

## **Justification for proposal that the Membership Policy 2026/27 approved by the Society Board on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 should be ratified**

As a matter of best practice and for reasons of transparency, ratification is always sought from Society Members at Annual General Meetings of any changes made by the Society's Board of Directors to the Society's policies.

A Membership Policy 2025/26 was adopted by the Society's Board of Directors on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and ratified by Society Members at the Annual General Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

A Membership Policy 2026/27 was adopted by the Society's Board of Directors on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Ratification of that Policy is being sought from Society Members at the Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The differences between the Membership Policy 2025/26 and the Membership Policy 2026/27 are shown in red font on the following pages.

Those differences:-

1. confirm that the classes of Society membership and subscription levels applicable for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 will apply equally for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026, subject to the variations described below;
2. confirm that the provisions applicable to the Club's Junior Imp and Young Imp Membership Schemes apply equally to its recently-created Little Imp Membership Scheme;
3. have regard to ongoing discussions with the Club about the terms applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 to its John O'Gaunts Club Membership Scheme and to the John O'Gaunts Club Gold Legacy Members; and
4. have regard to the possibility that the Society's Board of Directors might make modifications to the terms applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 to the Red and White Package Membership Schemes.

Reports will be issued at or before the Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 on progress made with the issues mentioned in points 3 and 4 above.



**LINCOLN CITY SUPPORTERS' SOCIETY LIMITED**  
**MEMBERSHIP POLICY 20265/276**

**A. Introduction**

- i. The current rules of Lincoln City Supporters' Society Limited, which trades as Red Imps Community Trust ("the Trust"), were adopted at the Trust's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Those rules took effect when they were registered by the Financial Conduct Authority under Section 16 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 ("the Act"). Following such registration, the rules were made available to view by the general public at <https://mutuals.fca.org.uk/> and at <https://www.redimpstrust.co.uk/trust-documentation/trust-rules/>. All Trust Members are bound by those rules (Section 15 of the Act). All references in this document to "Rules" are to those rules.
- ii. Trust Members must pay an annual subscription of such reasonable sum or sums as the Trust Board shall decide (Rule 13). The Trust can have different classes of Members (Section 45(3) of the Act). Guidance issued by the Football Supporters' Association is that the Trust Board has a discretion to set different levels of subscription for different classes of membership, including increased charges for additional "experiences" and reduced charges for praiseworthy service.

- iii. This Policy was approved by the Trust Board on ~~15<sup>th</sup> April 2026~~<sup>14<sup>th</sup> May 2025</sup>. It confirms the classes of membership and the subscription levels applicable for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 202~~6~~<sup>5</sup>.
- iv. This Policy will be reviewed by the Trust Board by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April each year, when the classes of membership and the subscription levels will be set for the year from the following 1<sup>st</sup> August. A resolution to ratify the latest reviewed Policy will be proposed at all the Trust's AGMs.

## **B. General Principles**

- i. The Trust avoids and opposes all forms of unlawful discrimination, including in respect of membership: its Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy can be viewed at <https://www.redimpstrust.co.uk/policies/trust-policies/>.
- ii. Membership of the Trust is open (Rule 11) to any individual, unincorporated body, firm, partnership or corporate body who or which:-
  - a. is a supporter of Lincoln City Football Club (the Club); or
  - b. has an interest in football in the Lincoln area and is in sympathy with the objects of the Trust.
- iii. £1 will be applied from the first subscription payment received from each new Trust Member to buy a £1 share for that Member in the Trust (Rule 13), but every Trust Member can have no more than one £1 share in their name (Rules 12, 18.2, 19 & 21), regardless of how much they pay in any one year or cumulatively over a number of years.
- iv. The £1 share in the Trust of any Trust Member whose membership lapses or ends in any other way is cancelled without any repayment being made (Rule 20) but, in the event of them subsequently re-joining the Trust, that person will be treated as a new Trust Member and issued with another new £1 share (Rule 13).
- v. The Trust Board has certain powers to refuse applications for membership (Rule 11) and Trust Members may be removed (Rule 23) or expelled (Rule 24) in certain circumstances. The Trust's Disciplinary Policy (which can be viewed at <https://www.redimpstrust.co.uk/policies/trust-policies/>) will apply where appropriate, as will the Trust's Dispute Resolution Procedure (Rules 123 & 124).
- vi. All Trust Members who are at least 18 years of age have one vote on any question to be decided in a General Meeting of the Trust (Rules 15.2, 15.3 & 47).
- vii. All Trust Members who are at least 18 years of age are entitled to seek election as Trust Board Members and to be appointed as Trust Officers (Rules 15.1 & 16).
- viii. All the Trust's communications for its legitimate purposes (including formal notices of meetings) will be sent in electronic format if an email address has been provided and in hard copy format if a postal address has been provided. Members are responsible for ensuring that the email or postal address that they provide is operational. All changes to a member's email or postal address must be communicated to the Trust either by electronic means or in hard copy written format. Members are responsible for ensuring that they read the Trust's communications sent to the email or postal address provided.

