone enjoyed. We hope to continue this tradition of bringing Liverpool legends to Raleigh in the future.

Are you an aspiring writer looking for an outlet to unleash your creativity? LFC Raleigh is always looking for talented bloggers to add great Liverpool content on our website. Send us a sample of your writing or just email kkendra@lfcraleigh.com if you are interested to give it a shot! YNWA!

LFC Raleigh Holiday Party!!!

The annual LFC Raleigh holiday potluck party was held on Sunday December 17th as Liverpool played at Bournemouth. It was another fantastic day of fun as members brought their favorite dishes to share as we watched the Reds smash the Cherries 4-0 with some incredible goals in the process. Once again, we were able to secure some great raffle prizes from Jamie Carragher's 23 Foundation.



Colin Russell walked out with a new Mo Salah home kit, while Ian Storrs was the big winner getting two tickets to the upcoming home match at Anfield as Liverpool face Stoke City in late April.

In all, **LFC Raleigh were able to sell enough raffle tickets to donate \$1,200 to the 23 Foundation.** Great job, Raleigh Reds!!!!

LFC Raleigh Shirts

We have a limited number of our popular Raleigh T-shirts still available for purchase. Cost is \$15 per shirt and we have red, black, and white shirts. Not all sizes are still available. Contact us for details.



Match of the Month

Starting with Sunday February 4th as LFC host Tottenham Hotspurs, LFC Raleigh is proud to announce our "Match of the Month" for members. Once per month, after the TV networks manipulate the starting times for matches two months in advance, LFC Raleigh will offer a special incentive for members to come down to the pub for the match. For the Spurs match, all members get one free drink courtesy of the club. The pub will graciously donate food as well. The March MOTM will be Saturday morning **March 10th at 7:30 AM** for the always exciting fixture against Manchester United. We have signed memorabilia to raffle off for that match. Stay tuned for future dates.

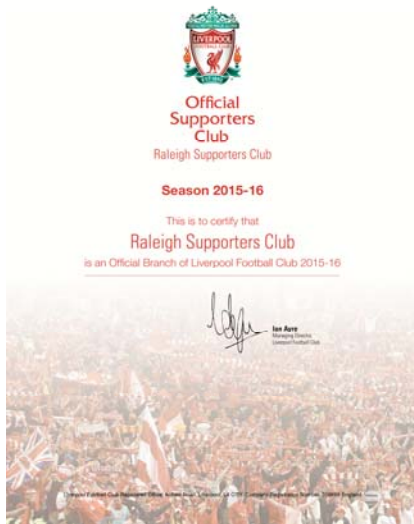


Come to the pub for a match, and you might just end up bringing home a cool framed picture of The Normal One.

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What Does 'Membership' Mean?

Anyone that has been around us long enough understands that membership can mean two different things. First, there is LFC membership. This is from the parent club in the U.K. direct and it offers a wide range of benefits. In order for us to maintain official branch status, we need at least 15 official LFC members.



Membership is also required if you want to take advantage of ticketing opportunities through our club. Visit <http://www.liverpoolfc.com/membership/home> if you want more details. LFC Raleigh is the local club for fans that support Liverpool in the Raleigh-Durham area. Membership dues will be owed before the next season kicks off. For more details please visit our website or contact us by email at membership@lfcraleigh.com

Cup of Tea w/ The Anfield Wrap

Raleigh Red members Robert Overman, Dan Franklin, and Ken Kendra got to meet Neil Atkinson and John Gibbons from the popular podcast group The Anfield Wrap. They brought us into the studio for their weekly show "Cup of Tea" to talk about our experiences as American fans of Liverpool Football Club traveling abroad to watch a football match. Ken even got to plug his book about LFC pubs and clubs in America, "Walking Through the Storm" (available on Amazon, hint hint). The episode is still available in their archives, so if you subscribe then give it a listen!



LFC Raleigh Scarves

To celebrate our club's 5th year in existence, OLSC Raleigh released a limited-edition scarf for all members. The "5 years 5 times!" scarf helps commemorate our five wonderful years in existence along with LFC's return to the Champions League, which of course we have won 5 times!



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Raleigh Members go to Anfield

One of the key benefits to membership of OLSC Raleigh is the ability to procure tickets to upcoming matches during the season.

