



The Supporters Club is a part of ITFC itself, and we are grateful for the support of ITFC in many of our activities. We receive no financial assistance at all, and our Committee are all volunteers.

This note explains the role of the Supporters Club – it begins with our formal “objectives and purpose” from our constitution, and then outlines our main activities.

No one is forced to take part in activities. Most fans simply want to go to matches, maybe have lunch or a drink with friends and family. Others like to be part of a branch, especially those who live a distance away from Ipswich. Around 2,000 fans take part in one or more Supporters Club activities during the course of the year, and well over 100 are active branch committee members, organising events and travel for their members.

***Extract from our constitution:***

**“Objectives and Purpose of the Club**

- 1.1. To encourage the support of Ipswich Town Football Club (hereinafter called “the Football Club”) throughout the community, in Ipswich, the region, nationally and internationally.
- 1.2. To represent the views of the membership directly to the Football Club and to help the Football Club to respond to the membership in a way that supports mutual respect and understanding.
- 1.3. To work with the Football Club to help to progress its own aims, objectives and development, including assistance with projects where fan support is required and to work to develop new ideas for mutual benefit.
- 1.4. To promote the interest of the supporters of Ipswich Town Football Club (hereinafter called “the supporters”) both in their relationship with the Football Club and more widely in the football industry.
- 1.5. To encourage and maintain acceptable standards of conduct by members of the Club and the wider supporter base.
- 1.6. To encourage supporters’ social activities.
- 1.7. To encourage supporters’ travel to football matches.
- 1.8. To encourage friendly relations with supporters of all football clubs.”

**IPSWICH TOWN SUPPORTERS CLUB**  
Portman Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2DA

Tel: 07968 876504 email: [itfc78@btinternet.com](mailto:itfc78@btinternet.com) or [supporters@itfc.co.uk](mailto:supporters@itfc.co.uk)  
website: [www.itfcsupporters.co.uk](http://www.itfcsupporters.co.uk)



### **Membership**

- Over 15,000, including all season ticket holders, silver club members, junior blues and members of branches
- Membership is free – it is up to each member whether they take part in events or not

### **Main Supporters Club**

- A part of ITFC, though run independently by volunteers
- Coordinates branches and worldwide membership, and runs Player Awards Evening, Supporters Themed Day and AGM with Club Q&A
- Committee meets regularly to organise events and ensure branches and wider membership's issues are addressed
- Branches invited to attend most committee meetings and have a vote at the meeting
- Club official attends each meeting to discuss club issues
- Meetings are occasionally held on a matchday so as to involve branches from outside the region.

### **Branch Network**

- Coordinates 33 branches across Suffolk, UK and world – some, especially the smaller or further-away branches – need more help than others. Others, mostly local and well-established run themselves without central involvement
- Branches have committees – some charge membership fees, some don't
- All branches are self sufficient:
  - Independent financially and in organisation
  - Free to set their own agenda as long as it is consistent with ITFC/ITSC core principles
- Local branches tend to organise coach travel to home (and some away) games, fund raising activities, socials etc
- Branches further away tend to do car shares, pre-match meets, and make greater use of social media to keep in touch with far-flung membership.
- Main committee helps branches with requests for club support (e.g. response to questions or issues, speakers at branch events) and club memorabilia for fundraising
- New branches are always welcome



### **Transport**

- Some branches run coaches to home games and some, occasionally, to away games – most struggle to breakeven on this – for example, one branch subsidises their coach travel through a wide programme of fundraising activities
- Note that the Supporters Club does not run the official away transport (Galloways) – this is run by ITFC at cost
- We did work with ITFC, Ipswich buses to see if anything could be set up across the region as per Norwich and Charlton but both these clubs lost / lose a lot of money.
- ITFC has arranged for deals on local buses on a matchday if season tickets are shown.

### **Overseas fans**

- Jon Craig is our Overseas Co-ordinator
- Arranges meetings with club officers ground visits for overseas fans
- Helps overseas supporters when visiting Portman Road (and away games), with advice re tickets, pubs, people - joining them on pub-crawls and curries
- Give them a chance to contribute to the matchday programme
- Coordinates contact between overseas branches

### **Events**

- Player Awards Evening for up to 300 people, open to all members, including awards for Player of the Year, young Player of the Year, and for all debutants, also Young Fan of the year
- Player of the Year voting, collecting over 10,000 votes at the ground plus a further 2,000 votes online
- Organises Supporters themed day (a new event, annual since 2010), with lunchtime social with club representatives from management and players, post-match events in Legends and evening socials
- AGM with club officials, usually including ITFC's CEO and Manager
- Book signings in Legends, giving fans a chance to meet recent and not-so-recent players, collect autographs, have photos taken and chat



### **Relationship with ITFC**

- Liaison with club safety, stewards and police when complaints are received from home and away fans
- Sounding board for ITFC when looking at impact on supporters of club decisions
  - e.g. what could the club do to ensure the Sir Bobby Robson commemorations were appropriate, respectful and in line with fans views – ITSC held a meeting to discuss, and included the independent Supporters Trust, with Phil Ham also contributing ideas from [www.twtd.co.uk](http://www.twtd.co.uk)
- Provides point of contact for fans' queries to club, puts them in touch with the right people and follows up. Fans can, of course, contact the club directly, but many don't know who to contact or how best to approach club people.
- Three members of the ITSC committee attend the club's supporters forum
- Represents fanbase at events such as wreath-laying, Sir Bobby Robson memorial service, charity presentations, civic events, funerals and memorials

### **Communications**

- Letter to all members with season ticket/membership mailings along with branch and committee contact details
- Central and many branch events are advertised in the matchday programme
- Use of local papers, radio, the ITFC website – and [www.twtd.co.uk](http://www.twtd.co.uk) - to advertise events
- Flyers in various outlets in ground
- The ITSC website is being revamped – it is mainly used for branch and central contact details and links to branch websites and events – it deliberately does not provide match reports, editorial or a messageboard – the official site provides most of this, and [www.twtd.co.uk](http://www.twtd.co.uk) does the rest – moderating a messageboard is a near-full-time job in any case
- Representatives are in Legends Bar after every Saturday home game, enabling any fan to come along, meet us and raise any issues
- Has a dedicated phone number (+44 (0) 7968 876504 and email address [itsc78@btinternet.com](mailto:itsc78@btinternet.com)

### **Media**

- Co-ordinates 3 pages in every home programme. This includes organising the away fan, our own column, a fans' debate, and info on branches and other activities
- Most branches have websites and/or facebook pages.
- Responds to media requests - TV, radio and print media - for official supporter views on ITFC issues