

**RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)**

**Notes of the Directors' Meeting held online at 7.04pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**1 PARTICIPATION**

- a. 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); Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Kirsty Hackney (KH); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Tamyra Beeston (TaB) – Social Media Co-Secretary; Tony Beeston (ToB) – Social Media Co-Secretary; Andy Porter (APo) – Minutes Recorder; Rick Lalka (RL) – Observer; and Anita Pritchard (APr) - Observer.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters' Association (FSA) Engagement Director; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Chris Baldam (CB); Jonathan Battersby (JBa); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); Gavin Gordon (GG); and Claire Hunsley (CH).
- c. APr, TaB and ToB were welcomed to the meeting.

**2 QUORUM**

- a. Rule 75 of RICT's constitution specified that the quorum necessary for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Directors was 50% of the Directors. The meeting was inquorate, as only four of the thirteen Directors were present.
- b. Standing Order 6.3 of RICT's Standing Orders for Society Board Meetings specified that, in the event of a quorum not being present, the business of the Agenda should be postponed to an alternative date determined by the Secretary. SF declared that such business should be postponed until 7.00pm on Wednesday 13/08/25.
- c. The Directors requested (i) the recording in these Notes of an informal discussion that subsequently took place on the business of the Agenda and (ii) the circulation of these Notes to all RICT Board Members prior to RICT's Board Meeting (BM) on 13/08/25, in order to facilitate the smooth running of that BM.

**3 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- a. Notes of RICT's BM on 14/05/25 had been published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.
- b. Draft Notes of RICT's BMs on 11/06/25 and 26/06/25 would be submitted at RICT's BM on 13/08/25 for approval for publication on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels.

**4 FSA ENGAGEMENT**

- a. At the FSA Annual General Meeting (AGM), a motion had been passed calling on the FSA to continue its support of younger football fans across the game and to increase its reach through the establishment of an informal network.
- b. A motion proposed by Northampton Town Football Club Supporters Trust at the FSA AGM, calling for the FSA to press for further amendments to the Football Governance Bill (FGB), had not been carried. The FGB had subsequently passed its third reading in the House of Commons and was expected to receive Royal Assent, becoming law, before the parliamentary recess on 22/07/25.
- c. RICT had completed a FSA survey, which was collating information on the types of fan engagement provided by clubs in 2024/25.

**5 FAN ENGAGEMENT**

- a. RICT currently had 960 members who were under 18 years of age. A Working Group (comprising RB, EC, JBU and APr) had been set up, to enable the younger section of the Club's fanbase to make its voice heard within RICT and the Club. The developing "Youth Theme/Youth Rep/Youth Voice" initiative,

which had received the Club's blessing, would be fleshed out at the next BM. Surveys (both online and in-person) would be undertaken to ascertain the views of different age groups.

- b. An in-person meeting had taken place, to which everyone involved in RICT's communications had been invited, to grow RICT's following. Full support would be given to the Club and all supporter organisations associated with it, together with its Former Players' Association (FPA) and LCF. Contributions were requested from all RICT Board Members, including in particular the various Team Leaders. An invitation to join the communications team had been published on RICT's website, through RICT's social media channels and in a message to all RICT members for whom an email was held, save for those who had opted out of receiving such messages. An offer by a RICT member to produce one-off video features had been accepted.
- c. SF would lead on RICT's website, creative ideas and content. It would be streamlined, as recommended by a consultant introduced by EC. **ACTION: SF would liaise with EC.** News items continued to be uploaded, including preliminary details of departure times and ticket prices for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches.
- d. TaB and ToB would co-lead on social media, the topical output on which was still going well.
- e. RICT's Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV) would be open before all future home fixtures, including the pre-season friendly on 26/07/25, with regular guest appearances from first team players not featuring in matchday squads. The Pod had been cleared of unwanted items, cleaned and an aluminium strip added, to prevent coins from dropping off the counter. Entertainment by Mr Twists would be provided before the game on 02/08/25. **ACTION: RB and ST would agree a budget for FETCL expenditure for the remainder of 2025.**
- f. 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.**
- g. A "regular update" message had been sent on 05/07/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had unsubscribed. **ACTION: TaB, ToB and EC would liaise to enhance the visual appearance of such messages.**
- h. Two more articles about RICT had been published in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- i. After considering all nominations received by the deadline, RICT's Fan of the Season Award Committee had made some recommendations. **ACTION: Those recommendations would be considered at the next BM.**
- j. A RICT Fan Engagement Action Plan for 2025/26 was required. **ACTION: RB and EC would draft such a Plan.**
- k. EC had been interviewed on behalf of RICT by BBC Radio Lincolnshire.
- l. A "Round the Ground" initiative would be trialled, designed to increase awareness of RICT in areas of the LNER Stadium other than the FV. Leaflets had been produced for use at forthcoming home matches, including the pre-season friendly on 26/07/25. There would also be a roving presence at the Club's Open Training Session on 24/07/25.

## 6 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The FECDs reported on the encouraging progress made in the Club's on-field and off-field preparations for the new season, including arrangements for the pre-season friendly match in Albufeira on 16/07/25.
- b. The most recent meeting of the Club's Fan Advisory Board had been held on 12/04/25. The date of its next meeting had not yet been announced.
- c. Updates had been exchanged at a Multi-Party Meeting between representatives of the Club, the FPA, LCF and RICT on 19/06/25.
- d. A decent response had been received to an appeal on RICT's website, through RICT's social media channels and in a message sent to all RICT members for whom an email address was held (save for those who had opted out of receiving such messages) for volunteers willing to take the lead on the

production of an occasional matchday magazine. Further progress was being made by RICT's Matchday Programme Working Group.