How does it work? It's quite simple, as long as you can start planning well in advance. For ticket allocation, the club splits the season into two halves, before and after January 1. Once the schedule is released in the summer, the club immediately starts accepting ticket requests from OLSC branches for matches before January 1. There typically isn't much time to get the requests in, so you need to be on the ball. If our request is granted, you are not financially obligated to purchase the tickets until about six weeks prior to the match. If you think that you will be in England and want to catch a match, there is nothing to lose by requesting tickets. If you can't make it for some reason, there is no penalty and the tickets will be reassigned. Ticket allocation for matches after January 1 usually occurs in mid-October.



Back in April, a group of six Raleigh Reds traveled across the pond to watch the 2-2 match against Bournemouth. Our seats were fantastic right behind the Anfield Road end goal which Philippe Coutinho scored a great goal.



Earlier this season, Steve Quasny was able to get three tickets to the home opener against Crystal Palace for his family to enjoy. In November, Colin Anderson brought his father to Anfield for the first time ever as they watched the Reds dismantle Southampton 3-0. Later this season we have other members going to see the Stoke City and Brighton matches respectively.



Colin Anderson and Ken Kendra at the Southampton match in November. We enjoyed a few pints at the Sandon before the match!

Social Media

Join us on our Facebook page by requesting permission to join "LFC Raleigh" and enjoy the forums with other Raleigh Reds. For up-to-the-minute news updates, follow us on Twitter @LFCRaleigh. And as always, go to our website <http://www.lfcraleigh.com> and sign up to get on our email distribution list.

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Liverpool Returning to North America This Summer?????

While nothing official has been announced, it is expected that Liverpool will be returning to North America for the preseason in 2018. The club has gotten into a rotational habit alternating preseason trips to Asia (home of their shirt sponsors Standard Chartered) and North America (home of the owners). Last year they spent time in Hong Kong and Europe. Two years ago the club traveled west to play matches in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and St. Louis. It seems logical that they will return to North America to continue the trend. If they choose to return to this continent, speculation is that they will remain on the east coast, northeast most likely. Boston is always a fun place to visit in the summer!! In any event, nothing is official yet. But keep this in mind as you make your summer vacation plans! The club always provides excellent opportunities for OLSC members to meet and greet current players and old legends. If you can fit it into your plans, you'll be glad you did.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for our club will be held on Sunday February 4th at 11 AM, prior to kickoff of our match against Spurs. All issues and club matters are open for discussion. If you have any interest to support the club with volunteer work, please let someone in the club's Organizational Committee know. Your current leadership team:

Ken Kendra, President

Colin Russell, Vice-President and Social Media

Sean Dotzauer, Secretary

Dan Franklin, Treasurer

Darren Bridger, Pub Liaison

Don't Live in Raleigh??

Are you a Reds fan living in North Carolina, but too far away from downtown Raleigh to visit for each match? Do you have another pub closer to home that you will go to instead? LET US KNOW!! We'd love to be able to add your favorite pubs to our website so that other fans that live nearby can share in the experience of watching the Reds with other fans. Specifically, we are hoping that our Wilmington area fans will find a home pub where others can join in the fun. Email kkendra@lfcraleigh.com if you want to share this info with us!

Other North American OLSC's

If you are traveling around the continent and want to watch the Reds at a friendly pub, know that the following cities currently have official clubs chartered by the club:

Atlanta	Minneapolis
Austin	New England – Sutton, Mass.
Baltimore	New Haven (Conn.)
Boston	New York City
Calgary	Omaha
Carlsbad, CA	Orange County, CA
Charlotte	Orlando
Charlottesville, VA	Pasadena
Chicago	Philadelphia
Cincinnati	Phoenix
Columbus	Pittsburgh
Dallas	Puerto Rico
Denver	Richmond
Detroit	St. Louis
Durham (Canada)	San Antonio
Florida – Miami	San Diego
Houston	San Francisco
Indianapolis	Seattle
Kansas City	South Carolina
Kentucky	Tampa
Los Angeles	Toronto
Milwaukee	Vancouver
	Washington, D.C.

Contact us if you are headed to one of these cities and we will make sure you are looked after at their pub for a match.

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