

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.02pm on Wednesday 13th November 2024

1 PARTICIPATION

Present at the BM were 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; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); Gavin Gordon (GG); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder. Apologies for absence had been received from Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Chris Baldam (CB); Jonathan Battersby (JBa); Kirsty Hackney (KH); and Rick Lalka (RL) – Social Media Secretary.

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 11/09/24 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 09/10/24 would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. The Club’s Fan Engagement Plan had been taken in to account when RICT’s Fan Engagement Strategy (FES) had been finalised. The FES had been sent to David Lowes (DL), the Club’s Fan Engagement Director. **ACTION (1): SF would send the FES to all RICT Board Members. ACTION (2): RB and EC would prepare a fluid FES Implementation Action Plan.**
- b. RICT’s social media output continued to be well received. RICT’s website 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 (such as Chesham United and Crawley Town) and (iii) matches were postponed or re-arranged (such as Wrexham) for any reason.
- c. RICT’s Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV) was still very busy on home matchdays, the ongoing anagram competition (a winner of which would present the next Player of the Month (POTM) trophy), being particularly popular. The opening of the Pod prior to the Club’s fireworks display had also been very well-received. A solo singer would provide entertainment prior to the match on 04/01/25. **ACTION: EC would compile a list of children’s entertainers who could be invited to future matches.** Magnetic name badges had been acquired for use by personnel staffing the Pod, at which first-time visitors to the Stadium would be encouraged to meet. Andy Codd had connected an electricity supply to the Pod and installed USB ports.
- d. The trophy for the winner of RICT’s September POTM poll had been presented to Ethan Erhahon on 19/10/24. **ACTION: The trophy for October’s winner would be presented to Tendayi Darikwa on 23/11/24.**
- e. Two 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 sent on 01/11/24 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages. **ACTION: EC, SF and AP would investigate the options for enhancing the visual attractiveness of such messages.**
- g. Three Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since RICT’s previous BM.
- h. Details of the responses to the survey by RICT’s Matchday Programme Working Group had been sent to DL and Rob Noble, the Club’s Head of Supporter Services, with a request for a meeting.
- i. Further developments were awaited following confirmation being given, as requested by those in charge of a third significant site in the Club’s history, of the desire to display a commemorative plaque.

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. A joint press release had been issued by the Club and RICT to confirm the appointment of PS as FECD. Concerns about day-to-day operational matters would continue to receive a prompt response if reported to feedback@theredimps.com, through which a ticketing glitch at the Stockport County game had been addressed, as well as an issue about the Imps Memorial Wall. Investigations were ongoing (with the

assistance of Level Playing Field) into additional protection from inclement weather that could be provided for disabled away supporters at the LNER Stadium, following concerns raised at the Mansfield Town match that the requirements imposed by the Safety Advisory Group appeared to be deficient. The Club's Audit & Risk Committee reviewed incidents of disorder at matches, home and away, such as the arresting of the home fan who threw flares on to the pitch at Chesham United. PS would continue to be easily accessible at future home matches to fans who wished to discuss any matters. He would attend the Club's next BM on 12/12/24, along with ST (who was a Club director in his own right) and MS. He would also attend the BM on the same date of the Club's holding company, along with ST (who was also a holding company director in his own right) and MS, who would be an Observer.

- b. £3,725.00 had been sent to the Club in anticipation of the approval at the Club's next BM of the allotment of further shares to RICT.
- c. Matters discussed at the Fan Advisory Board meeting on 26/10/24 would come in to the public domain when the minutes of that meeting were published on the Club's website, on which the most recent minutes currently available were for the meeting on 04/07/24.
- d. Further contact was awaited from Luke Thornhill, the Club's Senior Communications Manager, about the Club's desire to access RICT's stock of old matchday programmes in order to complete its own archive.
- e. DL had asked RB to identify members of the Club's volunteer workforce who should be invited to a get-together event, so that the Club could express its appreciation of their work.
- f. The Club was pleased with the final outcome of an audit by Barnardo's of its safeguarding arrangements. Refresher training for the Club's volunteer Mental Health First Responders (some of whom were RICT members) would be re-arranged, as instructor illness had caused a course to be cancelled. The Club would remind all staff (non-playing and playing) of the service available.
- g. The Club would liaise with Bradford City FC and with RICT to ensure that RICT would be represented at the ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Bradford Fire.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. A further £275 had been raised for LCF, RICT's 2024 Charity Partner, from cash donations and from sales of old matchday programmes and other collectible items of Club memorabilia left at RICT's FV Pod. That money would be presented to Brittany Bell, LCF's Operations Leader, at the match on 23/11/24, to enable the replacement of worn out equipment in Poacher's Den.
- b. All money raised by the "RICT Community Team" initiative would be distributed, with £650 being presented to Andy's Man Club on 20/11/24 and £650 being presented to LCF at a later date.
- c. RICT's FV Pod had acted as a collection point prior to the match on 12/11/24 for donations under the Family Action Winter Toy Appeal, promoted by the Club to help schoolchildren across Lincolnshire at risk of exclusion or displaying signs (affecting their learning, their attendance and their peers) of distress. Donations would also be collected before the match on 23/11/24.
- d. RICT's FV Pod had also acted as a collection point 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. Such collections would resume prior to the match on 07/12/24. Details had been shared with Andy Pearson, as Andy's Fun Bus had arranged similar donations at Christmas and Easter for about five years in aid of the less fortunate in the community.
- e. RICT's 2025 Charity Partner would be selected at the next RICT BM. **ACTION: SF would post an article on RICT's website requesting nominations.**

