

**RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)****Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held via Zoom at 7.02pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 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; Chris Baldam (CBa); Gavin Gordon (GG); Kirsty Hackney (KH); Stewart Millar (SM); David Milling (DM); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder; and Observers Julian Buttery (JBU), Emma Crellin (EC) and Rick Lalka (RL).
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer, Jonathan Battersby (JBa) and Lincoln City Foundation (LCF), along with Observers Biff Bean (BB) and Hamish Falconer (HF).

**2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 10/04/24 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 08/05/24 would be published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.

**3 FAN ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. EC was added to the FETL's team of volunteers forming the Media Group (MG). 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 coaches would be announced following release of the English Football League (EFL) fixture list for 2024/25 and updated throughout the season. The website would be rebuilt after the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- b. It would cost about £1,000 to install internal lining to RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln (UoL) Fan Village, which could not be justified, especially as space would be lost. A counter and shelving would be installed on 21/06/24, along with an electrical supply.
- c. RL was managing RICT's social media output as a member of the MG. Regular posts in those channels continued to generate plenty of attention.
- d. It was hoped that items from RICT's heritage collection could be displayed in the Co-op Community Hub (CCH), behind the Stacey West Stand. Another exhibit had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum.
- e. A "regular update" message had been circulated on 22/05/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages.
- f. Suitable publicity had been given to the request for nominations for RICT's Fan of the Season Award. The nominations received were all considered. The winner of the Award was selected by a majority vote. **ACTION: RB would arrange for a trophy to be presented to the winner on an appropriate occasion.**
- g. Two Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since the previous BM.
- h. Charlie Beeston (as Chair of the Lincoln City Disabled Supporters' Association) and Tony Smith (as Chair of the Fan Advisory Board (FAB)) had been informed that Steve Rowland had joined the FETL's team of volunteers, taking a special interest in ensuring that the needs of the Club's supporters with disabilities were met. It was very likely that a sensory room would be made available in the CCH on home matchdays.

#### 4 CHARITY/COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- a. A donation of £500 had been made to LCF following the sale from RICT's Pod of donated items of Club memorabilia before the match on 27/04/24.
- b. Publicity had been given on RICT's website and through its social media channels to LCF's "Extra Time Hub" initiative. **ACTION: Alice Carter, LCF's Head of Healthier Communities, would provide artwork to RB, so that RICT could fund the installation of a sign at the entrance to Poacher's Den.**

#### 5 STACEY WEST PROJECT

- a. The CCH had become LCF's base on 13/05/24. SF and EC had been given a guided tour by Damian Froggatt (DF), the Club's Director of Operations.
- b. The official opening ceremony of the CCH would be held on 26/06/24. **ACTION: SF would liaise with DF to ensure that all of RICT's Stacey West Investment Bondholders and all RICT Board Members who wanted to attend were aware of the details.**

#### 6 LINCOLN CITY FC/HOLDINGS

- a. The FECDs in post on 29/08/24 would attend the Club's next BM on that date, along with ST, who was a Club Director in his own right. Work was ongoing on capital projects as previously authorised, both at the Elite Player Performance Centre and at the LNER Stadium, including the re-laying of pitches and the provision of improved facilities for spectators in the north-east and north-west corners of the Stadium (with new perimeter fencing) and in the hospitality areas on the east side, with one stand being re-painted.
- b. The FECD to be appointed at the AGM and MS (as an Observer) would attend the next BM of the Club's holding company on 29/08/24, along with ST, who was a holding company director in his own right.
- c. The Club would work with RICT to develop further the strategies for fan engagement and heritage preservation.
- d. Home games of Lincoln City Women (LCW) FC would normally be played at the Academy venue at the UoL Riseholme Campus during the 2024/25 season.
- e. Refresher training was being arranged for the Mental Health First Responder Group (which included several RICT Board Members) established to support the playing and non-playing staff of the Club, LCW and LCF.

#### 7 FAN LED REVIEW (FLR)

- a. RICT had not lobbied local Members of Parliament to support eleven amendments to the Football Governance Bill, as recommended by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), because that Bill would not proceed any further, due to the calling of a General Election. RICT was one of the initial 170 signatories to an open letter (which was eventually signed by 224 fan groups) from the FSA, calling on all major parties to include in their pre-election manifestos a promise to take up the Bill.
- b. A date had not yet been fixed for the next meeting of the Club's FLR Working Group. David Lowes, the Club's Fan Engagement Director, had confirmed that the Club would remain an active participant in giving input to the EFL and other bodies, lobbying for the best possible outcome in the new parliament.

#### 8 FAN ADVISORY BOARD

- a. No further meetings of the FAB had been held and a date for its next meeting had not yet been confirmed. A constructive meeting had been held between RB and TS.
- b. To enable a response to be sent to a query raised by a RICT member, confirmation had been obtained from Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Supporter Services, that the design of the Club's playing kits for 2024/25 had not been discussed with the FAB, because it had

not held any meetings during the period in which a decision had to be made, but that the design had been discussed with various long-standing fans.

