

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online at 7.01pm on Wednesday 13th August 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); Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Julian Buttery (JBU) – Football Supporters’ Association (FSA) Engagement Director; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Jonathan Battersby (JBa); Claire Hunsley (CH); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Tamyra Beeston (TaB) – Social Media Co-Secretary; Tony Beeston (ToB) – Social Media Co-Secretary; and Andy Porter (APo) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Chris Baldam (CB); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); Gavin Gordon (GG); and Observers Tom Baker and Anita Pritchard (APr).

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Notes of RICT’s BMs on 11/06/25 and 26/06/25 and of RICT’s Directors’ Meeting on 09/07/25 would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

3 GOVERNANCE

- a. CB was co-opted into the vacant RICT Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator role.
- b. 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.
- c. A photograph of CH had been uploaded to RICT’s website. **ACTION: SF would add her biographical details to that website.**
- d. No guidance had been issued since the previous RICT BM by the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) on the Data Use and Access Act 2025. **ACTION: APo would continue to monitor ICO guidance and highlight anything requiring attention.**

4 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. APr had been prominent in the launch of the “Round the Ground” initiative, designed to increase awareness of RICT in areas of the LNER Stadium other than the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV). 500 leaflets had been handed out to young fans at the Club’s Open Training Session on 24/07/25, at the pre-season friendly match on 26/07/25 and at the first match of the new season. **ACTION: EC and APr would compile a Young Fans’ Survey.** A RICT Member aged seven, had won the competition to predict the scorer of the Club’s first goal in the new League One season.
- b. Topical news items continued to be published on RICT’s website, which was also updated when departure times and prices were confirmed for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches and whenever tickets for those coaches went on and off sale. **ACTION: SF would enhance the website, as recommended by the consultant introduced by EC.**
- c. TaB and ToB’s social media output (including votes for the Club’s man of the match) was increasing RICT’s following.
- d. RICT’s FV Pod had re-opened before the home pre-season friendly on 26/07/25 and before the first competitive match on 02/08/25, when entertainment by Mr Twists had been provided. It would continue to be open before all future home fixtures. The availability of a microphone and an amplifier was being investigated. Freebies were available for young supporters. On future matchdays, members of the Club’s Former Players’ Association (FPA) would visit the Pod at a predetermined time, which would be publicised in advance on social

media. Confirmation was awaited from Rob Noble (RN), the Club's Head of Club Services, that similar arrangements could be made for guest appearances by first team players not featuring in matchday squads.

- e. RICT's next Player of the Month poll would be undertaken in September 2025, covering August 2025. Trophies had been obtained for presentation to the winners throughout the new season.
- f. A "regular update" message had been sent on 29/07/25 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.**
- g. Two more articles about RICT had been published in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- h. The recommendations made at RICT's Directors' Meeting on 09/07/25 were ratified. Presentations had been made to Paul Baker of RICT's Fan of the Season Award, with Richard Lalka receiving Honorary Lifetime Membership of RICT and Julian Burley receiving a Special Achievement Award.
- i. RICT's Fan Engagement Action Plan/Calendar for 2025/26 would include ideas for youth-focused actions. **ACTION: EC would complete the drafting of that Plan.**
- j. RB had been interviewed on the Stacey West Podcast.

5 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The FECDs reported on the latest Club BM, following which Clive Nates, the Club's Chairman, had written an open letter confirming that the Club was stable, with no short-term or medium-term financial concerns, although new investment was being sought to compete and progress in League One. To attract such investment, the Club Board structure was being simplified. Various Club directors (including ST) were thanked for offering to stand down and to join a Club Patrons Group. That letter had been well received: it was considered to be commendable that fans would continue to be represented on the Club's streamlined Strategy Board by two FECDs, particularly as RICT held the Fans' Share.
- b. JBa and JBu would attend the next meeting of the Club's Fan Advisory Board on 16/08/25.
- c. Minutes of the Four-Party Meeting between representatives of the Club, the FPA, LCF and RICT on 19/06/25 had been published on the Club's website. The next meeting would be held on 18/09/25.
- d. The Matchday Programme Working Group had met again and progress was being made.
- e. The Club was working on a press release and application form to join its Disabled Supporters' Association. CH had offered RICT's assistance.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Club shirts donated by a RICT Member would be sold from RICT's FV Pod before the match on 16/08/25, to raise funds for LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner. A feather flag had been acquired with funds previously donated by RICT to highlight LCF's "Poacher's Den" location on home matchdays. Attention had also been drawn on RICT's website to LCF's "Active Explorers" and "Football Evolution" holiday club programmes, targeted at children between 4 and 12 years of age.
- b. Discussions had been opened with participants in the "RICT Community Team" initiative about renewing it for the new season.
- c. Attention would be drawn to the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening programme by some of its staff at RICT's FV Pod before the match on 15/11/25.
- d. Steps were being taken to make donations to groups to fund coffee mornings, at which presentations would be given about RICT and its partners.
- e. A request had been made that, before a future match, the Club's players should wear warm-up T-shirts advertising Andy's Man Club, RICT's local charity partner for 2025. Arrangements were also being made to install a Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench at the LNER Stadium.

