

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online starting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11/03/26

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); Chris Baldam (CB) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader (CETL); Julian Buttery (JBU) – External Relations Director (ERD); Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Jonathan Battersby (JBA); Gavin Gordon (GG); Claire Hunsley (CH); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL and Tom Baker (TB).

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Prior to the BM, draft Notes of RICT’s Directors’ Meeting on 11/02/26 had been sent to all RICT Board Members. Those Notes would be published on RICT’s website, their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. The results summary from RICT’s Youth Survey had been sent to David Lowes, the Club’s Fan Engagement Director. Work was ongoing with the more focused face-to-face follow-up questions, designed to gain further insight into recurring themes highlighted by the survey.
- 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 well, the Player of the Match polls being popular.
- d. RICT’s Pod in the University of Lincoln (UoL) Fan Village (FV) at the LNER Stadium continued to be extremely busy before all home matches, with plenty of interaction with RICT members/other visitors and sales of enhanced teamsheets/prog-zines/Club-related publications. Freebies for youngsters remained very popular. Imptoons had been hosted in a pop-up stall on 14/02/26.
- e. Jack Moylan, the winner of RICT’s Player of the Month polls for both January and February, had been presented with the first trophy before the match on 14/02/26 and would be presented with the second trophy before the match on 14/03/26. The winner of the March poll would be presented with his trophy on 03/04/26.
- f. A regular update message had been sent on 03/03/26 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 fifth edition of the “IMPRESS” prog-zine had been sold from RICT’s FV Pod before the previous three home matches. **ACTION: SF would announce on RICT’s website that the sixth edition would go on sale before the match on 14/03/26.**
- i. JBU had been interviewed about RICT on the BBC Radio Lincolnshire Red Imps Club programme on 02/03/26, with CH and EC being interviewed on the Hope and Glory programmes on 13/02/26 and 07/03/26 respectively. Other RICT Board Members were encouraged to offer themselves for interview.

- j. The “18 and Under” competition run before the previous three home games had been well-received. **ACTION: RB would arrange for the winner to (i) present a future RICT Player of the Month Award and (ii) receive a Club goody bag.**
- k. Voting for the Vic Withers Memorial Trophy would open in good time, to enable it to be presented to the player of the season at the final home game on 25/04/26.

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The Club’s Imps Territory project, to improve facilities at the LNER Stadium and to enhance fans’ matchday experiences, had been announced at the Fans’ Forum immediately after the Club’s AGM on 19/02/26. The necessary planning applications had been submitted and Ron Fowler, the Club’s Chairman, had purchased shares in the Club’s holding company for the £2m capital expenditure required. Discussions were ongoing with Jason Futers, the Club’s Chief Growth and Innovation Officer, and Rob Noble, the Club’s Head of Club Services, about the relocation of RICT’s FV Pod as part of the project. **ACTION: RB would investigate the practical issues involved and PS would pursue discussions with Dan Collins of PolkeyCollins Associates, the architects and project managers.** The FECDs would attend the Club’s next Strategy BM on 24/04/26.
- b. JBa and JBu had attended a meeting of the Club’s Fan Advisory Board (FAB) on 28/02/26, the minutes of which would be published on the Club’s website in due course. It was noted that two Black Cat Travel coaches, hired completely independently of the Club to travel to Cardiff for the match on 07/03/26, had returned without their passengers, due to alcohol being carried illegally.
- c. A mascot had been filmed walking out with the team before the match on 17/02/26, with the recording being transferred by Tension Twisted Realities (TTR) onto a headset, so that users in RICT’s FV Pod and in Poacher’s Den at the LNER Stadium could enjoy a virtual reality experience before subsequent home matches.
- d. At the next Four Party Meeting on 18/03/26, representatives of the Club, its Former Players Association (FPA), Lincoln City Foundation (LCF) and RICT would share updates.
- e. RICT had bought boxes of chocolates and biscuits for the Club’s Ticket Office staff, as a token of appreciation of their work in addressing Ticketmaster problems prior to the match on 14/02/26.
- f. The Club’s Board of Directors had approved an application by the Executors of the Will of the late John Cartwright to transfer his shares in the Club to RICT. **ACTION: ST would request a new share certificate from Shirley White, the Club’s Executive Assistant.**

5 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. The inaugural joint Fan/Club Heritage Committee (HC) meeting had been held on 19/02/26. JBu, who had accepted an invitation to chair the HC, delivered a presentation to the RICT BM about the HC’s core membership, purpose, strategy and plans. Discussions were ongoing with the Club about possible new locations for heritage displays, resulting from the Imps Territory project. A RICT Working Group (comprising RB, PS and any other volunteers from the RICT Board) would facilitate collaboration with the HC.
- b. Since the previous RICT BM, twelve more exhibits had been uploaded to RICT’s virtual museum. Tamyra Beeston, one of RICT’s Social Media Co-Secretaries, had produced a new graphic, which was being used regularly to publicise the museum through RICT’s social media channels.

