

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.00pm on Wednesday 19th February 2025

1 PARTICIPATION

- a. Present at the BM were Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters’ Association (FSA) Engagement Director; Phil Scrafton (PS) – Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD); Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Chris Baldam (CB); 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 (SMS); and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. AC left the BM at 7.30pm, due to other LCF commitments.
- c. Apologies for absence were received from Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and FECD - John O’Gaunts Club (JOGC); Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; and Sarah Campbell (SC), LCF’s Business Support Leader.

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 18/12/24 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 08/01/25 would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

3 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. There had been another healthy attendance at the latest RICT Bingo Plus session, held on 03/02/25 at the premises of Tension Twisted Realities (TTR), where the next session would be held on 03/03/25.
- b. The social media output of RICT’s sponsor and Red and White Partners would be liked, shared and re-tweeted.
- c. RICT had publicised the Club’s Former Players Association’s events:-
 - i. jointly with the Stacey West Blog on 24/01/25, at which there had been interviews of John Schofield (a former manager and player of the Club) and Graham Bressington (a former Club player) at TTR’s premises;
 - ii. on 15/03/25, at which there would be question and answer sessions at Hartsholme Sports & Social Club with Phil Neale and Mick Harford, former players of the Club; and
 - iii. on 11/04/25, when there would be a Golf Day at Blankney Golf Club.
- d. Jimmy Walker, a former Goalkeeping Coach at the Club, had attended RICT’s Pod in the University of Lincoln (UoL) Fan Village (FV) on 08/02/25 and would do so again on 22/02/25 to autograph copies of his book “Size Isn’t Everything”, which was on sale from the Pod for £20. RICT would receive commission for each copy purchased.
- e. A RICT Race Night would be held later in 2025 at TTR’s premises.

4 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. RICT’s Fan Engagement Strategy Action Plan was being followed.
- b. RICT’s social media output continued to be well received. An auto-tweet facility had been set up, so that news items would appear swiftly on social media once published on RICT’s website.
- c. Various news items had been uploaded to RICT’s website, which continued to attract an encouraging number of hits. The list of departure times and ticket prices for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches continued to be updated whenever any tickets went on or off sale and match arrangements were confirmed or changed for any reason. Emma Thompson of Electric

Thought Studio had made various suggestions to enhance the website's visual appeal. **ACTION: EC and SF would review those suggestions.**

- d. RICT's FV Pod was still very busy on home matchdays, with the usual competitions, freebies for youngsters, sales of collectible items and sales of enhanced teamsheets. RICT's pop-up marquee would enable Imptoons to sell its merchandise on 22/02/25. **ACTION: RB and EC would devise methods to raise RICT's profile in other parts of the LNER Stadium.**
- e. RICT's Player of the Month trophy for December had been presented to the winner, Sean Roughan, on 25/01/25. The Trophy for January's winner would be presented to Ethan Erhahon in due course.
- f. Five more exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's popular virtual museum since the last BM.
- g. A "regular update" message had been sent on 30/01/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages.
- h. Two more Lincolnshire Echo articles about RICT had been published since RICT's previous BM.
- i. The Club would highlight the "Her Game Too" initiative at the match on 15/03/25. Dominique Thorley (DT), the Club's Ambassador for that initiative, had enquired whether RICT would act as sponsor. DT would be invited to outline the best ways in which awareness of the initiative could be raised with a donation of up to £100 from RICT, having regard to the publicity that the Club also planned to give on the same date to the Level Playing Field Unite for Access campaign and to LCF. **ACTION: KH would speak to DT.**

5 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. Denny Oliver, a player in the Club's Academy, might not be able to assist in publicising RICT's 2024/25 sponsorship of him by attending RICT's FV Pod on future matchdays, because he had gone on loan to Grantham Town FC. He would however be able to participate in publicity on non-matchdays at the Club's Elite Player Performance Centre.
- b. Minutes of the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB) meeting on 04/01/25 had been published on the Club's website, along with the agenda for the FAB meeting on 22/02/25. **ACTION JBa and JBu would attend the FAB meeting on 22/02/25.**
- c. Concerns about day-to-day operational matters would continue to receive a prompt response if reported to feedback@theredimps.com. If requested by members, RICT would always provide representatives to assist members with any correspondence that they might receive from the Club and to support them at any hearings, in accordance with the English Football League Supporter Sanctioning Guidance. The most appropriate methods of resolving those issues would be discussed with David Lowes (DL), the Club's Fan Engagement Director, at the next FAB meeting. A RICT member had raised concerns about a letter that he had received from the Club following a disagreement between two groups of spectators in the away section during the Club's match at Bolton Wanderers FC. PS had attended a meeting between that member and a Club representative at which the matter had been resolved amicably, with a better understanding of the facts. PS was thanked for his work on the matter.
- d. Discussions would take place on 22/02/25 about RICT's role in the ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Valley Parade Fire, a sponsored walk in connection with which had been arranged by the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service. **ACTION: RB and GG would meet Damian Froggatt, the Club's Director of Operations & Sustainability, to discuss the arrangements.**
- e. John Gregson, who had played in the Club's League Cup match against Newcastle United in 1967, had been sent a copy of that matchday's programme and some other memorabilia.
- f. PS and MS would attend the Club's next BM on 03/03/25, along with ST, who was a Club director in his own right.
- g. PS would attend the next BM of the Club's holding company on 03/03/25, along with MS as an observer and ST, who was a director of the holding company in his own right.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. The identities of RICT's charity partners for 2025 had been publicised on its website and through its social media channels.
- b. A further £155 had been presented to LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner, on 25/01/25. Funds continued to be raised for LCF from sales at RICT's FV Pod of old matchday programmes and other collectible items of Club memorabilia, along with cash donations. Additionally, about £80 had been raised in a tombola. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website and through its social media channels to LCF's new wellbeing walks initiative.
- c. The Club had been asked to allow its players to wear shirts during a pre-match warm-up advertising RICT's 2025 local charity partner, Andy's Man Club.
- d. A coffee morning would be arranged in aid of RICT's 2025 national charity partner, the MND Association.

