



FOLLOWING the regrettable events of the last 18 months the Robins Trust wants to take an opportunity to speak directly to the board of directors and more importantly the supporters of Cheltenham Town Football Club.

The Robins Trust is currently the 11th biggest shareholder in Cheltenham Town Football Club and has an ever increasing shareholding,.

Since the end of the 2007/8 financial year, the Trust has, without question, invested the sum of £9,714 in the football club, honouring our commitment to invest our raised funds into the club.

However the Trust board believe that the continued investment should come with some guarantees and the voice of the fans should be listened to.

The Robins Trust was founded in 2005 with the aims of achieving a greater say for supporters in the running of Cheltenham Town Football Club.

One of the intrinsic beliefs of the Robins Trust is that the supporters should be given a greater say in the running of the club.

Back in 2005, few would argue that Cheltenham Town was a well run, stable football club with a trustworthy manager and a tireless board of directors who had worked wonders to get the club into and flourish in the professional ranks.

However the events of the past year have forced us to question some of the decisions made by the CTFC board.

The past 18 months have seen the club relegated, post a record loss of nearly £400,000, go to the brink of administration and more importantly have it's once proud reputation damaged.

Therefore, we feel the time is now right to ask that the board of directors become more accountable to the club's most important stakeholder – the supporters.

During the time period mentioned, the information coming from the board has been minimal, in fact the only time the chairman has spoken with the supporters directly is at the Trust AGM in November 2008.

With the club no longer having an AGM of it's own, or even opting to announce the latest set of accounts publicly, they can no longer claim to be representative of the majority of the supporters.

As the Trust continues in it's attempts to fight the corner of the majority of supporters, Paul Baker has agreed to attend the Robins Trust AGM on Thursday 26th November at Cheltenham Town Football Club from 7pm and will be available with the manager at that time to hold a fans forum to answer some of these questions.

We have lobbied the board for regular meetings and have, held a private meeting with Paul Baker to discuss the aims of the Trust and the Club's 2008 accounts and now have been given the opportunity to present our plans to a board meeting at the end of November.

We have also raised officially for the first time to the board of directors our aim to have a democratically elected supporters' representative on the board of directors.

While the events of the past 18 months have been regrettable it is of course worth stating the magnificent job that the club's board have done in the past 15 years, and in particular the efforts of Paul Baker, who has consistently bankrolled our entertainment during that time.

However we feel the time is now right for the Trust, as the representatives of the supporters, and the current board of directors to work together to help the club go forward and ensure that the events of the last 18 months aren't; repeated.

To do this we need you, the supporters to aid our cause.

Trust membership is available for just £12 per year. Each and every new member makes the possibility of a supporters' representative on the board of directors possible.

Membership forms will be available at the next two home games, and at all times via www.robintrust.org.