

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.01pm on Wednesday 14th May 2025

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 (CETL); Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters' Association (FSA) Engagement Director; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD) - John O'Gaunts Club (JOGC); Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Jonathan Battersby (JBA); Gavin Gordon (GG); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Chris Baldam (CBA); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); and Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary.

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 12/03/25 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 09/04/25 would be published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. Numerous news items had been uploaded to RICT's website, with plenty of topical social media output. **ACTION: RB would arrange an in-person meeting of everyone involved in RICT's communications team, to ensure that good progress continued to be made.**
- b. RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV) had been very busy on home matchdays, with freebies for youngsters, sales of collectible items and sales of enhanced teamsheets. Publicity had been given to the winners of the "Where will we finish?" competition. The entertainment provided in the FV before the match on 12/04/25 by the vocalist and guitarist Ash Wilson, who had been hired by RICT, had been very well-received.
- c. RICT's Player of the Month trophy for March had been presented to the winner, Jovon Makama (JM).
- d. Three new exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum.
- e. A precise location was being agreed with the venue concerned for the erection of a third RICT plaque to commemorate an iconic connection with the Club's heritage.
- f. A "regular update" message had been sent on 30/04/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had elected not to receive such messages.
- g. Three more articles about RICT had been published in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- h. RICT's poll for the Player of the Season had been publicised, the results had been announced and the Vic Withers Memorial Trophy had been presented on behalf of RICT and Lincoln & District Football Supporters Club to Tendayi Darikwa (TD). Graham Winter Builders Limited had been thanked for its sponsorship. A separate trophy, to be kept permanently, had been given to TD, with a similar one being handed to JM, the winner of the Harry Willmott Trophy for the Young Player of the Season.
- i. Nominations for RICT's Fan of the Season Award, which were required by 30/05/25, had been received. **ACTION: SF would ensure that the deadline was publicised on RICT's website and through its social media channels.**

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. PS and MS had attended the Club's BM and Strategy Day on 02/05/25, along with ST, who was a Club director in his own right. It was anticipated that, in line with the Club's approach to transparency, a summary of the issues covered would be published by the Club in due course.

- b. PS had attended the BM of the Club's holding company on 02/05/25, along with MS as an observer and ST, who was a director of the holding company in his own right.
- c. JBa and JBu had attended the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB) meeting on 12/04/25, the minutes of which had been published on the Club's website, since when comments had been requested from FAB members on the Club's planned windows for season ticket sales.
- d. The next multi-party meeting between representatives of the Club, its Former Players' Association (FPA), LCF and RICT would be held on 19/06/25.
- e. The Club had been thanked for arranging the well-received event at which it had showed its appreciation of the service provided by its volunteer workforce.
- f. RICT and the FPA had been represented at the ceremony on 11/05/25 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Valley Parade Fire. A friendly relationship had been established with representatives of the Bantams Supporters' Trust.
- g. Denny Oliver, the Club's Academy player sponsored by RICT in 2024/25, had agreed a professional contract with Sheffield Wednesday FC, where he was expected to continue his development in the under-21 environment.
- h. It was pleasing that the Club's average 2024/25 home attendance had exceeded 9,000 people.
- i. RICT had been represented at the County Cup Final played on 02/05/25 at Boston United FC between Lincoln City Women FC and Lincoln United WFC, which had also been attended by various directors, key investors and senior staff of the Club.
- j. RICT had been represented at the Club's End of Season Awards Night ceremony on 04/05/25.
- k. The Club's Centre Spot Tavern was being refurbished by ProAmpac, whose Head of Creative Services, Gavin Lawrence, had offered to credit RICT if photographs of programme fronts were supplied. **ACTION: RB and SF would provide the photographs requested when the precise requirements were confirmed.**
- l. A draft of the Club's 2025/26 Fan Engagement Plan had been sent to all RICT Board Members, whose observations on it had been shared with David Lowes (DL), the Club's Fan Engagement Director, so that enhancements could be made before it was submitted to the English Football League. PS was providing ongoing assistance to DL.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website and through its social media channels to the help available to people living with Parkinson's through the "Active Together" initiative of LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner. Further funds had been raised for it from sales at RICT's FV Pod of old matchday programmes, along with cash donations. Jean Foster and Steve Haynes had been particularly generous in donating items of Club memorabilia, to supplement RICT's existing stock. A high-profile sale of some items from that stock had taken place at the Pod before the match on 03/05/25, raising over £300, which would be presented when the total debit and credit card receipts were confirmed by ST. The net proceeds of sale of RB's new book entitled "Imposter", copies of which had been on sale for £11.99 from the Pod, would also be donated to LCF. Gary Hutchinson, founder of the Stacey West Podcast, had visited the Pod on 21/04/25, when he had sold raffle tickets linked to his London Marathon run, raising very substantial additional funds for LCF.
- b. RICT had provided publicity for and assistance at the FPA's fundraising match against the Bradford City FC Veterans team, in aid of the Bradford Burns Unit and Buddies Dementia Cafe.
- c. Some money had been earmarked from the "RICT Community Team" initiative for LCF Youth Committee schemes to be undertaken in conjunction with RICT's Youth Board Member, when appointed.
- d. Conor Broughton (CBr) from the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Team had expressed an interest in an awareness-raising exercise organised in conjunction with RICT. **ACTION: BB would meet CBr for a discussion.**

- e. Reports would be given at the next BM on progress made with various other initiatives that were in the pipeline.