- e. The Club had publicised its Memorandum of Understanding with Lincoln United FC (LUFC), including the commitment to work together far closer in reviewing women's open-age football. RICT had been the match ball sponsor for the pre-season friendly game between LUFC and the Club's representative side. RICT personnel had also attended that match with RICT's banner.
- f. The Club was seeking player sponsorships for the 2025/26 season. **ACTION: RB would liaise with ST to ascertain the prices for sponsoring academy and women's team players.**
- g. CH offered to assist the Club's Disabled Supporters' Association. **ACTION: CH would contact Charlie Beeston to discuss the matter.**
- h. Matt Murgett, the Club's Head of Football Administration, had confirmed that he would raise awareness within the Club of the Mental Health First Responder Scheme, set up with the assistance of various RICT members.

## 7 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. A tab had been added to the home page of RICT's website, linking to RICT's virtual museum, which would in future be promoted through RICT's main social media channels, rather than separate ones.
- b. It was being established whether Listed Building Consent would be required for the display of a third RICT plaque, commemorating a significant link to the Club's past.
- c. All arrangements were on track for the 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. Matchday programmes from RICT's archives had been reproduced, with due acknowledgement, on the pillars in the ProAmpac Centre Spot Tavern. **ACTION: SF would circulate a video of the refurbished facility to all RICT Board Members.**

## 8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Some of the funds raised by RICT for its permanent charity partner, LCF, were being 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 were in use.** Attention had also been drawn on RICT's website to LCF's new "Fit Imps" programme, targeted at everyone wanting to lose weight, get fitter and lead a more active life.
- b. A sum of 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. **ACTION: JBu and AC would facilitate a meeting between BB and a RICT member who had expressed an interest in the RICT Youth Board Member role, to enable progress to be made.**
- c. Steps were being taken to donate some money for five groups to fund coffee mornings, at which presentations would be given about RICT and its partners.
- d. An approach had been made to MND Association, RICT's national charity partner for 2025, following the death of RICT Member Simon Baker, who had received a motor neurone disease diagnosis.
- e. Support for Andy's Man Club, RICT's local charity partner for 2025, was ongoing.

## 9 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. Tension Twisted Realities, RICT's main sponsor, was working on a "Walk out with the Team" virtual reality experience.
- b. Discounted admission prices for RICT members at the Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum had been advertised on RICT's website, through its social media channels and in a message sent to all members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had opted out of receiving such messages.

## 10 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The second window for people to join RICT through the Club's 2025/26 Gold Membership Scheme had closed on 30/06/25, with the third window opening on 07/07/25. Sales of the Club's 2025/26 Silver

and Bronze 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 their Data Sharing Agreement (DSA).

- b. The seasonal renewal process for RICT members who did not belong to any of the Club's Membership Schemes was progressing smoothly.
- c. RICT's 2025/26 Membership Policy (as ratified at RICT's AGM, incorporating minor changes to the Club's 2025/26 JOGC Membership Scheme, announced by the Club during the week preceding the AGM) had been published on RICT's website. Contact details for members not renewing by the deadline of 31/07/25 imposed by RICT's previous Membership Policy would be deleted from RICT's Membership List by 07/08/25 in accordance with the DSA.

## 11 FINANCES

- a. RICT's accounts for the year ended 31/12/24 had been published on its website and presented at its AGM. **ACTION: Those accounts would be signed by ST, RB and SF, who would send them to the Financial Conduct Authority with RICT's Annual Return by the deadline of 31/07/25.**
- b. 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.**

## 12 GOVERNANCE

- a. Draft Minutes of RICT's AGM had been published on RICT's website, along with the Data Protection Policy (DPP) ratified at that AGM. The Data Use and Access Act 2025 had received the Royal Assent one week before RICT's AGM. New requirements would be phased in during the following year for complaints handling and for taking children's needs in to account when deciding to use their personal information, if they were likely to use RICT's online services. Those issues were already addressed in RICT's DPP, Privacy Notice and Handbook of Data Protection Procedures. **ACTION: APo would monitor guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office and liaise with SF and IH before any appropriate recommendations were made for changes.**
- b. It was still possible to co-opt RICT members to the vacant role of Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator (EF&CC) and to the one remaining position for a Board Member without a specific portfolio.
- c. One vacancy remained for a co-opted external director, selected by virtue of their specialist skills and experience considered to be of benefit to RICT.
- d. The flowchart on RICT's website showing RICT's Board structure had been updated. Stewart Millar had been replaced in RICT's WhatsApp Group by CH, who had booked a place on Part 1 of the FSA's Core Training Course and created a FA account in order to complete a Safeguarding for All Training Course. **ACTION: CH would liaise with SF and APo to update the Board Members' pen-pictures and photographs on RICT's website.**

## 13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. Monthly online BMs, starting at 7.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month, were considered to be warranted, save that no future BMs should be held during the month of July.
- b. The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 13/08/25. **ACTION: RICT Board Members' reports should be submitted to SF by 04/08/25, for circulation with an agenda on 06/08/25.**

## 14 ANY OTHER MATTERS

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.53pm.