

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)**Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held via Zoom at 7.02pm on Wednesday 8th May 2024****1 PRESENT**

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

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 13/03/24 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 10/04/24 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 RICT Bingo Plus Night would be held at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities (TTR) on 13/05/24.
- b. Funds had been raised for the Former Players' Association (FPA) by the sale of raffle tickets from RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village before home matches for the prize of a home shirt and match ball, signed by the Club's players. The draw had taken place on 27/04/24.
- c. Funds would be raised for the Pals Battalion Community Interest Company and for the FPA's charity partner at a match between the FPA and Pals Battalion FC at the LNER Stadium on 10/05/24. Details of the FPA team had been announced through RICT's social media channels.
- d. A Race Night would be held at TTR's premises in September. **ACTION: Details would be agreed between RB, GG and SM.**

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 when tickets went on and off sale for the last two away games of the season. Further RIATS information would be uploaded following the release of the fixture list for the new season. The website would be rebuilt after the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- b. RICT's Pod had been very busy before the last two home games during the season, particularly when sales of teamsheets on behalf of the Club commenced. **ACTION: RB would obtain quotations for internal lining of the Pod in readiness for the following season.**
- c. Regular posts in RICT's social media channels continued to generate plenty of attention.
- d. Memorabilia had been donated to RICT by the family of Roy Moody, who had played for the Club in 1946/47. **ACTION: RB would deliver the items to SF, to be added to RICT's museum.**
- e. A "regular update" message had been circulated on 01/05/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages.

- f. The trophy for the Player of the Month Award for March had been presented to the winner, Joe Taylor. **ACTION: SF would take the usual action to administer a poll for the Player of the Month for April.**
- g. The highest number of votes ever had been cast for the Vic Withers Player of the Season Award, inaugurated by Lincoln & District Football Supporters Club and sponsored by Graham Winter Builders Limited. The trophy had been duly presented to the winner, Ethan Erhahon.
- h. Nominations were open for RICT's Fan of the Season Award. **ACTION: SF would arrange suitable publicity.**
- i. Two Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since the previous BM. The FETL would build a team of volunteers after the AGM to assist with additional initiatives.

5 CHARITY/COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- a. The sale from RICT's Pod before the match on 27/04/24 of donated items of Club memorabilia had raised £459. **ACTION: RB would pass that money on to LCF.**
- b. Publicity had been given on RICT's website and through its social media channels to LCF's "Walking Football" initiatives. **ACTION: AC would provide artwork to RB, so that RICT could fund the installation of a sign at the entrance to Poacher's Den.**

6 STACEY WEST PROJECT

- a. RICT's Stacey West Investment Bondholders had raised well over £400,000 for the construction of the Community Hub (CH), which would become LCF's base on 13/05/24. It was anticipated that rooms would be available for RICT meetings, if required.
- b. The official opening ceremony of the CH would be held on 26/06/24, a soft launch having taken place on 26/04/24.

7 LINCOLN CITY FC/HOLDINGS

- a. The FECDs had attended the Club's BM on 25/04/24, with ST attending as a Club Director in his own right. Discussion had taken place on alternative 2024/25 budgets for all expenditure and for all income from football activities, commercial sources and investment, depending on whether or not a new television funding distribution agreement (which was likely to include increased controls on expenditure on players) was reached between the Premier League and the English Football League. Expenditure on capital projects had been authorised, including the provision of improved facilities for spectators in the north-east and north-west corners of the LNER Stadium. Reports had been received from Jez George, the Club's Director of Football, and Michael Skubala, the Club's Head Coach. The Club's next BM would be held on 29/08/24.
- b. RB and MS (as an Observer) had attended a BM of the Club's holding company on 25/04/24, with ST attending as a holding company director in his own right. New investment had been welcomed from Ron Fowler and Andrew Fowler. The holding company's next BM would be held on 29/08/24.
- c. The Club was one of 27 clubs that had signed an open letter from the Fair Game campaign group to Lucy Frazer MP, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, calling for reform of the FA Cup, following The FA's lack of consultation prior to its decision to discontinue replays. RICT had issued a press release, expressing its anger at The FA's approach.
- d. A member had expressed his sincere appreciation for the life-saving intervention of the doctor, nurse and medical team at the LNER Stadium when he suffered cardiac problems before the match on 27/02/24.

8 FAN LED REVIEW (FLR)

- a. The Football Governance Bill had reached the Committee Stage in the House of Commons. A Briefing Paper had been received from the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), urging Supporters' Trusts to lobby their Members of Parliament to support eleven amendments to the Bill. **ACTION: AP would circulate the Briefing Paper to all RICT Board Members, to enable a decision to be taken on the appropriate course of action.**
- b. The Club's FLR Working Group meeting on 13/04/24 had been attended by RB (representing RICT members, the Club's minority shareholders and holders of Stacey West Investment Bonds) and AP (representing the RIATS and RICT members), with apologies for absence being submitted by MS (representing John O'Gaunts Club (JOGC) members), JB (representing Lincoln City Banter, the Stacey West Podcast and Lincoln City Fans Player Scheme) and Nick Procter (representing the 617 Squadron). A date had not yet been fixed for the next meeting of that Group.

