

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)**Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held via Zoom at 7.01pm on Wednesday 10th
April 2024****1 PRESENT**

- a. Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Chris Baldam (CB); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); Kirsty Hackney (KH); Rick Lalka (RL); Stewart Millar (SM); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder; Emma Crellin (EC) – Observer; and Nick Procter (NP) - Observer.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair, Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer, Jonathan Battersby (JB), Gavin Gordon (GG) and David Milling (DM).

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 12/02/24 had been published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.
- b. Notes of RICT's BM on 13/03/24 would be published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.

3 EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

- a. The next Bingo Plus Night would be held at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities (TTR) on 13/05/24.
- b. Raffle tickets were selling well from RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village before home matches for the draw on 27/04/24 for the prize of a home shirt and match ball, signed by the Club's players, to raise funds for the FPA.

4 FAN ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. The latest news items published on RICT's website continued to attract many views. Departure times and ticket prices for Red Imps Association Travel Section (RIATS) coaches had been updated whenever tickets went on and off sale. **ACTION: AP would continue to keep the website updated for the remainder of the season and liaise with RL for appropriate social media publicity.** The website would be rebuilt after the AGM.
- b. RICT's Pod continued to be very busy on home matchdays, particularly when sales of teamsheets on behalf of the Club commenced. Tony Smith, Fan Advisory Board (FAB) Chair, had guested at the Pod on 29/03/24.
- c. A video by Blow by Blow Productions of the unveiling ceremony for the plaque, commemorating the site of the Club's original John O'Gaunts ground, had been uploaded to RICT's website.
- d. Regular posts on RICT's social media channels continued to generate plenty of attention, including polls for the player of the match after all games.
- e. Eleven new exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum.
- f. A "regular update" message had been circulated on 08/04/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages.

- g. The trophy for the Player of the Month Award for March would be presented on 13/04/24, following a poll on RICT's website.
- h. Following publicity from RICT and the Club, voting (which had opened on 08/04/24 and which would close on 22/04/24) was going well for the Vic Withers Player of the Season Award, inaugurated by Lincoln & District Football Supporters Club (L&DFSC). The trophies had been obtained from County Cups Limited. An invoice had been sent to Graham Winter Builders Limited, who had agreed to sponsor the Award. CB was in discussion with Damian Froggatt, the Club's Director of Operations, about the practical arrangements for the presentations on 27/04/24 by representatives of RICT, L&DFSC and the sponsors.
- i. A Lincolnshire Echo article about RICT has been published since the previous BM.
- j. Nominations were open for RICT's Fan of the Season Award. **ACTION: The Media Team would arrange suitable publicity.**

5 CHARITY/COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- a. A copy of the 2022/23 Impact Report of LCF, RICT's charity partner for 2024, had been circulated to all RICT Board Members before the BM. Donations (including from the sale of surplus stock in RICT's library of old matchday programmes) accumulated in the collection bucket at RICT's Pod on home matchdays had been used to purchase a Scalextric set for Poacher's Den. **ACTION: AC would provide artwork to RB, so that more of the money donated could be used to install a sign at the entrance to the Den.** Publicity had also been given on RICT's website and through its social media channels to LCF's "Team Talk" range of programmes to support people who might be struggling with their mental health.
- b. Notification was awaited from Lincolnshire Co-op of whether RICT had been short-listed for a Community Champions grant, to be used to fund activities targeted particularly at youngsters in the Fan Village, which would also assist the Club's rating in the Fan Engagement Index.
- c. Many items of Club memorabilia had been donated to RICT by Jean Foster, a former representative of RICT Gold Members on the Club Board. **ACTION: The Media Team would catalogue those items and publicise their availability for purchase from RICT's Pod before the match on 27/04/24, with the sale proceeds being donated to LCF.**

6 STACEY WEST PROJECT

- a. Interior work on the Community Hub, which would be sponsored by Lincolnshire Co-op, was very close to completion. The building (whose green credentials would assist the Club in various award applications) would soon be handed over to LCF. Martin Hickerton, LCF's Chief Executive Officer, was investigating the possibility of providing a sensory room.
- b. The names of RICT's Stacey West Investment Bondholders (who had raised well over £400,000 for the project) would be displayed on an honours board. **ACTION: SF would invite the Bondholders to the opening ceremony.**

7 FAN LED REVIEW (FLR)

- a. The next meeting of the Club's FLR Working Group would be held on 13/04/24, when RB (representing the Club's minority shareholders and bondholders, as well

as RICT members), would attend, along with MS (representing JOGC members), JB (representing Lincoln City Banter, the Stacey West Podcast and Lincoln City Fans Player Scheme), AP (representing the RIATS and RICT members) and NP (representing the 617 Squadron).

