

**RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)****Notes of the Directors Meeting (DM) held online on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
starting at 7.00pm****1 PARTICIPATION**

- a. In attendance were Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Julian Buttery (JBU) – External Relations Director; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Phil Scrafton (PS) – Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD); Gavin Gordon (GG); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder, with Observer Tony Smith (TS) – Chair of the Club’s Fan Advisory Board (FAB).
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and FECD - John O’Gaunts Club (JOGC); Chris Baldam (CBa) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Tom Baker (TB); Jonathan Battersby (JBa); and Claire Hunsley (CH).

**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 five of the fourteen 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 a RICT Board Meeting (BM) to be held online at 7.00pm on 11/03/26.
- 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 BM on 11/03/26, in order to facilitate the smooth running of that BM.

**3 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 10/12/25 had been published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.
- b. Prior to the DM, draft Notes of RICT’s BM on 14/01/26 had been sent to all RICT Board Members. It was recommended that those Notes should be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

**4 FAN ENGAGEMENT**

- a. A prize would be awarded to one of the youngsters who had responded to RICT’s Youth Survey. Prior to the DM, a summary of the survey results had been sent to all RICT Board Members. Copies would be sent to David Lowes, the Club’s Fan Engagement Director, and to Lincoln City Foundation (LCF), RICT’s permanent charity partner. RB, EC and RICT member Anita Pritchard were devising more focused questions (including a competition) to be asked face-to-face, in order to gain further insight into the recurring themes highlighted by the survey. TB had offered to help with the questioning.
- 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 and (ii) tickets for those coaches went on and off sale.
- 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 be extremely busy before all home matches, with plenty of face-to-face interaction with RICT members/other visitors and sales of enhanced teamsheets/prog-zines/Club-related publications. The range of freebie items given to youngsters would be extended, with the addition of Lincoln City stickers produced by RICT member Hannah Allen. Final entries in an "18 and Under" competition (launched prior to the game on 22/01/26) would be accepted before the match on 14/02/26, at which Imptoons would also have a pop-up stall at the Pod.
- e. The winner of RICT's poll for December's Player of the Month, Adam Reach, had been presented with his trophy before the match on 27/01/26. The poll for the January award had attracted a record number of votes and the trophy would be presented to the winner, Jack Moylan, before the match on 14/02/26.
- f. A regular update message had been sent on 03/02/26 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. Copies of the fourth edition of the "IMPRESS" prog-zine had been sold from RICT's FV Pod before January's home fixtures and the fifth edition (including an article about the work of the Independent Football Regulator (IFR)) would go on sale before the match on 14/02/26.
- i. EC had been interviewed on the 19/01/26 BBC Radio Lincolnshire Hope and Glory programme.

## 5 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The English Football League (EFL) had issued clearance for the change of control process for the Club. The FECDs were thanked for the parts that they had played in enabling the successful outcome to be achieved. A BBC TV Look North feature on the change had been broadcast on 06/02/26, including interviews with RB and EC. RICT had thanked Clive Nates (CN) for all that he had done during his first ten years as a Club Director. CN had responded, expressing his gratitude for the message, adding that it had been great to work with RICT and its representatives over the years.
- b. JBa, JBu and TS had attended several virtual FAB meetings since the latest RICT BM, to discuss various specific issues. The next in-person meeting would be held on 28/02/26.
- c. A mascot would be filmed walking out with the team before the match on 17/02/26, so that, at RICT's FV Pod before subsequent home matches, users of headsets provided by Tension Twisted Realities (TTR) could enjoy a virtual reality experience.
- d. RICT has issued a press release jointly with the FAB, Lincoln City Banter, Vital Lincoln City and The 617 Squadron about the sanctions imposed on the Club following two instances of homophobic chanting at the match on 23/09/25. Positive feedback had been received on better quality stewarding at recent matches.
- e. Minutes had been published on the Club's website of the Four Party Meeting held on 18/12/25, at which representatives of the Club, its Former Players Association (FPA), LCF and RICT had shared updates. The next such meeting would be held on 18/03/26.
- f. A Fans' Forum would immediately follow the Club's 19/02/26 Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- g. RB had sent a card on behalf of RICT to Liam Scully (LS), the Club's Chief Executive Officer, wishing him well for his recovery from an operation.

## 6 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. RICT's stock of the Club's matchday programmes dated back to the 1960s and was being sorted into batches. It was believed that at least one copy was held of every home programme for the period from the 1970s until production was discontinued. The Club would be offered those programmes that it would like to keep for archive purposes.

- b. Nineteen new exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum since the latest RICT BM. Images would be sourced for use on RICT's social media channels when publicising uploads of future exhibits.