9 FAN ADVISORY BOARD (FAB)

- a. Minutes of the FAB meeting on 16/03/24 had been published on the Club's website.
- b. Due to his personal circumstances, RL had resigned on 11/04/24 as the representative of the RICT Board on the FAB. He was thanked for his service in that role.

10 MULTI-PARTY MEETINGS

No further meetings had been held between representatives of the Club, the FPA, LCF and RICT. The next such meeting would be held on 20/06/24.

11 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The second window for the purchase of 2024/25 Club Gold Memberships (which included automatic RICT membership, unless an option to opt out was exercised) had opened on 26/04/24 for both renewals and new members. Other members had joined RICT directly through the PayPal facility.
- b. Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Supporter Services, would investigate (following the Club's transfer to a new computer system on 01/07/24) whether Ticketmaster could automatically invite 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.
- c. The documentation required to process RICT membership applications, both online and in hard copy form, had been reviewed. The Data Sharing Agreement between the Club and RICT was due for renewal on 01/08/24. Biennial reviews were also due of RICT's Data Protection Policy and Data Protection Procedures. **ACTION: RICT's Nominations & Governance Working Group (N&GWG) and DM would ensure that all necessary action was taken and agreed with Richard Parnell (RP), the Club's Director of Legal and Football Administration.**
- d. IH had not yet received contact details for the members of the new JOGC Scheme, launched by the Club in partnership with RICT. **ACTION: The N&GWG and DM would ask RP to extend the Data Sharing Agreement between the Club and RICT, to enable disclosure of the necessary information.**
- e. **ACTION: RB would liaise with IH to ensure that contact details were held for all RICT Small Business Members.**
- f. RICT's supply of members' pin badges had been exhausted. **ACTION: RB would obtain a quotation for more badges, displaying the latest Imps logo.**

12 GOVERNANCE

- a. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Club and RICT would be published on RICT's website after that site had been revamped in the summer.
- b. A Zip file had been uploaded to RICT's website, containing Portable Document Format files for all RICT Policies, Standing Orders and Role Descriptions.
- c. Representatives of the N&GWG had met a RICT member who had expressed an interest in taking on the role of FSA Engagement Director (FSAED) and another RICT member who lived in Canada.
- d. Due to his personal circumstances, RL had resigned as a RICT Board Member on 11/04/24. He was thanked for his service in that role. He would however continue to manage RICT's social media output as a member of the FETL's team.
- e. Mark Hodds had indicated that, due to the demands of his young family, he could no longer devote sufficient time to RICT and that therefore he would not seek re-election as a Board Member at the AGM. He had been thanked for his service in that role.
- f. SM had volunteered to take on a new role as RICT's Commercial and Fundraising Team Leader, with a view to increasing the benefits that RICT could provide, after covering its running costs, to the Club and for the community. He was appointed to that role on a trial basis for a term expiring at RICT's 2025 AGM. **ACTION: SM and RB would discuss proposals for the new role, which would be presented at the next BM.**

13 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. RP had agreed to serve on RICT's Election Management Group as a RICT Member who was not a RICT Board Member.
- b. RICT's website had been populated with the Nomination Form (NF) and with all other relevant documents. Attention had been drawn to them through RICT's social media channels and in an advance notice of the AGM, circulated on 25/04/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held. The deadline for receipt of completed NFs was 27/05/24 and the deadline for receipt of any further resolutions was 30/05/24. **ACTION: When those deadlines had passed and by 11/06/24, SF would give formal notice of the AGM to all RICT members, with links to the further documentation required, which would be added to RICT's website.**
- c. The Members' Guide to the proposed new constitution, the Membership Policy and the Elections & Voting Policy had been uploaded to RICT's website, along with the documents concerned. Attention had been drawn to them and to the informal Information Session (which had been held on 30/04/24) in the email message circulated on 25/04/24.

14 FINANCES

- a. In advance of the BM, ST had sent to all RICT Board Members a financial update for the period from 01/01/24 to 22/04/24.
- b. RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/23 would be presented (with the independent examiner's report) for approval at the next BM.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a. The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12/06/24.
- b. Immediately after the AGM on 27/06/24, there would also be a brief BM, at which elections would take place of RICT's Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, external Board Members would be co-opted and appointments would be made of RICT's representative on the FAB (which might form part of the FSAED role) and of RICT's Officers.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.33pm.