

**RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)**  
**Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online starting at 7.00pm**  
**on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**1 PARTICIPATION**

- a. In attendance 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); Julian Buttery (JBU) – External Relations Director (ERD); Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Jonathan Battersby (JBA); Claire Hunsley (CH); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Chris Baldam (CBA) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Tom Baker (TB); Gavin Gordon (GG); 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 12/11/25 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 10/12/25 would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

**3 FAN ENGAGEMENT**

- a. Common themes had emerged from RICT’s Youth Survey, suggesting how the Club and RICT could further enhance the experiences of younger fans. RB, EC and RICT member Anita Pritchard would meet on 16/01/26 to discuss further actions. **ACTION: EC would circulate a summary of key points to all RICT Board Members and to David Lowes (DL), the Club’s Fan Engagement Director.**
- b. Topical news items continued to be published on RICT’s website, which was also updated when (i) departure times and prices were confirmed for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches, (ii) tickets for those coaches went on and off sale and (iii) match details were changed, such as because of the re-arrangement of the match at Exeter City.
- c. RICT’s social media output was going very well, with excellent responses to the Player of the Match polls.
- d. RICT’s Pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village (FV) at the LNER Stadium continued to attract many visitors before all home matches for lively conversation, with sales of enhanced teamsheets, prog-zines and Club-related publications going very well and with freebies (from two sources) for youngsters also being very popular.
- e. The winner of RICT’s poll for December’s Player of the Month, Adam Reach, would be presented with his trophy before a forthcoming home match.
- f. A regular update message had been sent on 30/12/25 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had unsubscribed.
- g. Two more articles about RICT had been published in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- h. The third edition of the “IMPRESS” prog-zine had been received extremely well, with all available copies being sold from RICT’s FV Pod before the match on 04/01/26.

**ACTION: SF would announce on RICT's website that the fourth edition would go on sale before the match on 22/01/26.**

- i. RB and BB had been interviewed about RICT on the LCR FM 103.6 radio station Through Noon show on 22/12/25 and EC had been interviewed on the BBC Radio Lincolnshire Hope & Glory programme on 13/01/26.

#### 4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The FECDs had attended the Club's Strategy BM on 11/11/25, at which a change of control process had been agreed, under which (i) Liquid Investments Inc. would increase its shareholding in the Club's holding company above 25%, (ii) Ron Fowler would become Chairman of the Club and its holding company and (iii) Clive Nates and Jay Wright would become Co-Vice Chairman. Rules of the English Football League (EFL) imposed confidentiality obligations while the next procedural steps were taken. The Club was however legally required to disclose the situation in its annual accounts and to publish those accounts at least 28 days before its AGM, which would be held on 19/02/26. In all the circumstances, the EFL had authorised the Club to release an interim update. A consequential press release had been published on RICT's website, its availability being highlighted via RICT's social media channels. It was anticipated that further announcements would be made by the Club within the following fortnight, once the confidentiality obligations were lifted.
- b. JBa and JBu would attend meetings of the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB) (i) on 15/01/26, to discuss the Club's 2026/27 season ticketing plans, and (ii) on 22/01/26, to discuss wider agenda items. DL had confirmed that courtesy copies of all messages from the Club to the FAB would be sent to the FECDs.
- c. A mascot had not yet been filmed walking out with the team before a match, so that users of headsets provided by Tension Twisted Realities (TTR), RICT's main sponsor, could enjoy before subsequent home matches a virtual reality experience in RICT's FV Pod and in Poacher's Den at the LNER Stadium. Confirmation was awaited from Luke Thornhill, the Club's Head of Marketing & Communications, of a match at which the filming would take place.
- d. EC and JBu had attended the Club Fans' Forum on 13/01/26, when proposals to maintain and develop welcoming atmospheres at the LNER Stadium had been discussed.
- e. RB and PS had represented RICT at a Four Party Meeting on 18/12/25, when they and representatives of the Club, its Former Players Association (FPA) and LCF had shared updates.
- f. Suggestions from a RICT member for enhancing the matchday experiences of fans with disabilities had been forwarded to the Club's Disabled Supporters Association (DSA) for discussion and reply. FAB member Charlie Beeston (CBe) had indicated that he was hoping to arrange a DSA meeting in the near future. **ACTION: CH would ask CBe for a progress report.**

#### 5 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. RICT's stock of old matchday programmes was being stored in season order, to facilitate future use.
- b. Two more exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum since the previous RICT BM. **ACTION: RB would liaise with Tamyra Beeston and Tony Beeston, RICT's**