### C. Ordinary Members – Electronic List

- i. This category of membership is open to everyone who is at least 18 years of age at the date of joining or re-joining who provides the Trust with an email address.
- ii. The annual fee payable by such members is £5, which covers the period from the date of joining or re-joining to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~. For members of the Club's Gold, Silver and Bronze Membership Schemes, those fees will be paid to the Trust by the Club on behalf of the member as an automatic benefit included in those Schemes, as confirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust and the Club. A further £5 fee, to continue membership of the Trust throughout the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2027~~6~~, may also be paid at any time before that date.

### D. Ordinary Members – Postal List

- i. This category of membership is open to everyone who is at least 18 years of age at the date of joining or re-joining who does not provide the Trust with an email address. Such members must provide the Trust with a postal address.
- ii. The annual fee payable by such members is £15, which covers the period from the date of joining or re-joining to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~. A further £15 fee, to continue membership of the Trust throughout the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2027~~6~~, may also be paid at any time before that date.

### E. Junior Members

- i. This category of membership is open to everyone who is under 18 years of age at the date of joining or re-joining.
- ii. Under Article 8 of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, everyone must be at least 13 years of age in order to give a valid consent to the processing of their personal data. For the purposes of the Trust's correspondence with all members who are under 13 years of age, the email address of an adult with parental responsibility for the member concerned must therefore be provided.
- iii. Members who are at least 13 years of age but under 18 years of age must provide the Trust with the email address of an adult with parental responsibility for the member concerned, in addition to their own email address, to enable the Trust's correspondence with them to be copied to such an adult, in compliance with safeguarding guidance issued by The Football Association.
- iv. Members are only entitled to vote on any Trust matters once they have attained 18 years of age (Rule 15)
- v. The annual fee payable by such members is £1, which covers the period from the date of joining or rejoining to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~. For members of the Club's Junior Imp, ~~and~~ Young Imp ~~and~~ Little Imp Membership Schemes, those fees will be paid to the Trust by the Club on behalf of the member as an automatic benefit included in those Schemes, as confirmed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust and the Club. A further £1 fee, to continue membership of the Trust throughout the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2027~~6~~, may also be paid at any time before that date.

## **F. John O’Gaunts Club Members**

- i. This category of membership was launched by the Club in partnership with the Trust on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and is open to everyone. Such members must provide the Trust with either an email address or a postal address.
- ii. Such members are entitled to:-
  - a. an exclusive online forum with the Club’s Head Coach, Chief Executive Officer and Board Members;
  - b. tours of the LNER Stadium and of the Soper of Lincoln Elite Player Performance Centre;
  - c. £50 to spend in the Club’s shop;
  - d. a branded padded seat cushion;
  - e. an Imps branded scarf;
  - f. an exclusive discount on merchandise in the Club’s store for the 2025/26 campaign;
  - g. either one free match ticket for a friend or a one-time free upgrade to the Branston Legends Lounge for a game; and
  - h. be nominated for election for a term of two years as the Trust’s representative of the John O’Gaunts Club Members (including its Gold Legacy Members) on the Club Board, provided that they will only take on that role if they are elected and:-
    - comply with all requirements of the Owners’ and Directors’ Tests applicable to the competitions in which the Club’s first team competes; and
    - are approved by the Club’s Board of Directors.
- iii. The annual fee (which covers the period from the date of joining to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~) payable by such members to the Club (either as a standalone product or as an upgrade from the Club’s Gold Membership Scheme) is £320. The fee payable and benefits receivable by such members during the year from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2027~~6~~ will be agreed between the Club and the Trust before that date and a further fee, to continue membership throughout that year, may also be paid at any time before that date.
- iv. On behalf of each such member, the Club will pay from that annual fee the sum of £200 to the Trust for use to generate the purchase of 400 shares in the Club, with a nominal value of £200, which will be transferred directly from the Club to the Trust. Any such membership purchased as a standalone product (rather than as an upgrade from the Club’s Gold Membership Scheme) is also conditional upon a further £1 membership fee being paid by the member to the Trust.

