

Chair's report for AGM on 6 December 2018

This chair's report covers LOFT's most recent trading year, from June 2017 to May 2018. It says a lot about how much has happened at Leyton Orient in such a short space of time, that the start of that year was under the previous club regime!

Suffice it to say that where we are now is a lot different to then!

What the past 18 months have shown beyond doubt is that O's fans are at the heart of the club's rebirth. Not just the fact that the chairman Nigel Travis is a long-standing fan, but also the culture that he and the board have put in place - a club board that recognises the importance of fans' views, that actually acts on feedback received, and understands the part we can all play in helping Leyton Orient to succeed.

When we campaigned under the slogan "we want our club back", this is what we meant!

Over the past year, LOFT's board has continued to do what it has done for the past 17 years – represent you, LOFT's members. While the club, and in particular Danny Macklin as CEO, has shown that they will listen to individual fans' views, one of the cornerstones of a supporters' trust is to be able to engage on behalf of more than just the individual. That's what we've done and will continue to do.

In the past year we've worked closely with the Supporters Club around Nigel Travis' pledge of fan representation on the board. Although we're not in a position to go into this further now, as discussions with the club are continuing, I can assure members that we all – LOFT, LOSC and the club – want an outcome that treats all fans with respect.

Also over the past year, we've put a lot of time into making sure we treated the monies raised in the Regeneration Fund in a legally-correct manner. Peter will go into the specifics in his Treasurer's report, but I'm happy to report that we did everything we said we'd do at the SGM in late March, where members approved the refund process.

I'd like to take a moment here to thank all of you for however much you pay to join LOFT – whether it's the minimum of £1 or more. All those pounds, fivers, tenners and more add up and enabled us to make a £3,000 donation to the club recently from our general funds to help it with its unbudgeted East Stand repairs. The Regeneration Funds given back to our general funds for football community projects are additional to this, and we'll discuss later our initial thoughts on what to spend this on – and of course your views are welcome too.

On that note, I'd like to hand over now to Peter to talk more about money...