

Most supporters will have by now been made aware of the club filing their intent to appoint an administrator. No doubt events will unfold between the writing of this article and today's match against Southend. At the time of writing, your Supporters Trust issued the following press release:

*"All fans of the club are aware of the financial position we are in at present. By taking this step the club has brought some time for negotiations with investors to continue.*

*The Supporters Trust has two representatives on the main board and we have been informed as to the current position.*

*The Trust along with the main board are totally committed to find the right solution to the club's long standing financial problems and to secure the future of Football at the Fitness First Stadium.*

*Our message to all our fans is to continue with the fantastic support they have shown all season starting at home on Saturday to Southend."*

At this point then all we can do is reiterate the fact that we will, through our Board representatives, Ernie Battey and David Musker, monitor the situation, and provide updates as and when we are able.

It seems to be a sad indictment on today's game that, for supporters of lower league clubs, the money pumped into the game is, whether by design or by accident, distorting the level of finances required to be successful. Whilst it is easy to look on enviously at clubs like Queens Park Rangers and Swindon, both recently 'saved' by new investors, the actual outcome is that it becomes increasingly impossible for other clubs to compete.

It sometimes appears now that the game is so dependent on financial backing that it might be easier to decide promotion and relegation simply by looking at clubs' bank balance. Whilst one club gets 'saved' with say £1m this year, next year another club will be rescued with a £2m injection, and so the spiral continues relentlessly.

Probably more disappointing is that the FA, football's governing body, yielded real power to the Premier League years ago. Even Championship teams within the Football League have become obsessed with clinging on to the Premier League coat tails. The FA seem to view this obsession with money as a positive thing for the game. Despite rising 'revenue streams' (see, I'm picking up the jargon!), ticket prices for match day fans have also risen disproportionately.

So, what's the answer? In the short-term I think it's the case of hoping that new investment comes along. Longer term it must be for the FA to realise that they need to protect clubs at all levels.

As Bournemouth fans we can but watch and wait.

Rob Trent