



The Sunderland Supporters Heaven Branch Constitution

Name

The name of the group shall be The Sunderland Supporters Heaven Branch known here-after as The Heaven Branch.

Aims of the group

A branch where Sunderland supporters that have passed away can be joined by their family and friends. To embrace continuing bond theory in that when someone dies our relationship with them does not end, but it slowly changes over time.

The bond can remain just as strong, we aim to use the common love of Sunderland in activities, information sharing and storytelling to help maintain bonds. We aim to bring together those left behind to form a community, for them to feel safe to share and grieve using the love of Sunderland football club as a common bond holding everyone together.

The Branch will be inclusive to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion, or belief, gender, race religion or age.

Powers

To further our aim the group may exercise the following powers:

- open a bank account.
- raise awareness of the group among other voluntary and statutory groups, so that new and existing initiatives can be identified, and to exchange information and advice with them.
- raise funds by means of contributions, grants, and fundraising, by lawful means
- to maintain the memorial space at The Stadium of Light
- work with other groups that may benefit our members.
- all funds and property of the group shall be used solely to promote its objectives as set forth within this constitution.
- organise events.



Membership

- Membership to the Heaven Branch is for those who have passed away, their family / friend will receive a certificate of eternal membership on their behalf. Membership is requested by a friend or family member by simply sending a self-addressed envelope to **15 Norfolk Street, Sunderland, SR1 1EA.**

The person nominating the member will then be the identified representative for this member and their address will be used for any correspondence. The eternal member's name will also be placed on our memorial page on our website.

- Family, friends, and other members of the public can be Facebook group members, this is not the same as an official heaven Branch membership.

The Facebook Group is a place to share stories, photos, memories, and anniversaries of loved ones. All members are required to answer 3 questions relating to group rules before being accepted on the page.

The 3 questions are;

1. Are you a family or friend of a Sunderland supporter?
2. Do you wish to join a loved one to the branch or just be a member of the page?
3. This is a safe and supportive group and I agree to be respectful of others.

Heavenly Committee

The heavenly committee is made up of fans who are no longer with us who lived and breathed Sunderland Football Club:

Fred Taylor - Chair

Keith Charlton - Vice Chair

David Dent - Secretary

Ray Heslop - Transport Manager

Louise Wanless – Club Representative

Bradley Lowery – Branch Mascot

Brian Leng – Branch Historian

Arthur Wright – Branch Patron



Earthly Committee

An earthly management committee will support the branch in its administration, sharing ideas fundraising and events.

The earthly management committee consists of;

Joanne Youngson - Chair

Billy Wright – Secretary

Gaz Nash – Treasurer

Gordon Armstrong – Committee

Chris Tague – Committee

Rob Mason – Committee

David Newham – Committee

Cessation of Membership

The Committee shall have the right, for good and proper reason, to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member shall have the right to be heard by the Committee before the decision is made. These include:

- working against the aims of the group
- disorderly conduct
- discrimination in any shape or form

Meetings

The committee shall meet at least 3 times a year. Meetings shall enable the Group to discuss actions and monitor progress to date, and to consider future developments.

All members shall be given at least fourteen (14) days notice of when a meeting is due to take place unless it is deemed as an emergency.

Two-thirds of committee members must be present in order for a meeting to take place and this may be attended virtually.



Finance

Any money acquired by the Branch, including donations, contributions, and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Management Committee in the name of the Branch.

All funds must be used for the purpose of the branch and for no other purpose. The bank account shall be opened in the name of the Branch which will be maintained by 2 signatories from the earthly management committee.

Dissolution

If the committee, by a simple majority, deem it advisable to dissolve the group, it shall call a meeting of all the members of the group, giving not less than 14 days' notice. If such a decision is confirmed by a majority of those present, then all the assets of the group shall be transferred to another local voluntary group or community group with similar aims.

Alteration to the Constitution

Any proposal to amend the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary 21 days before an Annual General Meeting or a special meeting can be called.

A resolution can only be passed by two thirds of the members present and voting at such a meeting.

This constitution was adopted on 30/03/23 by the persons in the earthly management committee whose signatures appear at the bottom of this document.

Signed

Joanne Youngson26/03/23

Billy Wright..... 29/03/23

Gaz Nash..... 27/03/23

Gordon Armstrong30/03/23

Chris Tague28/03/23

Rob Mason28/03/23

David Newham 11/04/2023