- c. The family of the late Ernie Wright had donated his scrapbook to RICT. Enquiries had been addressed to the UoL about the progress that it had made in producing a digital copy.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website to a request by LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner, for volunteers to run for it or steward at the Lincoln 10K on 12/04/26.
- b. Some of the funds raised by the "RICT Community Team 2025" had been earmarked for a new youth project at the LNER Stadium.
- c. The support of good causes in the local community by members of the "RICT Community Team 2026" was being highlighted on an A-Board at RICT's FV Pod before all home matches.
- d. Discussions were ongoing with the Club about a suitable location for a Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench at the LNER Stadium. Running Imp had already donated £500 towards the costs and the same sum had been pledged by the FPA. RICT would raise further funds, in partnership with Hartsholme Community Trust, by selling from its FV Pod before home games from 14/03/26 steel Imp plaques for £10 each. RICT would donate £500 to the Legend on the Bench charity.
- e. Representatives of Edison's Light would visit RICT's FV Pod before the match in 03/04/26 in order to raise awareness of their work supporting families bereaved due to baby death/loss.

7 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- a. RICT's response had been submitted before the deadline of 17/02/26 to The Independent Football Regulator's (IFR) consultation on proposed terms of reference for the State of the Game Report, with copies of that response being sent to all RICT Board Members. A second IFR consultation on the licensing regime was due to be launched later in March. **ACTION: JBu would continue to monitor the IFR's communications.**
- b. MS was congratulated on being shortlisted for the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) Jacqui Forster Memorial Award, for women who give their spare time to promote the values and principles of the supporters' trust movement. Sadly, she did not win that Award. JBu had attended the FSA League 1 & 2 Network meeting on 26/02/26. **ACTION: JBu would submit RICT's response to a FSA mid-season survey.** The FSA was not aware of any proposals in the pipeline for in-play advertising during televised football matches, similar to that seen during Six Nations Rugby matches broadcast by ITV.

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: CB & EC would discuss options on 24/03/26.**

9 MEMBERSHIP

- a. RICT's JOGC Gold Legacy Members had met on 14/02/26 and would meet on 11/04/26.
- 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 would issue a progress report at the next RICT BM.**
- c. RICT membership was an automatic benefit provided (with a right to opt out) to all 2026/27 Club Gold Members. Sales began on 18/02/26, the first renewal window closing on 02/04/26. Over 4,000 sales had been processed. As demand from new members had already exceeded the supply available, a waiting list had been set up.

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. A photograph had been taken of TB at RICT's FV Pod. **ACTION: TB, JBu and SF would liaise to upload that photograph to RICT's website, with supporting biographical details.**
- b. Work had started on updates to RICT's Data Protection Policy, Handbook of Data Protection Procedures and Privacy Notice, following the coming in to force on 05/02/26 of provisions in the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 relating to international transfers of personal data. Further guidance, due from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) during the winter of 2025/26, still had not been received on (i) new complaints handling requirements, which were expected to apply from 19/06/26, and (ii) the re-branding of the ICO, which was anticipated later in 2026. **ACTION: RICT's Data Protection Working Group would recommend appropriate actions, covering also the introduction on 05/02/26 of a new lawful basis for processing personal data.**
- c. Steve Hawes, Secretary of The Iron Trust, had volunteered to serve as the non-RICT member independent chair of the RICT Election Management Group and was appointed to that role. There were two vacancies to be filled at RICT's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 04/06/26 for RICT Board Members without a specific portfolio. CH, having been co-opted as another RICT Board Member without portfolio on 26/06/25, was required to resign at the AGM (being eligible to apply for election to the same role), in accordance with RICT's Elections & Voting Policy. As there remained an uneven number of elected RICT Board Members, RICT's constitution required RICT's Board to decide which four or five of the longest serving elected Board Members should resign at the AGM, being eligible to apply for re-election. The Board Members to resign would be BB (having been elected as CETL on 27/06/24), JBu (having been elected as FSA Engagement Director on 27/06/24, that role having been re-designated as ERD on 10/12/25), EC (having been elected as a Board Member without portfolio on 27/06/24 and co-opted as FETCL on 10/07/24) and PS (having been elected as FECD on 11/09/24). **ACTION: SF would send advance notice of the AGM, with nomination forms, to all RICT members by the deadlines of 09/04/26 (if an email address was held) and 04/04/26 (if no email address was held).**

11 FINANCES

- a. RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/25 were in the process of being drawn up. Prior to the BM, a financial update had been sent to all RICT Board Members, showing that everything had run smoothly during the period from 01/01/26 to 28/02/26.
- b. The agreement under which TTR was RICT's main sponsor had been extended most recently in May 2025. **ACTION: RB would discuss a further extension with TTR.**
- c. £381.80 had been raised towards RICT's operating costs from sales of collectible items from RICT's FV Pod before the previous five home games. Relatively small fees were incurred when donors used RICT's card payment machine.
- d. The Club would deal with all necessary administration when Stacey West Investment Bonds matured, which would be in September 2026 for the first of the Bonds issued for a 5-year term.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next RICT BM would be held virtually via Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday 08/04/26, apologies for absence being tendered in advance by JBu.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.29pm.