6 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. JBU's attendance at the FSA Leagues 1 & 2 Network Meetings had provided useful insight into the challenges and ideas of organisations similar to RICT, as well as confirming its own strong position. The FSA's current main focus was on the Football Governance Bill (FGB), fan engagement and away ticket pricing.
- b. Prior to the BM, a summary of the FGB (which had received its second reading in the House of Lords on the afternoon of 13/11/24) had been sent to all RICT Board Members. The FSA was in dialogue with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and with the Shadow Regulator about the FGB. If it became necessary for supporters' trusts to lobby for amendments, the FSA would issue a briefing paper but, in the meantime, it had encouraged trusts to introduce themselves to local parliamentarians. Hamish Falconer MP had indicated that he was very happy to receive updates and requests for support from RICT. Baroness

Merron would attend the Club's match on 07/12/24. RICT and the Club would liaise through JBu, PS and MS about any future correspondence with parliamentarians as progress was made. Twelve days after the FGB had been laid before parliament, another club's supporters' trust had asked other trusts, including RICT, to sign within six days a joint message to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport, lobbying for the FGB to be amended, to include trusts as part of the fan engagement threshold requirements. That other trust had been informed within the six day period that RICT required more time to consider the technical legal implications of its request. The FSA had subsequently indicated that, in all the circumstances, the campaign proposed by that other trust was not a recommended way of proceeding. **ACTION: RB would offer to set up an East Midlands Group of Supporters' Trusts, which that other trust would be invited to join, so that matters of mutual interest could be discussed.**

- c. The FSA would notify the Club if it was shortlisted for the Fan Engagement Award, for which it had been nominated by RICT. **ACTION: RB would inform DL and Liam Scully, the Club's Chief Executive Officer, that RICT had nominated the Club.**

7 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. There had been a healthy attendance at the latest RICT Bingo Plus session, held on 04/11/24 at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities. The mini game jackpot had risen to over £400 for the next session, which would be held at the same venue on 02/12/24.
- b. The "Commercial Partners" tab on RICT's website had been updated to show that My Secret Antiques had become a new RICT Red Partner. Certificates had been provided for display by all RICT Red Partners at their premises. Discussions were ongoing with potential additional RICT Red and White Partners. **ACTION: RB would arrange for all RICT Red and White Partners to be listed on a board at RICT's FV Pod.**
- c. Consideration was being given to arranging another Race Night, either at the end of January or at the beginning of February.
- d. A vote of thanks was passed to SM for his successful work.

8 MEMBERSHIP

- a. Prints of the hard copy Membership Application Form for 2024/25 had been obtained for distribution on home matchdays from RICT's FV Pod. **ACTION: For the benefit of non-RICT members, SF would ensure that the availability of those forms was highlighted by RL via RICT's social media channels.**
- b. Money due to the Club under the JOGC joint venture had been paid. Some JOGC members who paid their RICT subscriptions in monthly instalments had not yet signed new standing order mandate forms to extend their membership following the expiration of the latest five year term. **ACTION: MS would contact the people concerned.**

9 FINANCES

- a. Prior to the BM, ST had sent to all RICT Board Members a financial update for the period from 01/01/24 to 07/11/24, showing that everything was running smoothly.
- 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 its North Hykeham (Newark Road) store between 01/09/24 and 01/03/25, together with other benefits.
- c. ST hoped to meet Sarah Campbell, LCF's Business Support Leader, in early December to discuss her interest in assisting with RICT's accounts.
- d. RICT would sponsor a player from the Club's Academy during 2024/25 **ACTION: ST would ascertain the players still available for sponsorship and make a suitable selection.**

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. The agreed updates had been made to all Role Descriptions on RICT's website. **ACTION: SM, RL and AP would liaise to submit to the next RICT BM for approval draft Role Descriptions for the recently created posts of Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator and of Social Media Secretary.**
- b. A draft Role Description for a RICT Board representative from the younger section of the Club's fanbase had been sent to LCF for review in conjunction with its fledgling Youth Committee. Guidance was also available from the FSA, whose Future of Football Toolkit had been assessed. Assistance might also be obtained from City of Lincoln Councillor Anita Pritchard, who was a Family Learning Officer at Lincolnshire

County Council. **ACTION: JBu and AC would submit a proposal at the RICT BM in either December or January as to how one of the vacant posts on RICT's Board might be filled.**

- c. Photographs of five RICT Board Members had been published alongside their biographies on RICT's website. **ACTION: All Board Members whose photographs had not yet been published would meet SF as soon as mutually convenient at RICT's FV Pod, so that standard-sized photographs could be taken and published.**
- d. Prior to the BM, a draft new RICT Privacy Notice (PN) had been sent to all RICT Board Members. It would be adopted. **ACTION (1): AP would publish the PN on RICT's website. ACTION (2): SF, IH and AP would liaise to suggest consequential amendments to RICT's Data Protection Policy (DPP) for consideration at RICT's next BM.** The issue of internal and external disclosure of RICT Board Members' contact details would be addressed in amendments to RICT's Data Protection Procedures, which would be considered at a future RICT BM, following the approval of RICT's updated DPP.
- e. RICT's new rules had been published on its website, having been registered by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), which had made two minor amendments to the version approved at RICT's latest Annual General Meeting, namely (i) the provisions (mirroring those in the Club's new articles of association) relating to FECDs and The Fans' Share had been re-classified as powers under rule 5, rather than objects under rule 4, and (ii) members' postal addresses had to be recorded under rule 112.1.1 (as required by statute), even if all correspondence with them was conducted electronically.
- f. RICT's Annual Return and Accounts for the year to 31/12/23 had been published on the FCA website.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11/12/24. **ACTION: RB would invite DL to attend as an Observer.**

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.15pm.