

2017/18 ACCOUNTS: CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Since the takeover of Raith Rovers by John Sim's "NRR Investments" company in summer 2017, many of the questions we asked before the takeover have been answered; many still remain. The club have come extremely close to gaining promotion back to the Championship twice, but have ultimately fallen short on both occasions. NRR Investments' plans to improve Starks Park have begun well, but there is still more to do. The club still operates with a significant deficit, and there is no clarity over its eventual structure once the redevelopment of Starks Park is complete. The club appears to be heavily reliant on a single individual, and we have no visibility of his long-term plans regarding his investment.

During the financial year ending 30th June 2018 we took action to record the impact of the football club's ownership changes in the Trust accounts. The value of our investments in RRFC Ltd, RRFC Holdings Ltd and New Raith Rovers Ltd, previously shown at the cost of acquisition, have been restated as the share of the net assets of each company. This has reduced the value of our investments from over £200,000 to around £8,000. The directors of Raith Supporters Trust felt that this was an appropriate action to take, given that the bulk of our investments are in companies which no longer directly own shares in the football club.

In parallel, the liabilities relating to the loan notes issued as part of the 2005 takeover of the club by New Raith Rovers Ltd have been written off, given that there is no likelihood that they would ever be repaid. We would like to reiterate our appreciation of everyone who contributed to that fundraising campaign, through investment in loan notes or otherwise. The influence that these contributions helped us to acquire still remains, and we are proud to have a strong relationship with our fellow stakeholders in the Starks Park boardroom as a result of this investment. However, we have gone from a position where our voice in the boardroom has been guaranteed by our shareholding, to one where (like every other director) the fans' representative is part of the club's governance by invitation from the majority shareholder.

As a Trust our purpose remains unchanged: on our formation we described it as "Community, Independence, Democracy", and we have since focussed on "Working Together For A Stronger Raith Rovers". We engage with other supporters groups at the club through the Raith Forum, and have contributed to proposals aimed at growing the supporters' stake in the club, and on helping the club to continue attracting increased numbers of young supporters. Your support in continuing this work is vital.