6 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. JBu would be unable to attend the FSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Manchester on 14/06/25, at which the workshops would include a presentation by Martyn Henderson, the Interim Chief Operating Officer for the incoming Independent Football Regulator (IFR), and an opportunity to sit in a Video Assistant Referee hotseat at a Professional Game Match Officials Limited roadshow. **ACTION: Any RICT Board Member or Officer wishing to attend should visit the relevant page of the FSA website.**
- b. Another supporters' trust had asked whether RICT would support a motion at the FSA AGM, seeking primacy (mandated in legislation, rather than left to the discretion of the IFR) in the Football Governance Bill for supporters' trusts and other democratically-constituted supporter organisations, to ensure that they could play a full and meaningful part in the fan engagement sphere at their clubs. Although it was appreciated that the fan engagement experience at some clubs fell well below the standards enjoyed by RICT members, RICT's representatives would consider all views expressed at the FSA AGM before casting any votes. **ACTION: RB would reply to the other supporters' trust accordingly.**
- c. JBu would be unable the next FSA League 1 & 2 Network Meeting on 19/05/25. **ACTION: SF would attend that Meeting as deputy for JBu.**
- d. RICT had received funding from Fans for Diversity (FFD) in 2022 for a "My Club, My Shirt" project. **ACTION: JBu would investigate whether RICT could obtain FFD funding for any other projects.**
- e. RICT had arranged another meeting of supporters' trusts based in the East Midlands area, to be held at Grantham Town FC on 22/05/25.
- f. The FSA was conducting a survey of the perceptions of supporters' trusts on the quality of fan engagement available from their clubs. **ACTION: JBu would circulate that survey to RICT Board Members, if possible.**

7 MEMBERSHIP

- a. A 2025/26 Membership Policy (MP) was adopted for ratification at the AGM. **ACTION: AP would publish the MP on RICT's website.**
- b. The second window for people to join RICT through the Club's 2025/26 Gold Membership Scheme had opened on 02/05/25 and would close on 30/06/25. The third window would open on 07/07/25. Sales of 2025/26 Silver and Bronze Club Memberships, which included RICT membership as an automatic benefit, had also started on 02/05/25.
- c. The Data Sharing Agreement between the Club and RICT needed to be renewed before it expired on 31/07/25. **ACTION: AP would contact Richard Parnell, the Club's Director of Legal and Football Administration, and Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Supporter Services.**
- d. The seasonal renewal process had started for RICT members who did not belong to any of the Club's Membership Schemes, with reminders being sent and the first payment had been received already.

8 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. RICT had provided assistance at the FPA's Golf Day on 11/04/25.
- b. Tension Twisted Realities had agreed to extend its sponsorship agreement with RICT.

9 FINANCES

- a. Prior to the BM, a financial update covering the period from 01/01/25 to 17/04/25, showing that everything was running smoothly, had been sent to all RICT Board Members.

- b. £785 had been received by RICT following its selection as a Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion, on the basis of the value of purchases made at its North Hykeham (Newark Road) store between 01/09/24 and 01/03/25.
- c. Jimmy Walker, a former Goalkeeping Coach at the Club, had been paid for the sale proceeds from RICT's FV Pod of copies of his book "Size Isn't Everything", net of RICT's commission.
- d. It was anticipated that the independent examination of RICT's draft accounts for the year to 31/12/24 would be completed shortly. **ACTION: ST would send those accounts, once examined, to all RICT Board Members, so that they could be formally approved at RICT's next BM.**
- e. Stacey West Investment (SWI) Bonds were no longer being sold through the Urbansoul website. **ACTION (1): ST would ask Tom Hall, the Club's Chief Finance & Governance Officer, when the subscription for the Urbansoul website would expire. ACTION (2): SF would ensure that, before that expiry date, all information required by SWI bondholders would be available under a new tab on RICT's website.**

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. JBu had met someone who had expressed an interest in taking on the RICT Youth Board Member role and suggested some projects. It would be decided at RICT's BM immediately after RICT's AGM whether anyone should be co-opted under RICT rule 65 as an external director, selected by virtue of their specialist skills and experience considered to be of benefit to RICT. It was noted that the maximum number of four co-options permitted under that rule had been made at RICT's BM on 26/06/24. CBa, being one of the Board Members so co-opted on that occasion, had indicated a willingness to seek election at the AGM under RICT rule 63, for which the deadline was 29/05/25, as specified in the Election Nomination Form (ENF) that had been published on RICT's website. **ACTION: CBa would ensure that SF received a completed ENF by 29/05/25.**
- b. Advance notice of the AGM had been sent on 30/04/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held. **ACTION (1): If they would like to be re-elected under RICT rule 63 as RICT Board Members, RB, KH, SM, MS and ST should each ensure that SF received a completed ENF by 29/05/25, if they had not already done so. ACTION (2): SF and AP would arrange for an additional reminder about the ENF deadline to be sent to all RICT members for whom an email address was held. ACTION (3): MS would remind all JOGC members of the ENF deadline for their representative on the Club Board.** A Society Board Members' Annual Report was approved for presentation at the AGM. **ACTION: AP would publish that Report on RICT's website.** Under RICT rule 27, the deadline for receipt of members' resolutions for consideration at the AGM was 29/05/25. **ACTION: (1) After that date, SF and AP would publish on RICT's website an agenda for the AGM, with a proxy form. ACTION (2): SF would post by 09/06/25 hard copy notices of the AGM to all RICT members for whom no email address was held. ACTION (3): SF would send by 11/06/25 electronic notices of the AGM to all RICT members for whom an email address was held.**
- c. The Handbook of Data Protection Procedures had been published on RICT's website.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11/06/25. **ACTION: RICT Board Members' reports should be submitted to SF by 30/05/25, for circulation with an agenda on 04/06/25.**

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.08pm.