

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, Pandamonium Fanzine editor and LOFT trustee Mat Roper met with the CEO of Leyton Orient, Alessandro Angelieri and the new operations manager Vito Miceli.

The purpose of the meeting, much like previous fans forums, was to discuss the concerns that many fans had, had over the course of the last 12 months and to talk about new initiatives such as the “community meeting” held between supporters, the club and the Leyton Orient Trust just a week earlier.

First and foremost, I am pleased to say that Alessandro pulled no punches in his own assessment of what had gone wrong at Brisbane Road since the takeover last summer.

Whilst many supporters will agree that some of what was discussed has to remain confidential, Alessandro explained in more depth those errors, but more importantly the plans he, along with the president, were putting in place to ensure there would be no further repetition.

“Last season we made errors, and unfortunate as it is, we cannot turn the clock back and change history. We appreciate the supporters of Leyton Orient and we want them to work with us, starting with a blank canvas again. We have identified that we needed an English manager, and one who knows this level of football, as well as making several changes behind the scenes to ensure that we can make Leyton Orient successful again, and we would count on the support of the fans to help us do this all together”

“I wish personally to communicate with the supporters and listen to their views. It will not always be possible to give a reply to everyone but through things such as the fans forums and the newly appointed SLO [Supporters Liaison Officer] we can have a two way dialogue, helping both the supporters and the club to achieve the one common aim. Mr Becchetti himself remains fully committed to the project we have set ourselves and will this season have much more of a presence in and around the club. I sincerely hope, as well, to confirm in the early part of the season that the president will meet with the fans forum to discuss our plans and how we hope to achieve them”

This was, in my personal opinion, a hugely encouraging dialogue. Alessandro didn't try to hide away from the mistakes made, but did cite quite correctly that's what's done is done and we need to start again. Twelve months into the job, he, along with others have learnt the hard way, but continue to gain experience, whilst remaining committed to doing their upmost for the benefit of Leyton Orient FC and I, along with others, will hopefully fully support him in doing so.

The acid test, of course, comes this year. Actions, do of course, speak far louder than words and it will be the actions of such custodians of the football club that they will be judged on.

However, after one year of doom and gloom, the O's could be ready to (to use that now defunct tag line) “rise again”, and with Alessandro and other members of the club staff pulling in the same direction along with the fans, then the coming weeks, months and years in E10 could be hugely exciting and won't be for the lack of trying.

I personally would like to thank Alessandro for taking the time to meet me and I urge O's fans everywhere to support both the team and the club, as well as other new initiatives that are in the pipeline, all of which are either being announced or will be announced in due course.

*Unlike previous fans forums meetings, a full set of notes will not be available, however Orient supporters are invited to make comment, and if anyone has any questions regarding the meeting then they are advised to direct these to Mat Roper on the following email – [pandafanzine1881@gmail.com](mailto:pandafanzine1881@gmail.com)*