## 9 MULTI-PARTY MEETINGS

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

## 10 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) was still open. Other members had joined RICT directly through the PayPal facility since the last BM.
- b. DM, SF and AP would meet Richard Parnell (RP), the Club's Director of Legal and Football Administration, on 18/06/24 to discuss (i) the renewal of the Data Sharing Agreement between the Club and RICT and (ii) any amendments required to RICT's Data Protection Policy & Procedures.
- c. IH had still not received contact details for the members of the new John O'Gaunts Club Scheme, launched by the Club in partnership with RICT. **ACTION: DM, SF and AP would ask RP to extend the Data Sharing Agreement between the Club and RICT, to enable disclosure of the necessary information.**
- d. Contact details were held for all RICT Small Business Members.

## 11 EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

- a. Everyone present had enjoyed the RICT Bingo Plus Night sessions held on 13/05/24 and 03/06/24 at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities (TTR), where the next session would be held on 01/07/24. A new format had been introduced, with bigger prizes.
- b. Assistance had been provided to enable funds to be raised for the Pals Battalion Community Interest Company and for the FPA's charity partner at the match between the FPA and Pals Battalion FC at the LNER Stadium on 10/05/24.
- c. A Race Night would be held at TTR's premises in September. **ACTION: Details would be agreed between GG and SM following the release of the EFL fixture list for 2024/25.**
- d. As part of his role as a RICT Board Member, SM would lead RICT's fundraising activities, with a view to increasing the financial support provided, after covering running costs, to the Club and for community projects. There might be opportunities to raise funds or to receive donated items from local businesses that supported the Club, were willing to contribute more than the standard Small Business fee payable under RICT's Membership Policy, but which were reluctant to incur the additional expenditure required to become a full Club partner. **ACTION (1): SF would set up a redimpstrust.co.uk email account for SM. ACTION (2): SM would devise suitable fundraising packages to be offered in place of the existing Small Business Membership Scheme. ACTION (3): DM, SF and AP would discuss with RP (i) whether it was data protection best practice for redimpstrust.co.uk email addresses to be used by all RICT Board Members in all correspondence about RICT's activities and (ii) any amendments that might be required to RICT's Data Protection Policy & Procedures to ensure that the new fundraising scheme was fully compliant with all legal obligations.**
- e. Further funds might be raised by the establishment of a shop on eBay, selling surplus stock from RICT's collection of donated memorabilia. **ACTION: SF would investigate the opportunities available, including whether a link could be provided from the Club website.**

## 12 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 04/06/24.
- b. In advance of the BM, ST had sent to all RICT Board Members a draft of RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/23, the contents of which were discussed. The draft accounts were approved. **ACTION: SF would publish the accounts on RICT's website once they had been signed by the independent examiner.**

## 13 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. Reminders had been given through RICT's social media channels and via a message circulated on 22/05/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held about the approaching AGM deadlines for submitting (i) nominations for election and (ii) notices of resolutions to be proposed. Before the relevant deadline, notice of one further resolution (on which it was agreed that all RICT Board Members should be free to cast their votes at the AGM as they thought fit) had been received from a RICT member. Valid nominations had also been received by the relevant deadline for the election of (i) DM to the FECD role, (ii) BB to the Community Engagement Team Leader role, (iii) JBu (who was introduced and welcomed to the meeting) to the FSA Engagement Director (FSAED) role and (iv) EC to one of the three vacancies as a RICT Board Member without a specific portfolio. RICT's website had been populated with formal notice of the AGM, statements by the candidates for election, a proxy appointment form, the standing orders applicable to the AGM and draft minutes of the previous AGM. Attention had been drawn to them through RICT's social media channels and in a message circulated on 31/05/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held. Two completed proxy appointment forms had already been received. **ACTION: SF and AP would liaise to encourage RICT members either to attend the AGM or to submit a proxy appointment form.**
- b. In advance of the BM, a draft RICT Board Members' Annual Report for the year ending 31/12/23 had been sent to all RICT Board Members. Subject to the making of minor amendments to show that MS was serving her third (rather than second) term as FECD, the report was approved. **ACTION: SF and AP would arrange for the amended Report to be published on RICT's website.**

## 14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a. The next BM would be held immediately after the AGM on 27/06/24, the agenda items being elections of RICT's Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, co-options of external Board Members and the appointments of RICT's representative on the FAB and of RICT's Officers.
- b. The following BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10/07/24, unless the England team was participating in the UEFA Euro 2024 semi-final tie scheduled for 8pm that evening. The agenda would be re-arranged, to ensure that reports were submitted (ideally as attachments to the agenda) by all RICT Board Members holding newly-created roles.

## 15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.42pm.