

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)**Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.02pm on Wednesday 18th December 2024****1 PARTICIPATION**

- a. Present at the BM were Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters' Association (FSA) Engagement Director; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Phil Scrafton (PS) – Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD); Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Gavin Gordon (GG); Kirsty Hackney (KH); Tony Smith (TS) – Chair of the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB), deputising for Jonathan Battersby (JBa); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Rick Lalka (RL) – Social Media Secretary (SMS); Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder; and Guest Observer David Lowes (DL) – the Club's Fan Engagement Director.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and FECD - John O'Gaunts Club (JOGC); Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator (EF&CC); Chris Baldam (CB); JBa; and Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF).
- c. TS and DL were welcomed to the meeting.

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 09/10/24 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 13/11/24 would be published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.

3 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. PS and MS (along with ST, who was a Club Director in his own right) had attended the Club's very informative BM on 12/12/24. Fundraising from commercial activities was very encouraging. PS had also attended the BM on the same day of the Club's holding company, along with ST (who was also a holding company director in his own right) and MS, who was an Observer. PS and MS continued to liaise with supporters, assessing views, responding and following up where necessary. Concerns about day-to-day operational matters would continue to receive a prompt response if reported to feedback@theredimps.com. The concerns previously raised about the welfare of disabled Mansfield Town supporters at the LNER Stadium (who had declined offers of shelter during inclement weather) had been addressed: the same situation would not arise again in future, because a temporary solution (which still met the requirements of the Safety Advisory Group) had been found and it was anticipated that an even better long-term solution would be approved by the Club's Executive Committee on 19/12/24.
- b. Representatives of the Club, the Former Players' Association (FPA), LCF and RICT would meet on 19/12/24. **ACTION: RB would raise at that meeting issues that had been referred to RICT concerning admission to and catering for fans at a Lincoln City Women match hosted by Gainsborough Trinity FC.**
- c. It was anticipated that matters discussed at the FAB meetings on 24/08/24 and 26/10/24 would come in to the public domain soon, when the minutes of those meetings were published on the Club's website. PS would attend the next FAB meeting on 04/01/25 as deputy for JBU.
- d. On 09/01/25, DL and Rob Noble (RN), the Club's Head of Supporter Services, would discuss future implementation of the Club's Fan Engagement Plan (FEP), which had been published on the Club's website. RICT had shared that FEP with (i) Hamish Falconer (HF), the local Member of Parliament, who was happy to continue the dialogue, and (ii) the FSA, which (in order to make best practice recommendations) was analysing such documents published by other clubs.

4 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. EC and RB were working on timings between January 2025 and May 2025 to be specified in an Action Plan to implement RICT's Fan Engagement Strategy. **ACTION (1): RB and EC would meet DL and RN after 09/01/25 to share proposed event timings, so that collaboration between RICT and the Club would be streamlined as much as possible. ACTION (2): The Action Plan, when finalised, would be shared by SF with RICT Board Members.**
- b. RICT's social media output continued to be well received, with Bluesky's platform now also being used.
- c. The list on RICT's website 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 Morecambe and Birmingham City), (iii) matches were postponed (such as Mansfield Town) and (iv) arrangements were changed for any other reason (such as Northampton Town). Numerous other news items had been uploaded to the website, which continued to attract an encouraging number of hits.
- d. RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV) was still very busy on home matchdays, with the usual competitions, freebies for youngsters, sales of collectible items and sales of enhanced teamsheets. **ACTION (1): RB would collate memorabilia items for a new exhibition about Danny Cowley's tenure as the Club's Manager. ACTION (2): RB and EC would ascertain during their meeting with DL and RN whether the unused RICT banner could be displayed for promotional purposes at the north-west corner of the LNER Stadium.**
- e. Tendayi Darikwa had won RICT's Player of the Month polls for both October and November. Both trophies had been presented to him on 07/12/24.
- f. RICT's virtual museum remained popular.
- g. A "regular update" message had been sent on 06/12/24 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.**
- h. Two Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since RICT's previous BM.
- i. Luke Thornhill, the Club's Senior Communications Manager, would meet online the members of RICT's Matchday Programme Working Group.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. The cheque for £275 (raised from sales of old matchday programmes and other collectible items of Club memorabilia stored at RICT's FV Pod, along with cash donations) had been presented to Brittany Bell, Operations Leader of LCF (RICT's 2024 Charity Partner), at the match on 23/11/24. The further sum of £650 raised for LCF by the "RICT Community Team" had been tentatively earmarked for LCF's Youth Committee (YC) projects and would be presented at a later date. Awareness of LCF's new walking tennis initiative had been raised by a feature on RICT's website.
- b. The remaining £650 raised by the "RICT Community Team" initiative had been presented on 20/11/24 to Andy's Man Club (AMC), the male suicide prevention charity holding meetings in the Co-op Community Hub at the LNER Stadium. BB had subsequently been interviewed on Lincoln City Radio about suicide awareness and mental health. At the match on 23/11/24, RICT had hosted Micky Hazard, the former Tottenham Hotspur player, following the installation of a suicide prevention bench in Hartsholme Country Park by the Legend on a Bench charity.
- c. Two large bags and one small one had been filled with toys donated at RICT's FV Pod for 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.
- d. Two car journeys had been required to deliver the many other toys (which had been donated at RICT's FV Pod) to the Bridge Church charity for its "Christmas Sacks" campaign, supporting local people in need during the festive season.

