 **CTSA AGM – Chair’s Report – 03.12.15.**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the AGM and thank you for coming.

It’s been a pretty testing year, not only on the pitch but off it too. However, we now appear to be on an upward turn!

Firstly, I would like to thank Tracey Cole, Mark Ogbourne and James Palmer for their contribution for last season and welcome new Board members, Sue Benn, Dan Charman and Marilyn Loughton who, will undoubtedly, enhance the Board further, with what we are trying to achieve over the next year.

You may well have asked yourselves lately, what exactly is the purpose of the CTSA and what does it actually do, apart from organise travel? There will also probably be the question of why does the CTSA have just under £30K in the bank but won’t subsidise any coaches for long journeys when not enough people want to travel? We will answer those questions tonight, as well as clarify some mis-information that was presented at the “Audience with the Board” evening, regarding our finances. Mat Cowdrey will also explain some details regarding his Exclusion notice, which we are very pleased, has now been lifted.

One of the most important things the CTSA prides itself on is transparency, any member at any time can ask to see the finances or talk to us about what we are doing.

First and foremost, we are here to work on behalf of you, our members. We also aim to improve links with the local community for the benefit of our Club. To this end, you will hear later in the meeting about our new agreement with the Community Foundation, which will see us hold 6 community events over the next 18 months as part of the Premier League Fans Fund initiative. This will involve a lot of work and we are hoping that some of our members will want to be involved on sub-committees to help get these projects delivered.

We will also be talking about our plans to take a serious look into Supporter Ownership of our Club. As you already know, this is something that has always been in the Aims and Objectives of the CTSA and with the recent cases of clubs like Northampton and now, Bolton, getting into financial trouble, we are increasingly aware that relying on our benefactors putting money into the Club, as loans, could leave us in a similar situation, if they decide to cease doing it. With the Club up for sale, we believe that if we found some interested parties who were willing to join us in taking this forward, then we can progress this further with the Club’s Owners.

Finally, I would like to thank all the other Board Members for their support over the last year and hopefully, we can bring in some new members to help achieve what we’re planning to do, going forward.

If you have any suggestions, or feedback about what we are doing, we would love to hear it.

Carol Bates – Chair.