7 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. JBu had attended the latest FSA Leagues 1 & 2 Network Meeting, at which the following issues had arisen.
 - i. The Football Governance Bill was still at the report stage in the House of Lords, with the next sitting scheduled for 11/03/25. Max Wilkinson, the Member of Parliament for Cheltenham, would be the FSA's lead contact for scrutinising the Bill when it moved to the House of Commons. **ACTION: At that stage, RB and JBu would ensure that Hamish Falconer MP was aware of the views of RICT and the Club on the key issues concerned.**
 - ii. Following complaints about fans' loyalty being exploited at certain other clubs, all supporters' trusts had been asked whether any observations that they wanted to make on ticket pricing issues were taken into account by the clubs with which they were associated. RICT was represented on the FAB, which was provided with information about the Club's finances and ticket pricing proposals, with feedback being invited. Additional meaningful engagement could also take place through the FECDs.
 - iii. A toolkit had been sent to all clubs for a Green Football Weekend, to be held at some point during the period from 11/03/25 to 02/04/25. **ACTION: JBu would speak to Jason Futers, the Club's Chief Growth and Innovation Officer, about the role that RICT would play.**
 - iv. A Fan Engagement Mid-Season Review template would be circulated to all supporters' trusts. **ACTION: JBu would complete and return the form, sending a courtesy copy to DL.**
 - v. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the FSA would be held on 27/02/25 to consider the adoption of a new constitution, one proposed change in which would increase of the minimum age for individual members from 16 to 18.
- b. RICT had organised a meeting of representatives of five supporters' trusts from professional clubs based in the East Midlands. RB and PS had attended on behalf of RICT. Prior to the BM, RB had sent to all RICT Board Members a summary of the meeting, which had been held at Grantham Town FC on 23/01/25. A follow-up meeting would be arranged at the end of the season, with invitations being extended to representatives of other supporters' trusts in the area.

8 MEMBERSHIP

- a. An appropriate time before the end of the season would be identified for release of the Club's one-time e-shot advert to non-RICT members, encouraging them to join RICT. **ACTION: RB, EC and AP would liaise with SF about the message to be conveyed.**
- b. At the JOGC meeting on 25/01/25, various Gold Legacy Members (GLMs) had extended their memberships for further five-year terms. The next JOGC meeting would be held on 15/03/25, when reminders would be given to any GLMs whose latest terms had expired without new standing order mandate forms being signed.
- c. Back-up copies of RICT's Membership Lists had been added to RICT's cloud-based file storage facility, protected by passwords known only to SF and IH.

9 FINANCES

- a. Prior to the BM, ST had sent to all RICT Board Members a financial update prepared by SC for the period from 01/01/25 to 31/01/25, showing that everything (including payment of the annual fee due to Zoom) 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. A budget of £500 (which might be increased at a later date, if appropriate) was set for expenditure on RICT's fan engagement initiatives during 2025.

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. An advert for new digital media support had been published on RICT's website, with attention being drawn to it through RICT's social media channels and in two messages sent to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had opted out of receiving such messages. AC had arranged for it to be highlighted to LCF staff, various LCF volunteers and the Club's Media Team, for which volunteer work was being undertaken by a cohort of UoL students. Tamyra Beeston and Tony Beeston had volunteered their services. They would be appointed jointly as RICT's SMS in place of RL (who had indicated a desire to stand down from that role), who was thanked for his services.
- b. Within RICT's membership were 1,084 people under 18 years of age, who had joined via the Club's Young Imps and Junior Imps schemes. The sum raised for LCF by the "RICT Community Team" initiative had been tentatively earmarked for LCF Youth Committee (YC) projects. Prior to the BM, JBu had sent to all RICT Board Members a draft Role Description for a new RICT Youth Board Member. The FSA had recommended that Youth Board Members should be between 18 and 25 years of age, in part because RICT's constitution required Board Members to be at least 18 years old: alternative arrangements would have to be made for anyone younger, to meet standards for safeguarding children, which could be organised by AC. The draft Role Description would be adopted. **ACTION: JBu and AC would seek expressions of interest in the role within the YC.** JBu, AC and LCF were thanked for their work on the issue, about which RICT's Media Team would release communications in due course.
- c. Photographs of nine RICT Board Members had been published alongside their biographies on RICT's website. **ACTION: CB, JBa, KH and SM would attend as soon as possible on a matchday at RICT's FV Pod, so that up-to-date photographs could be taken and published.**
- d. Work was ongoing on RICT's Handbook of Data Protection Procedures, which would be presented for approval at a future BM.
- e. RICT was under a statutory duty to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) within six months of the end of its financial year, namely (as the latest financial year had ended on 31/12/24) by 30/06/25. RICT's next AGM would be held online at 7.30pm on Thursday 26/06/25.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12/03/25. **ACTION: RICT Board Members' reports would be submitted to SF by 03/03/25 for circulation with an agenda by 05/03/25.**

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. PS would represent RICT at the funeral on 25/02/25 of Brian Baldam, who had played a significant role in raising over £1.6m for the Club during his role for 50 years with Lincoln & District Football Supporters Club. CB placed on record his appreciation of the way in which the Club and RICT had given recognition to his late father.
- b. There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.01pm.