- e. RICT's FV Pod had acted as a collection point before the match on 07/12/24, under the Club's partnership with Lincolnshire Co-op (LC), to help local people in crisis over Christmas. About 200 non-perishable food items had been donated, along with cash totalling approximately £350, which LC would match.
- f. BB had represented RICT when FPA members visited residents of Grosvenor Hall Care Home to speak about their memories of the Club. Further visits would be arranged for 2025.
- g. Funds had been raised for Buddies Dementia Café in a FPA competition at Lincoln Indoor Bowls Club, with RICT being represented by a team that included RB, BB and GG.
- h. RICT and the FPA had been represented at an event at the Waterside Shopping Centre to raise awareness of prostate cancer.
- i. Consideration would be given to organising an event at Easter for the benefit of local youngsters. **ACTION: BB and KH would liaise and submit a detailed proposal at the next RICT BM.** Details of any such event would be shared with Andy Pearson, as Andy's Fun Bus had arranged donations at Easter for about five years in aid of the less fortunate in the community.
- j. The deadline for receipt of RICT members' nominations for its 2025 Charity Partner had expired on 17/12/24. The nominations that had been received were discussed. LCF would be RICT's Permanent Charity Partner, AMC would be RICT's 2025 Local Charity Partner and Motor Neurone Disease Association would be RICT's 2025 National Charity Partner.

6 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. The FSA had acknowledged receipt of a list of RICT's Board Members, including contact details for RB, ST, JBu and SF.
- b. JBu would attend the next FSA Leagues 1 & 2 Network Meeting in late January, no such meetings having been held since the last RICT BM.
- c. The FSA had issued a briefing paper, encouraging all supporters' trusts to lobby their local Members of Parliament for technical amendments to the Football Governance Bill on five key issues. Fair Game, the band of clubs campaigning to improve football governance, had arranged a drop-in session for parliamentarians on 15/01/25, when the Bill would receive its third reading in the House of Lords. RICT would use its channels of communication with HF to facilitate a meeting between the Club and him at that session if possible. The need for another meeting of the Club's Fan-Led Review Working Group would be assessed when further progress had been made. Six supporters' trusts based in the East Midlands (including the one that had suggested a course of action that was not favoured by the FSA) had expressed an interest in RICT's suggestion that they should meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. The FSA had raised no objection when being informed of the proposed meeting. **ACTION: RB would arrange such a meeting.**
- d. The Club had been nominated by RICT for the FSA Fan Engagement Award, but the winner selected was Portsmouth FC.

7 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. There had been another healthy attendance at the latest RICT Bingo Plus session, held on 02/12/24 at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities, where the next session would be held on 06/01/25.
- b. SM was thanked for securing three RICT Red Partners and four RICT White Partners, whose support had been acknowledged on RICT's website and through its social media channels. **ACTION (1): RB would arrange for all RICT Red and White Partners to be listed on a board at RICT's FV Pod, together with members of the RICT "Community Team". ACTION (2): RB would liaise with SM to arrange the taking of any further action required to reciprocate that support.**
- c. RICT had expressed an interest in assisting with the fan engagement aspects of the Club's proposed Innovation Lab.

8 MEMBERSHIP

- a. RN had confirmed his willingness to send a one-time e-shot advert to non-RICT members, encouraging them to join RICT. **ACTION: EC and SF would liaise to agree the wording of the message that should be conveyed.**
- b. JOGC members would meet next on 25/01/25, when reminders would be delivered to those Gold Legacy Members whose latest five-year term had expired without new standing order mandate forms being signed to extend their memberships.

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 10/12/24, showing that everything was running smoothly.
- b. Following RICT's selection as a LC 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. RICT's financial year would end on 31/12/24. **ACTION: RB and ST would prepare a budget for expenditure in 2025 on RICT initiatives, including those of the FETCLs.** Sarah Campbell (LCF's Business Support Leader) would assist with RICT's accounting operations from 01/01/25.
- d. Publicity had been given to RICT's sponsorship of Denny Oliver (DO), a promising locally-born player in the Club's Academy. **ACTION: The Media Group would meet DO to arrange further publicity.**

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. Role Descriptions for the recently created EF&CC and SMS posts were approved. **ACTION: AP would publish those Role Descriptions on RICT's website.**
- b. Having taken in to account guidance issued by the FSA, the YC would be invited at its meeting on 06/01/25 to devise projects to engage with RICT, including seeking representation on the RICT Board. Assistance might be sought from DO with any necessary consequential publicity. A Role Description for a RICT Board representative from the younger section of the Club's fanbase had been agreed with LCF. **ACTION: JBu and AC would submit a detailed proposal at a future RICT BM.**
- 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 up-to-date photographs could be taken and published.**
- d. The approved Privacy Notice had been published on RICT's website. A new RICT Data Protection Policy (DPP) was adopted, subject to ratification at the 2025 Annual General Meeting. **ACTION (1): AP would publish the DPP on RICT's website. ACTION (2): SF, IH and AP would liaise to draft for consideration at a future RICT BM a new Handbook of Data Protection Procedures.**

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 08/01/25.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. RB was congratulated on receiving on 17/12/24 the Freedom of the City of Lincoln in recognition of his involvement in sport locally, including in particular his service with RICT.
- b. There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.25pm.