

Dear Mister Gallas,

I write to you on behalf of Arsenal Supporters' group REDaction. We are a group of Arsenal fans that came together with the intention of retaining the noise and atmosphere that make match days at The Arsenal a special occasion. We sit in the North West corner of the stadium, which I'm sure the players are already familiar with as this is where most of the singing comes from now!

Firstly, I would like to start by congratulating you on being awarded the position of club captain for the season ahead and offering you our best wishes of support in your new role.

Secondly, we would like to ask you – as captain - to pass on our thoughts on a certain issue which we believe to be of great importance not just to us in REDaction but also Arsenal fans as a whole.

As you will be aware, The Arsenal is a club steeped in history and tradition. One of these traditions, which was made famous by Herbert Chapman's side in the 1930s, is that the players line up in the centre circle to clap all four sides of the ground before kick off, both home and away. With the pre-match Premiership handshakes that currently take place, this seems to be a routine that has been somewhat lost in the last couple of years. We would like to emphasise to you the importance of this gesture, not only as a show of appreciation to the paying supporters, but also as one of the small things the players can do to help raise the atmosphere by making the fans feel part of the action.

We at REDaction would be very grateful if you could find the time to stress to the other first team players the significance of clapping the fans at the traditional pre-match times (both when clapping the four sides of the stadium and when they hear their name sung prior to kick off) and also after games; particularly away from home when we have travelled long distances to support the team.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul G Lawrence (on behalf of the REDaction Supporters' Group).