- b. The Football Governance Bill, giving fans a greater voice in the running of their clubs and enshrining in law an Independent Football Regulator, had been introduced in parliament on 18/03/24.

8 LINCOLN CITY FC/HOLDINGS

- a. RB and MS would represent RICT at the Club's next Board Meeting later in the month, with ST attending as a Club Director in his own right.
- b. RB and MS (as an Observer) would attend a BM of the Club's holding company on the same date, with ST attending as a holding company director in his own right.

9 MULTI-PARTY MEETINGS

- a. Information had been exchanged at the meeting between representatives of the Club, the FPA, LCF and RICT held on 21/03/24.
- b. The next meeting between those representatives would be held on 20/06/24.

10 FAN ADVISORY BOARD

RL and JB had attended the FAB meeting on 26/03/24, but neither the agenda nor the minutes for that meeting had yet been made public.

11 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The first window for the purchase of 2024/25 Club Gold Memberships (which included automatic RICT membership, unless an option to opt out was exercised) had closed on 02/04/24 for both renewals and new members. Almost 5,000 sales had been completed, which was over 900 more than at the close of the first window in 2023 and over 500 more than at the close of the first window in 2022. Almost 500 of the purchasers were not Club Gold Members in 2023/24.
- b. IH had not yet received contact details for the members of the new John O'Gaunts Club (JOGC) Scheme, launched by the Club in partnership with RICT. **ACTION: MS would ensure that contact details for members of the new Scheme were shared with IH.**
- c. Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Supporter Services, was investigating the possibility of Ticketmaster automatically inviting non-members of the Club's Gold, Silver and Bronze Membership Schemes to join RICT whenever they bought match tickets (home or away) or iFollow passes.
- d. Prior to the BM, RICT's Nominations & Governance Working Group (N&GWG) had circulated to all RICT Board Members a draft RICT Membership Policy (MP) which was adopted and which would be submitted for ratification at the next RICT Annual General Meeting (AGM). **ACTION: IH, SF and AP would review the documentation required to process membership applications, both online and in hard copy form.**
- e. IH had verified the joining dates for all RICT's Small Business Members. **ACTION: RB would liaise with IH to ensure that contact details were held for all of those Members.**

12 GOVERNANCE

- a. Prior to the BM, the N&GWG had circulated to all RICT Board Members a draft Members' Guide to the new constitution, the new MP and the Elections & Voting Policy, which would be published to RICT Members. It was noted that the informal Information Session would be held on 30/04/24 for the benefit of all RICT Members who wanted to raise queries or to make any suggestions. The new constitution (which The Football Supporters' Association had agreed to sponsor to the Financial Conduct Authority) had also been circulated to all RICT Board Members before the BM and would be submitted for adoption at RICT's next AGM.
- b. A draft graphic, displaying the new structure for RICT's Board, had been circulated to all RICT Board Members before the BM, observations having been submitted by one recipient. A RICT Member remained interested in increasing his involvement with RICT following his meeting with representatives of the N&GWG on 20/03/24. Another RICT Member also remained interested in increasing her involvement. RB had contacted Charlie Beeston of the Club's Disabled Supporters' Association about the interest of another RICT Member in enhancing the matchday experiences of fans with disabilities. **ACTION: SF would replace the Microsoft Word versions of RICT's Policies and Standing Orders on RICT's website with Portable Document Format files.**
- c. The Memorandum of Understanding had been published on the Club's website. **ACTION: SF would publish the document on RICT's website.**

13 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. RB had announced that, lots having been drawn by the N&GWG, MH would retire by rotation at RICT's next AGM. **ACTION (1): SF would set up an "AGM 2024" tab on RICT's website and populate it with the relevant documents as soon as they were due for publication, circulating to all RICT Members a link by 30/04/24 to the Nomination Form. ACTION (2): SF, RL and AP would organise advance publicity of the arrangements on RICT's website and through its social media channels.**
- b. John Needham (Iron Trust Secretary, not being a RICT Member) had agreed to act as the Independent Chair of RICT's Election Management Group (EMG). **ACTION: RB would ascertain the willingness of Richard Parnell (the Club's Director of Legal and Football Administration) to serve on the EMG as a RICT Member who was not a RICT Board Member.**

14 FINANCES

RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/23 were still being finalised.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 08/05/24.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. It was queried whether it was necessary to hold BMs at monthly intervals throughout the year. **ACTION: All RICT Board Members would consider the matter and discuss it at the next BM.**
- b. There being no further business, the BM closed at 7.47pm.