

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.00pm on Wednesday 9th October 2024

1 PRESENT

- a. Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Phil Scrafton (PS) – Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD); Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Chris Baldam (CB); 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 Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and FECD - John O’Gaunts Club (JOGC); Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters’ Association (FSA) Engagement Director; and Jonathan Battersby (JBa).

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 14/08/24 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 11/09/24 would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.
- c. In future, draft Minutes of RICT BMs would be circulated to all RICT Board Members as soon as they had been prepared, rather than awaiting circularisation of the Agenda for the next BM.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. RICT’s Fan Engagement Strategy (FES) would be amended following feedback on the draft circulated to all RICT Board Members before the previous BM. **ACTION (1): RB would send the amended FES to all RICT Board Members and to the Club. ACTION (2): RB and EC would prepare a FES Implementation Action Plan.**
- b. RICT’s social media output continued to be well received, with the “Player of the Match” polls being especially popular. EC and AP had been trained on uploading material to RICT’s website, which continued to attract many visits. 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 postponed (such as Wrexham) or re-arranged for any reason.
- c. Lindum Group, the sponsor of RICT’s Pod (which was still very busy on home matchdays) in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV), had expressed its gratitude at receiving a report on the progress made. Imptoons had been hosted in the marquee before the game on 05/10/24, when there had also been a free tombola for youngsters. Another possible replacement for the Keith Alexander mini-exhibition was one based on the Cowley era. Andy Codd would arrange for an electricity supply to be connected to the Pod before the match on 29/10/24. **ACTION: RB would ascertain whether the unused RICT banner could be displayed at the LNER Stadium for promotional purposes.**
- d. Trophies for the winners of RICT’s polls for the Player of the Month had been collected, with the award for August being presented to Tendayi Darikwa on 21/09/24. **ACTION: The award for September would be presented to Ethan Erhahon on 19/10/24.**
- e. Another exhibit 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 02/10/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such

messages. **ACTION: EC and SF would investigate the options for enhancing the visual attractiveness of such messages.**

- g. Two Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since RICT's previous BM.
- h. RICT's Matchday Programme Working Group would meet on 10/10/24 to consider the next steps to be taken in view of the responses received to the survey.
- i. The Club was very supportive of a commemorative plaque being displayed at a third significant site in its history and negotiations were ongoing with the site's owner. **ACTION: EC would issue a progress report at the next BM.** A possible fourth site had also been identified.
- j. EC and JBu had been interviewed about RICT by BBC Radio Lincolnshire in separate "Hope and Glory" programmes.

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. Reports of the Club's BM on 29/08/24 and of the BM on the same day of the Club's holding company had been published at <https://www.weareimps.com/news/board-update-q1-202425>.
- b. PS had attended a new Club Director induction meeting on 01/10/24 and had supplied the information required to satisfy the English Football League Owners & Directors Test. He would complete the necessary safeguarding training course and, when all formalities had been met, a joint press release would be issued by the Club and RICT to confirm his appointment as FECD. He would then attend the Club's next BM on 12/12/24, along with ST (who was a Club director in his own right) and MS.
- c. Minutes had not yet been published on the Club's website of its Fan Advisory Board (FAB) meetings since 16/03/24. **ACTION: JBu would report back at the next RICT BM after attending the next FAB meeting on 26/10/24.**
- d. At the meeting on 19/09/24 between representatives of the Club, the Former Players' Association (FPA), LCF and RICT, the Club had emphasised its appreciation of the part played by RICT in enabling the Club to receive a Gold Award in Think Fan Engagement's 2023/24 Fan Engagement Index. It was noted that FA Cup prize money had been increased by £2.44m, with the increase being concentrated on the first three rounds of the competition proper, to compensate clubs for the abolition of replays.
- e. The Club would like to establish its own archive of matchday programmes. **ACTION: RB would make RICT's stock of old programmes available to Luke Thornhill, the Club's Senior Communications Manager.**
- f. RICT representatives had discussed at a meeting on 05/10/24 with David Lowes, the Club's Fan Engagement Director, possible ways of highlighting the Club's appreciation of the service provided by its volunteer workforce amongst the fanbase.
- g. Richard Parnell, the Club's Senior Safeguarding Manager, had been contacted about the provision of refresher training for the Club's volunteer Mental Health First Responders, some of whom were RICT members.

