

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11th June 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; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD) - John O'Gaunts Club (JOGC); Phil Scafton (PS) – FECD; Chris Baldam (CB); Jonathan Battersby (JBa); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Andy Porter (APo) – Minutes Recorder; and Claire Hunsley (CH) - Observer.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Stewart Millar (SM) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator (EF&CC); Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; and Gavin Gordon (GG).
- c. CH was welcomed to the meeting.

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 09/04/25 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 14/05/25 would be published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. News items continued to be uploaded to RICT's website, with plenty of topical social media posts. **ACTION: Everyone involved in RICT's communications had been invited to an in-person meeting, to be held on 12/06/25, to ensure that output was even more comprehensive and exciting.**
- b. RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village would be cleared of unwanted items and cleaned in readiness for the new season.
- c. RICT's next Player of the Month poll would be undertaken in September 2025, covering August 2025. **ACTION: RB would purchase the trophies to be presented to the winners throughout the new season.**
- d. "Regular update" messages had been sent on 21/05/25 and on 07/06/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had unsubscribed.
- e. Two more articles about RICT had been published in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- f. The deadline of 30/05/25 for receipt of nominations for RICT's Fan of the Season Award had been announced on RICT's website, through its social media channels and in a message to all members for whom an email address was held. Seven nominations had been received by that deadline. **ACTION: A Committee comprising PS, MS and ST would choose the winner, with RB then arranging for the Award to be presented and RICT's Media Group organising publicity.**
- g. A RICT Fan Engagement Action Plan for 2025/26 was required. **ACTION: RB and EC would draft such a Plan.**
- h. RB and BB had been interviewed about RICT's activities on Lincoln City Radio. RB had also discussed those activities on the League One Lowdown podcast.

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. A progress report had been published on RICT's website about preparations for the new season at the LNER Stadium, including re-laying the pitch and undertaking improvements to (i) catering facilities for home and away fans, (ii) accommodation for disabled away fans and (iii) the car park behind the Stacey West Stand.

- b. The most recent meeting of the Club's Fan Advisory Board had been held on 12/04/25. The next meeting was expected to be held online following the release of the 2025/26 fixture list.
- c. The next Multi-Party Meeting (MPM) between representatives of the Club, its Former Players' Association (FPA), LCF and RICT would be held on 19/06/25.
- d. A response was awaited from Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Supporter Services, and Luke Thornhill, the Club's Senior Communications Manager, following a meeting with representatives of RICT's Matchday Programme Working Group. **ACTION: RB would request a progress report at the next MPM.**
- e. RB had attended a meeting between representatives of the Club and of Lincoln United FC, at which opportunities for enhanced collaboration had been discussed. **ACTION: At the next RICT BM, RB would suggest ways in which RICT might be able to aid such collaboration.**

5 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. RICT's virtual museum continued to attract plenty of visitors.
- b. A RICT plaque to commemorate a third key site associated with the Club-would be erected. **ACTION: PS would agree with the site's representative the exact wording to be displayed on the plaque and its precise location.**
- c. A Working Group had met several times, with valuable input from the Club and from representatives of Lincoln Cathedral, with the preparations being well advanced for an Imps-related exhibition of heritage items curated by RICT to be displayed in the Cathedral's Chapter House between 25/07/25 and 24/08/25.
- d. Acknowledgement would be given to RICT by ProAmpac in recognition of the matchday programmes that had been photographed by RICT for display on the columns in the Club's refurbished Centre Spot Tavern.
- e. The Club had expressed a desire to create its own archive of matchday programmes. **ACTION: At the MPM, RB would invite the Club to inspect RICT's stock of such programmes, with a view to the creation of a comprehensive archive.**

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. £387.33 had been raised for LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner, before the match on 03/05/25 by the sale of surplus items from RICT's stock of Club memorabilia. Some of that money would be used to purchase some feather flags, to highlight the location of "Poacher's Den" on future matchdays. **ACTION: RICT's Media Group would publicise the matter when the flags had been were in use.** Attention had also been drawn on RICT's website to two additional venues used by for LCF's "Extra Time Hub" sessions, targeted at people who are retired, semi-retired or approaching retirement. AC expressed LCF's appreciation for all the support provided by RICT.
- b. 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.
- c. The NHS Bowel Cancer Screening programme had been publicised on RICT's website and through its social media channels.
- d. Steps were being taken for five groups to host coffee mornings, at which presentations would be given about RICT and its partners.
- e. RICT Member Simon Baker had died recently following a motor neurone disease diagnosis. **ACTION: PS would discuss with BB the options for an appropriate tribute to be paid, given that MND Association had been selected as RICT's national charity partner for 2025.**

