



2015 Annual LFC Raleigh Newsletter



Official Liverpool FC Supporters Club (OLSC) in Raleigh-Durham, NC

Letter from the President

Members,

2014 was a fantastic year for LFC Raleigh! Between trips to Anfield, getting recognized as an official branch, and traveling to Charlotte as one of the largest-represented branches at a preseason match, it is extremely difficult for me to pinpoint my favorite moment from last season. The mere fact that I am struggling to prioritize my favorite moments is a testament to how surreal this really is. Two things come to mind: (1) We couldn't have done this without our local supporters. This club is for YOU! And we will continue to plan with that in mind. (2) How do we improve in 2015? I have no clue if we can come close, but I promise you that we'll try damn hard to do so! If you have any ideas, questions or concerns, please email me at kkendra@lfcraleigh.com. Most importantly, get down to the pub to cheer the boys on!

YNWA,

Ken Kendra

Watching the Reds at the Pub

The best way to experience what it's like to be a Raleigh Red is to join us at the London Bridge Pub on matchday. The pub is located at 110 E.Hargett Street in downtown Raleigh. 2014 was a banner year for the club as we pushed for our first Premier League title. It showed with great numbers at the pub all season long. Let's keep it up in 2015!



LFC Raleigh goes to Anfield!

Last February saw the leadership of LFC Raleigh make a pilgrimage across the pond to visit the hallowed grounds of Anfield Road. In the process, we were fortunate enough to get six seats together in the Kop to witness the 5-1 thrashing of the Arsenal as we took an early 4-0 lead before 20 minutes passed.



Later in the week we traveled to Craven Cottage and saw the club come back from a 2-1 deficit to score two late goals, including a late Steven Gerrard penalty en route a 3-2 victory. Great times indeed, and certainly a trip we hope everyone in the club gets to experience! See page 3 if you want to get tickets!

LFC Raleigh Gets Recognized!!!

The day after we defeated Newcastle in the final game of last year, we received word from Liverpool Football Club that our application for recognition as an Official LFC Supporters Club (OLSC) had been approved. What an incredible achievement for a club that formed with a chance meeting at a Boston pub in July 2012! We made the concerted effort to apply for official status in October 2013, and were able to reap the benefits as the 210th official branch in May. Your Organizational Committee to make it all happen was Ken Kendra, Colin Russell, Darren Bridger, Mike Ruiz, Dan Franklin and Sean Dotzauer. If you have any questions about club policy or events, let us know via email, Facebook or just tell us next time you're at the pub for a match. One of us will be there!

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!



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Liverpool comes to Charlotte

The 2014 LFC Pre-season tour brought the club to Charlotte for a weekend match against AC Milan. With this opportunity over 100 Raleigh Reds made the short drive to enjoy the many events associated with this weekend. Fans got to meet players for autograph sessions at Whisky River and Dunkin Donuts, watched the club practice on the stadium pitch the night before, and began the pregame festivities with a lunch party at Ri Ra.



In all it was a fantastic weekend for everyone involved, and I think we showed the club that North Carolina is most definitely a **RED** state!!

LFC Raleigh Scarves

Falling in line with other chapters, this fall LFC Raleigh went ahead and ordered 100 scarves for our members to show their local colors in support of the Reds! With the club-mandated logo rebranding, these scarves **will become rarities!** We only have a limited number left. Cost is \$20 (\$18 for LFC Raleigh members) each. If you haven't gotten yours by now, be sure to inquire for one next time at the pub!

LFC Raleigh Holiday Party!!!

LFC Raleigh hosted our first holiday party with a potluck lunch on Dec 21 at the pub. The team played Arsenal to a 2-2 draw with late heroics from Martin Skrtel's header to equalize, but the food was exquisite and something to behold.



We were able to secure some great raffle prizes from Jamie Carragher's 23 Foundation. Signed Carragher autobiographies were won by Stephen White and Patrick Montgomery, a Carragher-signed match programme from the 2005 Champions League final in Istanbul was



won by Sean Dotzauer, a Gerrard/Carragher signed LFC jersey was won by Peter Gallagher, and the Gerrard-signed home jersey was won by Darren Bridger who will be displaying this great prize framed on the wall of the London Bridge Pub. In all, **LFC Raleigh were able to sell enough raffle tickets to donate \$1,350 to the 23 Foundation.** Great job, Raleigh Reds!!!!

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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. As of this writing, we have 28.

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 about how to join and what specific benefits you get. LFC Raleigh is the local club for fans that support Liverpool in the Raleigh-Durham area. We charge an annual fee of \$10, and membership will get you access to special events throughout the year, as well as 10% off official LFC Raleigh merchandise (like scarves and shirts). For more details please email us at membership@lfcraleigh.com.

North American Convention??

As you may know by now, Liverpool will be conducting its summer preseason in Asia/Australia. That doesn't necessarily mean that you can't get your LFC fix this summer! In conjunction with the other official branches, preliminary discussions are being held to have our first LFC Supporter's convention in late July or early August. Specific details like location and legend availability are being worked out now, but the three most popular ideas are Las Vegas, Orlando and Chicago. Stay tuned to our website, email and social media as details become available.

Anfield Ticket Opportunities

Did you know that as an official member of LFC Raleigh and LFC that you can have the opportunity to request tickets for league home matches at Anfield? Two of our members are taking advantage of this opportunity and will be lucky enough to witness Stevie Gerrard's final game at Anfield against Crystal Palace in May. You *must* be a member of both LFC (not international) and LFC Raleigh to participate. Contact us if you are interested to learn more!

Bruce Grobbelaar coming to Raleigh!



Save the Date! **On Friday April 3rd**, LFC Raleigh will welcome our first club Legend to spend some time with us at the London Bridge Pub. **Bruce Grobbelaar** played goalkeeper for Liverpool from 1981-1994, making 628 appearances for the club (ranking 9th all-time). With LFC he's won 6 league titles, 3 FA Cups, 3 League Cups, and the 1984 European Cup (defeating Roma in penalties in their home stadium). He will be telling stories from the glory days, answering questions, taking photographs and signing autographs at the pub. This will be a ticketed event for LFC Raleigh members only (tickets to cost \$20 each), so make sure you have paid your dues if you want to take part in this exciting opportunity. The pub will be closed to the general public at 7 PM, with Bruce taking the spotlight near 8:30 and conclude whenever he gets tired of us. Expect a late night with great fun with a living Liverpool legend!

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 stay connected with email updates.

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