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 or at the Pod. The money raised (along with cash donations collected in the bucket at the Pod) was being paid to RICT's 2024 charity partner, LCF. Publicity had been given on RICT's website and through its social media channels to LCF's new "Football Together" initiative. RB and JBu had met Martin Hickerton (MH), LCF's Chief Executive Officer. **ACTION: RB and JBu would provide MH with some initial thoughts on how RICT could further assist LCF to achieve its priority objectives.**

- b. Twelve local businesses had already signed up for the new “RICT Community Team” initiative, which would raise £1,300 for Andy’s Man Club (AMC), the men’s suicide prevention charity, and LCF. PS was thanked for his help in signing up some of the businesses. **ACTION: BB would publicise further details after meeting MH and Sean Gill, AMC’s Senior Project Development Champion.**
- c. RICT’s FV Pod would act as a collection point prior to the remaining home matches in October and November for items and money donated to the “Christmas Sacks” initiative of the Bridge Church charity, to support local people in need during the festive season. **ACTION: PS would liaise with Andy Pearson, as Andy’s Fun Bus also supported that charity.**
- d. RICT’s FV Pod would act as a collection point for foodbank donations that would be sought by LCF prior to the match on 07/12/24.

6 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. JBu had attended his first FSA Leagues 1 & 2 Network Meeting, which had included a presentation on youth engagement.
- b. The Football Governance Bill still had not been laid before parliament. The FSA had encouraged all Supporters’ Trusts to engage with their local Member of Parliament (MP) about (i) independent football regulation and (ii) dynamic pricing. **ACTION: RB would send the FES to Baroness Merron and to the local MP, Hamish Falconer (HF).** A point of contact within HF’s support team had been requested, so that RICT approaches could be channelled separately from any Club or RICT Board Member personal contact.
- c. RICT’s heritage actions had been compared with those at Wigan Athletic in discussions with the visiting club’s Supporter Liaison Officers prior to the match on 21/09/24. Further discussions might take place at the reverse fixture.

7 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. There had been another healthy attendance at the latest RICT Bingo Plus session, which had been held on 07/10/24 at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities, where the next session would be held on 04/11/24. SM was thanked for his efforts to make those events enjoyable.
- b. The “Commercial Partners” tab on RICT’s website had been updated to show that BeerHeadZ had become a new RICT White Partner. It was anticipated that another business would shortly become a RICT Red Partner.
- c. SM and GG were thanked for their efforts in making the Race Night a success.

8 MEMBERSHIP

- a. An up-to-date list had been received of the people who had become RICT members 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. As more people had joined RICT directly, total membership was 6,506, excluding those who had joined through the Former Players’ Association (FPA).
- b. The hard copy Membership Application Form for 2024/25 had been finalised and prints would be obtained for distribution on home matchdays from RICT’s FV Pod.
- c. An enjoyable JOGC meeting had been held on 05/10/24.
- d. A certificate had been presented to Graham Burrell, confirming the award to him of RICT Honorary Membership in recognition of his voluntary service for 25 years as Club photographer.

9 FINANCES

- a. Everything was running smoothly. **ACTION (1): Prior to the next BM, ST would send to all RICT Board Members a financial update for the period from 01/01/24. ACTION (2): ST and RB would discuss a budget for future FETCL initiatives.**
- b. Following RICT's selection as a Lincolnshire Co-op's Community Champion, donations would be received based on the value of purchases made at the North Hykeham (Newark Road) branch between 01/09/24 and 01/03/25, together with other benefits.
- c. Sarah Campbell (SC), LCF's Business Support Leader, had expressed an interest in assisting with RICT's accounts. **ACTION: AC would ask SC to meet ST.**
- d. RICT would continue to sponsor a Lincoln City Women FC player during 2024/25.

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. A revised FECD Role Description (RD), reflecting amendments made earlier in the year to the Club's articles of association and to RICT's rules, would be adopted. **ACTION: AP would substitute the revised RD for the previous version on RICT's website.**
- b. A message from David Milling, resigning on 26/09/24 as a RICT Board Member on medical advice, was noted with regret. He had been thanked for his service and wished well with his recovery. Three vacancies therefore remained for RICT Board Members without a specific portfolio.
- c. An updated flowchart, with updated biographies of RICT Board Members, had 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 biographies.**
- d. A Statutory Declaration had been made and forwarded to the FSA, so that it could register RICT's new rules with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).
- e. The FCA had not yet published on its website the latest Annual Return and Accounts filed by RICT. **ACTION: SF would ask the FCA to update its website.**
- f. The cross-references in the revised FECD RD to the various RICT policies with which the role holder should comply were not contained in all other RICT RDs. Such provisions would be inserted in all RICT RDs, including for the Secretary and Officers. **ACTION: AP would substitute duly amended RDs for the previous ones on RICT's website.**

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 13/11/24.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 7.59pm.