**Social Media Co-Secretaries, to ensure that new exhibits were publicised through RICT's social media channels.**

## **6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- a. In order to raise funds for LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner, a memorabilia sale of surplus items of RICT stock had been held at RICT's FV Pod before the matches on 01/01/26 and 04/01/26. Cash receipts had totalled £196, with card payments totalling £115. **ACTION: RB would pass the cash to ST for banking, following which £311 would be donated to LCF.** Attention had been drawn on RICT's website to two additional venues used by LCF's "Fit Imps" healthy lifestyle programme.
- b. TB would meet LCF representatives on 15/01/26, to develop projects that would be supported with the funds raised by the "RICT Community Team 2025" initiative that had been earmarked for youth initiatives. **ACTION: PS would offer assistance to BB.**
- c. £1,200 had been pledged by local businesses, to participate in the "RICT Community Team 2026", which would raise funds for good causes in the local community. Work was ongoing to recruit one more local business.
- d. It was hoped that a Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench would be installed at the LNER Stadium in the spring or summer. A donation of £500 towards the costs had already been received from Running Imp. It was anticipated that further funding could be raised by RICT, the FPA and Hartsholme Community Trust. **ACTION: RB would open discussions about a suitable location with Jason Futers, the Club's Chief Growth and Innovation Officer.**
- e. Representatives of Edison's Light would visit RICT's FV Pod before a future home match in order to raise awareness of their work supporting families bereaved due to the death/loss of babies.
- f. The FPA had raised £2,000 for the Bradford Burns Unit. **ACTION: PS would liaise with the Club and with Manny Dominguez, the Chair of Bantams Supporters Trust, for a pitch-side cheque presentation before the match on 27/01/26.**

## **7 EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

The Independent Football Regulator (IFR) had acknowledged receipt of RICT's response to the IFR's Licensing Scheme Consultation Paper. It was envisaged that the IFR would consult further in the spring on draft rules to give effect to the new licensing regime. **ACTION: JBu would continue to monitor future IFR consultations.** In the meantime, the IFR was recruiting staff to supervise clubs. An article about the IFR regime would be published in the fifth edition of the "IMPRESS" prog-zine.

## **8 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Consideration was being given to refining RICT's Red and White Membership Scheme packages, in order to increase RICT's income, by attracting new businesses that did not belong to the Club's sponsorship and partnership schemes. **ACTION: PS would notify EC of his availability for a meeting to consider the opportunities, following which she would liaise with CBa to set up a meeting.**

## **9 MEMBERSHIP**

- a. The next meeting of RICT's JOGC Gold Legacy Members would be held on 14/02/26.

- b. Terms were in the process of being agreed with Liam Scully, the Club's Chief Executive Officer, for the extension into the 2026/27 season of RICT's JOGC partnership with the Club. **ACTION: MS and ST would issue a progress report at the next RICT BM.**

## 10 GOVERNANCE

- a. Biographical details and a photograph of TB had not yet been published on RICT's website. **ACTION: JBu and TB would liaise to send biographical details to SF, for publication with a temporary photograph, pending the taking at RICT's FV Pod of a permanent photograph before a future daytime match.**
- b. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) had announced that further guidance on the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 would be issued during the winter of 2025/26, but nothing further had been published since the previous RICT BM. **ACTION: AP would continue to monitor ICO guidance and highlight anything requiring attention.**
- c. The ERD Role Description (RD) had been published on RICT's website in substitution for the Football Supporters' Association Engagement Director RD, with consequential amendments being published on that website to the governance structure flowchart and to JBu's biographical details.
- d. RICT was legally required to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) by 30/06/26, as that was six months from the end of its financial year on 31/12/25. **ACTION: All RICT Board Members would notify SF before the next RICT BM of any reasons why RICT's AGM should not be held on Thursday 04/06/26.**

## 11 FINANCES

- a. Prior to the BM, a financial update had been sent to all RICT Board Members, showing that everything had run smoothly during the year to 31/12/25. **ACTION: ST would initiate the preparation of RICT's annual accounts for that year.**
- b. A replacement credit/debit card payment machine had been purchased for use at RICT's FV Pod.
- c. It was anticipated that a donation would be made to RICT by Mel Tointon and Phil Bradley, in appreciation of the successful sales of copies of their "IMPRESS" prog-zine from RICT's FV Pod.
- d. The agreement under which TTR was RICT's main sponsor had been extended most recently in May 2025. **ACTION: ST would notify RB of the date on which the most recent payment had been received from TTR, following which RB would discuss arrangements for future sponsorship with TTR.**

## 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next RICT BM would be held virtually via Zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11/02/26.

## 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.25pm.