## **7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- a. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website to LCF's Fighting Fit Prehab sessions. £311 had been donated to LCF, being the money raised from the memorabilia sales at RICT's FV Pod before the matches on 01/01/26 and 04/01/26 of surplus items of RICT stock. RICT's collection of the Club's old matchday programmes, insofar as it was not required by the Club for archive purposes, would be offered in batches to LCF, charity shops, care homes, schools and similar bodies, to support their fundraising and charitable projects.
- b. Some of the funds raised by the "RICT Community Team 2025" initiative had been earmarked for youth initiatives. TB would meet Selina Lewis, LCF's Youth Mentor, on 12/02/26, to finalise projects that would be supported with that money. JBu had offered to assist, if necessary.
- c. £1,200 had been raised by the local businesses participating in the "RICT Community Team 2026" for good causes in the local community. That support had been acknowledged on RICT's website, through its social media channels and in the message mentioned in Note 4(f) above. It would be further acknowledged on an A-Board at RICT's FV Pod.
- d. Contact had been made with Jason Futers, the Club's Chief Growth and Innovation Officer, and Shirley White (SW), the Club's Executive Assistant, with a view to agreeing a suitable location at the LNER Stadium for the installation of a Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench.
- 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. RICT had commended The 617 Squadron for its tifo commemoration before the match on 27/01/26 of all lives lost in the 1985 Valley Parade Fire. At half-time during the match on 27/01/26, RICT had facilitated the pitch-side presentation to representatives of the Bantams Supporters Trust by the FPA of a £2,000 cheque for the Bradford Burns Unit.

## **8 EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

- a. The IFR was consulting on proposed terms of reference for the State of the Game Report that it was required to produce. Prior to the DM, a draft response to that consultation had been sent to all RICT Board Members. JBu would (i) submit that response to the IFR by the deadline of 17/02/26, subject to any amendments that might be required as a result of any further observations made in the meantime by RICT Board Members, (ii) monitor all future IFR consultations, (iii) confirm to the IFR that RICT was willing to engage in those consultations and (iv) circulate to all RICT Board Members a link to a Football Supporters' Association (FSA) article about what the IFR could and could not do.
- b. JBu would raise at the FSA League 1 & 2 Network meeting on 26/02/26 concerns that "in-play advertising" seen during Six Nations Rugby matches broadcast by ITV might be extended to televised football matches.
- c. MS had been nominated for the FSA Jacqui Forster Memorial Award for women who give their spare time to promote the values and principles of the supporters' trust movement.

## **9 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. CB, PS and EC would meet to discuss the matter further.

## 10 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 LS for the extension into the 2026/27 season of RICT's JOGC partnership with the Club.

## 11 FINANCES

- a. A £50 donation had been 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.
- b. The agreement under which TTR was RICT's main sponsor had been extended most recently in May 2025. 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.
- c. £198.63 had been raised towards RICT's operating costs from sales of collectible items from RICT's FV Pod before the matches on 22/01/26 and 27/01/26.

## 12 GOVERNANCE

- a. Biographical details and a photograph of TB had not yet been published on RICT's website. JBu would take a photograph of TB at RICT's FV Pod before the match on 14/02/26, following which he would liaise with SF for that photograph to be uploaded to the website, together with biographical details.
- b. Since the date of the latest RICT BM, the Information Commissioner's Office had issued new guidance on international transfers of personal data, following changes made by the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, with further guidance on other issues being scheduled for release later during the winter of 2025/26. It was recommended that a Working Group comprising SF, IH and AP should consider that guidance and suggest for consideration at future RICT BMs any amendments that might be required to RICT's Data Protection Policy, Handbook of Data Protection Procedures and Privacy Notice.
- c. It was recommended that (i) the FECD Role Description should be amended to refer to the relevant provisions of the 2025/26 EFL Handbook, rather than to the 2024/25 EFL Handbook, and (ii) all RICT Board Members should be asked to suggest by 11/03/26 any other updates that might be required to the Role Descriptions for the particular roles that they held.
- d. It was recommended that RICT's AGM should be held online at 7.30pm on Thursday 04/06/26.
- e. It was recommended that, under Policy 1 of RICT's Election and Voting Policy (E&VP), an Election Management Group (EMG) should be appointed, comprising SF and AP as non-RICT Board Members.
- f. It was recommended that RB should seek a volunteer from the Iron Trust to serve under E&VP Policy 2 as the non-RICT member independent chair of the EMG.

## 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. It was recommended that RICT's Strategy should be reviewed following RICT's AGM, having regard to the substantial progress made since 2023 on key issues such as the Stacey West Investment Bond and the IFR, with particular attention being given to the approach to be taken to raising funds for the Club and the community, in addition to covering RICT's running costs.
- b. There being no further business, the Directors Meeting closed at 7.51pm.