7 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. JBu would be unable to attend the FSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Manchester on 14/06/25, which would be live-streamed for delegates who could not attend in person.
- b. RB had informed Northampton Town Football Club Supporters Trust (NTFCST) of the background to RICT's decision that its representatives should consider all views expressed at the FSA AGM before casting any votes on the motion being proposed by NTFCST.
- c. SF had represented RICT at the FSA League 1 & 2 Network Meeting on 19/05/25, when updates had been given on training requirements for clubs' matchday stewards.
- d. Supporters' trusts associated with Leicester City FC and Scunthorpe Town FC had been represented at the meeting organised by RICT at Grantham Town FC on 22/05/25 for representatives of supporters' trusts based in the East Midlands area. Representatives of the trusts associated with Grimsby Town, Northampton Town and Nottingham Forest had been unable to attend.
- e. The FSA was conducting a survey, collating information on the types of fan engagement provided by clubs in 2024/25. Most of the questions sought factual information, rather than opinions. **ACTION: JBu would complete that survey on behalf of RICT by 30/06/25 and circulate it for information to all RICT Board Members.**

8 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. The sponsorship fee had been received from Graham Winter Builders Limited for RICT's 2025 Player of the Season award of the Vic Withers Memorial Trophy.
- b. SM was thanked for making the payment due to RICT from Tension Twisted Realities (TTR) for RICT's Bingo Plus sessions.
- c. GG had expressed his appreciation of all the support provided by RICT for FPA events during the season.
- d. SM would continue to serve as EF&CC until RICT's AGM, with TTR continuing as RICT's main sponsor thereafter.

9 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between the Club and RICT, which had been due to expire on 31/07/25, had been extended for another year and re-published on RICT's website.
- b. The second window for people to join RICT through the Club's 2025/26 Gold Membership Scheme 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 also included RICT membership as an automatic benefit, were ongoing. Contact details for everyone who joined RICT through the various Club Membership Schemes would be shared with RICT by the Club in accordance with the DSA.
- c. The seasonal renewal process for RICT members who did not belong to any of the Club's Membership Schemes was progressing smoothly.
- d. The Club had confirmed that details would be announced shortly of its 2025/26 JOGC Membership Scheme. In the meantime, RICT's 2025/26 Membership Policy had been published on RICT's website, to facilitate ratification at the AGM, subject to any amendments that might be required to clause F when the Club announced the JOGC details.

10 FINANCES

- a. Prior to the BM, a financial update had been sent to all RICT Board Members, showing that everything had been running smoothly during the period from 01/01/25 to 21/05/25.

- b. RICT's accounts for the year ended 31/12/24, including the independent accountant's report thereon, were approved. **ACTION: APo would publish the accounts on RICT's website in readiness for their presentation at RICT's AGM.**
- c. 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.**

11 GOVERNANCE

- a. A reminder had been sent on 21/05/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held about the deadline of 29/05/25 for receipt of (i) Election Nomination Forms and (ii) members' resolutions. That deadline having passed, formal notice of RICT's AGM had been published on RICT's website, along with relevant documentation, including the Board Members' Annual Report and a Proxy Appointment Form. In accordance with RICT's rules, that notice had been circulated (i) by post before 09/06/25 to all RICT members for whom no email address was held and (ii) electronically before 11/06/25 to all RICT members for whom such an address was held. No contested elections would take place. Two vacancies would remain for Board Members without a specific portfolio.
- b. After formal notice of RICT's AGM had been published, SM had withdrawn his nomination for election as EF&CC, primarily because his business commitments prevented him from dedicating the time to that role that it deserved. **ACTION: The situation would be reviewed at the RICT BM to be held immediately after the AGM.**
- c. Under RICT's rules, a volunteer who had expressed an interest in taking on the RICT Youth Board Member role could become an external director, selected by virtue of his specialist skills and experience considered to be of benefit to RICT, when he attained 18 years of age. **ACTION: The appointment of external directors would be considered at the RICT BM to be held immediately after the AGM.**

12 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- a. The next BM would be held via Zoom immediately after the conclusion of the AGM on 26/06/25.
- b. The subsequent BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 09/07/25. **ACTION: RICT Board Members' reports should be submitted to SF by 27/06/25, for circulation with an agenda on 02/07/25.**

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.01pm.