- f. Correspondence was ongoing with Edison's Light, a local charity supporting families bereaved due to the death/loss of babies.
- g. Appropriate action had been taken on a request received from Wishmakers, seeking assistance for a young fan of the Club who was facing some serious challenges.

7 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. Six more exhibits had been added to RICT's virtual museum. **ACTION: SF would close that museum's social media accounts, so that all future promotion would be routed through RICT's main social media channels.**
- b. Listed Building Consent would not be required for the display on the Lincoln Cathedral Visitor Centre of a RICT plaque, commemorating the Club's association with the Lincoln Imp. The Dean of Lincoln would attend an unveiling ceremony on 22/08/25. **ACTION: RICT's Media Team would publicise that ceremony.**
- c. The Imp-related exhibition of heritage items curated by RICT had opened in Lincoln Cathedral's Chapter House on 28/07/25. Representatives of RICT and of the Cathedral had attended a private viewing. When the display closed on 24/08/25, the canvas prints would be offered for sale, with the proceeds being split equally between the Cathedral and RICT, which would donate its share of those proceeds to LCF. RB and everyone else concerned were thanked for their involvement. Feedback had been encouraging, although some concerns had been raised about the level of the Cathedral's admission charge, despite the 10% discount available to Club Gold Members and the entitlement to a year's free repeat visits if Gift Aid was added to the payment.
- d. It was not yet known whether, as part of its evolving Heritage Strategy, the Club would like access to RICT's stock of old matchday programmes. In the meantime, programmes for previous games against the team concerned were being provided from that stock to the Club for use on home matchdays in its hospitality offer to visiting clubs' directors.
- e. A payment had been received from ProAmpac for the photographs provided by RICT of matchday programmes from its archives, which had been reproduced on the pillars in the refurbished Centre Spot Tavern. A video of the refurbished facility had been sent to all RICT Board Members.

8 FSA ENGAGEMENT

- a. JBu had asked the FSA to keep him informed about its embryonic network for younger football fans, which might be of interest to any RICT Youth Board Member.
- b. RICT had issued a press release following the grant on 21/07/25 of Royal Assent to The Football Governance Bill. Martyn Henderson, the Interim Chief Operating Officer of the Shadow Independent Regulator for Football, would guest at RICT's BM on 08/10/25, to which members of the Club's FAB would also be invited.
- c. RICT had participated in the preparation of the Club's 2025/26 Fan Engagement Plan, which had been submitted to the English Football League. The Club was once again one of only three Gold Award winners in the Think Fan Engagement Index of all clubs in the top five tiers of English Football, having finished joint second, rising from third place in the previous season. The gap to first place was unbridgeable, due to Exeter City's fan-ownership status.

9 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. A response was awaited from RN to the "Walk out with the Team" virtual reality experience proposal made by Tension Twisted Realities, RICT's main sponsor.
- b. CB would invite various organisations to join RICT's Red and White Partnership Schemes or, if they had already joined, to renew for another season. Various ideas to enhance those Schemes were under consideration.

- c. CB would request a meeting with Bobby Copping, the Club's Head of Commercial, to discuss opportunities for further collaboration.

10 MEMBERSHIP

- a. Supporters could join RICT through any of the Club's 2025/26 Membership Schemes, all of which were still available, sales at 31/07/25 being about 200 less than at 31/07/24. Over 5,500 Club Gold Membership had been sold. **ACTION: IH would ask RN for an up-to-date list of contact details.**
- b. The seasonal renewal process for RICT members who did not belong to any of the Club's Membership Schemes was progressing smoothly. Details had been included in RICT's 2025/26 Membership List of those people who had renewed their subscriptions via standing order payments.
- c. Contact details for members not renewing by the deadline of 31/07/25 imposed by RICT's 2024/25 Membership Policy had been deleted from RICT's Membership List in accordance with RICT's Data Sharing Agreement with the Club.
- d. The Club was reviewing the benefits receivable under the JOGC Gold Legacy scheme, having determined that each member should have access with a guest on one matchday per season to the Greenlinc Renewables 200 Club. Those benefits would be discussed at the next JOGC Gold Legacy Members' Meeting on 30/08/25.

11 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 21/07/25.
- b. RICT's accounts for the year ended 31/12/24 had been signed by ST, RB and SF. **ACTION: SF would send the signed accounts to the Financial Conduct Authority with RICT's Annual Return.**
- c. Stacey West Investment (SWI) Bonds were no longer being sold through the Urbansoul website, the final invoice for which had been sent to the Club. Traffic to that website was being re-routed to RICT's website. **ACTION: SF would ensure that all information required by SWI bondholders was available under a new tab on RICT's website, with an explanatory email being sent to them when suitable wording had been agreed with PS on behalf of the Club and with LCF.**
- d. The family of the late John Cartwright had been thanked for arranging the transfer to RICT of his shares in the Club.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. The possibility of hybrid BMs was canvassed, with some people attending in person and others online. **ACTION: All RICT Board Members would confirm their preferences in the Board's WhatsApp Group.**
- b. The next BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10/09/25.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.04pm.