

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Note of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.10pm on Wednesday 11/09/24

1. PRESENT

- a. Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD) - John O’Gaunts Club (JOGC); Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters’ Association (FSA) Engagement Director; Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Jonathan Battersby (JBA); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); Gavin Gordon (GG); Kirsty Hackney (KH); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Rick Lalka (RL) – Social Media Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Chris Baldam (CB); and David Milling (DM).

2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 10/07/24 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 14/08/24 would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

3. FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. A draft RICT Fan Engagement Strategy had been circulated to all RICT Board Members in advance of the BM. **ACTION: RICT Board Members would provide feedback to RB and EC as soon as possible.**
- b. RICT’s Media Group had met on 04/09/24 to review the increasing demand for output through RICT’s social media channels and on its website, arising from new initiatives being devised following the successful restructuring of RICT’s Board. SF would continue to lead on the editorial content and prioritisation of messages. Key messages would be published across all RICT’s social media channels as appropriate, but no action would be taken for the time being to use further platforms. The list of departure times and ticket prices for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches continued to be updated at monthly intervals, as well as when (i) any tickets went on or off sale, (ii) additional away ties were known following progress in cup competitions and (iii) matches were re-arranged for any reason.
- c. Shelving had been installed in RICT’s Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV), which was very busy on home matchdays. The Keith Alexander mini-exhibition was still on display. Free items were still being given to youngsters. **ACTION: RB would arrange for an electricity supply to be connected to the Pod as soon as possible.** Mr Twists, the balloon twister, had been very popular before the home match on 17/08/24. **ACTION: RB would seek other street entertainers for future games, at which competitions would also be launched.**

- d. Trophies for the winners of RICT's polls for the Player of the Month were ready for collection. **ACTION: RB would collect them in time for the winner of the poll for August to be presented with his award on 21/09/24.**
- e. Five more exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum, which was attracting quite a lot of visits.
- f. A "regular update" message had been circulated on 30/08/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages.
- g. Two Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since RICT's previous BM.
- h. A survey was being completed online and in person at RICT's FV Pod for RICT's Matchday Programme Working Group, to assess fans' views on the identified options.
- i. Negotiations were ongoing for the display of a plaque to commemorate a third significant site in the Club's history.

4. CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. MS had attended the Club's BM on 29/08/24 along with ST, who was a Club Director in his own right. The imminent closure of the summer transfer window had been discussed, along with ongoing and other possible enhancements to the LNER Stadium. If RICT members wanted to raise concerns with the Club about operational matters, they should continue to use the feedback@theredimps.com facility, which had recently enabled an issue to be addressed concerning the unsheltered accommodation provided for away fans.
- b. MS had attended a BM of the Club's holding company on 29/08/24 as an Observer, along with ST, who was a holding company director in his own right.
- c. The Football Governance Bill had not yet been laid before parliament. About 30 politicians had attended a FSA event in parliament on 03/09/24, entitled "Football Governance Bill: What Next?" **ACTION: When it was in the public domain, RB would send a copy of the Club's Fan Engagement Report to Baroness Merron and to the local Member of Parliament, Hamish Falconer (HF); RB would then arrange a meeting between HF, Liam Scully (the Club's Chief Executive Officer) and Clive Nates (the Club's Chair).**
- d. JBu had been co-opted on to the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB) on the recommendation of its representatives, after meeting them on 19/08/24. He had attended the FAB meeting held on 24/08/24, the agenda for which had been published on the Club's website. **ACTION: JBu would attend the next FAB meeting on 26/10/24.**
- e. Representatives of the Club, the Former Players Association, LCF and RICT would meet on 19/09/24. **ACTION: RB would report on that meeting at the next RICT BM.**

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. A steady supply of donations was being received at RICT's FV Pod of old matchday programmes and other collectible items of Club memorabilia. Those items were being offered for sale, either on eBay (including a Freddie Draper match-worn shirt) or at the Pod. The money received was being paid to RICT's 2024 charity

partner, LCF. **ACTION: RB would count the money accumulated in the collection bucket and confirm to ST the total that could be paid to date.** Following the successful relocation of LCF to the Co-op Community Hub, the Club intended to close its standalone website devoted specifically to RICT's Stacey West Investment Bond. **ACTION: SF would upload relevant material about that Bond to RICT's website.**

- b. Local businesses had already signed up for the new "RICT Community Team" initiative, which would raise funds for LCF and for a charity dealing with suicide.
- c. Allen Signs were preparing a sign or banner to be placed outside Poacher's Den, raising awareness of the location from which LCF operated that initiative. **ACTION: BB would liaise with AC and Brittany Bell, LCF's Placement Leader, to finalise the donation from Hartsholme Community Trust to meet the cost.**

6. FSA ENGAGEMENT

JBu was still receiving regular communications from the FSA.

7. EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. There had been another large attendance at the latest enjoyable RICT Bingo Plus Night session, which had been held on 02/09/24 at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities (TTR), where the next session would be held on 07/10/24.
- b. The "Commercial Partners" tab on RICT's website had been updated to show that Tortilla Mexican Restaurant had become a new RICT Red Partner. It was anticipated that more businesses would shortly become RICT White Partners.
- c. All arrangements had been made for the Race Night to be held on 13/09/24 at TTR's premises.

8. MEMBERSHIP

- a. The Data Sharing Agreement between the Club and RICT had been brought up-to-date, extended to 31/07/25 and published on RICT's website. An up-to-date list had been requested from Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Supporter Services, of everyone who had received membership of RICT as an automatic benefit (unless they had opted out) of the Club's 2024/25 Gold, Silver, Bronze, Young Imps, Junior Imps and JOGC Membership Schemes.
- b. Other members continued to join RICT directly. **ACTION (1): IH would send reminders to the members who had joined directly in 2023/24 (including by direct debit), but not yet renewed for 2024/25. ACTION (2): RB, SF and AP would finalise the hard copy Membership Application Form for 2024/25.**
- c. A link to RICT's website had been added to the automated email receipts for match tickets, etc., to guide purchasers who wanted to know more about joining RICT, but who were not Club Members.
- d. The next JOGC meeting would be held on 05/10/24. **ACTION: MS would invite those JOGC members whose latest five-year term had expired to renew for another five years at the inflation-adjusted rate specified in RICT's Membership Policy.**
- e. Having served the Club voluntarily as a photographer for 25 years, Graham Burrell would be awarded RICT Honorary Membership. **ACTION: RB would arrange a suitable presentation.**

9. 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 09/09/24, showing everything running smoothly.
- b. RB had visited the Lincolnshire Co-op North Hykeham (Newark Road) store earlier on 11/09/24, following RICT's selection as one of its Community Champions. RICT would receive a donation based on the value of purchases made at that store by Lincolnshire Co-op members between 01/09/24 and 01/03/25, together with raffle prizes at the end of that period. A collection pot at the store would also enable shoppers to make donations and RICT could attend a day (details of which were awaited) specifically allocated for fundraising. The money received would be used towards the cost of RICT's initiatives in the FV.
- c. Sarah Campbell (SC), LCF's Business Support Leader, had expressed an interest in assisting with RICT's accounts. **ACTION: ST would meet SC for a discussion.**

10. GOVERNANCE

- a. Due notice (with links to the requisite supporting documentation) had been sent to all RICT Members on 21/08/24 of the Special General Meeting that had been held earlier on 11/09/24, at which PS had been appointed as FECD. **ACTION: SF would ask the Club formally to approve the appointment and to procure completion of the necessary declaration to comply with the English Football League Owners and Directors Test.** Observations had been sought from David Lowes, the Club's Fan Engagement Director, on a revised FECD Role Description, reflecting amendments made earlier in the year to the Club's articles of association and to RICT's rules.
- b. The updated pen-pictures of RICT Board Members had not yet been published on RICT's website. **ACTION: All Board Members who had not yet done so would meet SF as soon as mutually convenient at RICT's FV Pod, so that standard-sized photographs could be taken, for publication alongside the updated pen-pictures.**
- c. Two vacancies remained for RICT Board Members without a specific portfolio.
- d. An appointment with a solicitor had been arranged to make the Statutory Declaration, receipt of which by the FSA would enable it to register RICT's new rules with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- e. Arrangements had been made to file RICT's Annual Return and Accounts with the FCA.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 09/10/24.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 7.53pm.