## **G. John O’Gaunts Club Gold Legacy Members**

- i. New admissions to this category of membership (which was previously known as the Trust’s Gold Membership Scheme) have not been accepted since 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, prior to which it was open to everyone. Members who joined it before that date must provide the Trust with either an email address or a postal address. Such

memberships continue for a term of five years from the date of joining or re-joining, after which the member is able to continue membership for a further five years at an increased fee, calculated having regard to consumer price inflation in the intervening period.

- ii. Such members are entitled to:-
  - a. access with a guest to the Club's boardroom on one matchday per season, the date (subject to availability) being agreed between the Trust and the member;
  - b. on three matchdays chosen by the Trust each season:-
    - i. attend a pre-match meeting with Club Board representatives, the Club's First Team Manager or Head Coach and others, such as members of the Club's Former Players' Association (FPA) or the Club's backroom staff;
    - ii. service of a buffet meal during those meetings;
    - iii. the opportunity to stay in the room in order to socialise after the meeting until the kick off time;
    - iv. if the member concerned does not belong to the Club's Gold Membership Scheme, to request one free match ticket, giving access to the Legends Lounge area of the Club's stadium, with such requests being approved for the first 15 applicants per matchday;
  - c. the same priority as members of the Club's Gold Membership Scheme when purchasing tickets for the Club's home cup games and for any of its away games;
  - d. be nominated for election for a term of two years as the Trust's representative of the John O'Gaunts Club Members (including its Gold Legacy Members) on the Club Board, provided that they will only take on that role if they are elected and:-
    - i. comply with all requirements of the Owners' and Directors' Tests applicable to the competitions in which the Club's first team competes; and
    - ii. are approved by the Club's Board of Directors.
  - e. be treated as Trust Members for the rest of their lifetime if they complete at least one full five-year term's membership of the John O'Gaunts Club Gold Legacy scheme, but subsequently do not renew such membership, provided that they certify to the Trust's Membership Secretary at annual intervals that, for data protection purposes, they consent to remaining on the Trust's mailing list.
- iii. The fee payable by such members is frozen for the five-year term at £1,680.00, payable either immediately as a single lump sum or, if the member so wishes, in sixty equal monthly instalments of £28.00 during the term.
- iv. Each season, each such member will generate from the fees mentioned immediately above 300 shares with a nominal value of £150, which will be transferred directly from the Club to the Trust.

## **H. Red Package Scheme Members**

- i. This category of membership is open to corporate bodies, unincorporated bodies, partnerships and firms. Such members must provide the Trust with an email address and may also provide an email address or a postal address for a delegate who is at least 18 years of age. Any such delegate will be entitled to attend the Trust's meetings on behalf of the member. Any such delegate will also be entitled on behalf of the member to speak, to vote on any Trust matters and to seek election at such meetings. Nobody can act as delegate for more than one such member (Rule 14).
- ii. Such members are entitled to:-
  - a. be mentioned in the regular news updates circulated by the Trust to all its members for whom an email address is held;
  - b. be mentioned monthly on all the Trust's social media channels;
  - c. the display of their logo on the websites of the Trust and a top banner advert on rotation;
  - d. an invitation to the Trust's pod in the University of Lincoln Fan Village on one of the Club's home matchdays;
  - e. a printed certificate on joining.
- iii. The annual fee payable by such members is £150, which covers the period from the date of joining or re-joining to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~.

#### **I. White Package Scheme Members**

- i. This category of membership is open to corporate bodies, unincorporated bodies, partnerships and firms. Such members must provide the Trust with an email address.
- ii. Such members are entitled to:-
  - a. be mentioned in the regular news updates circulated by the Trust to all its members for whom an email address is held;
  - b. be mentioned monthly on all the Trust's social media channels;
  - c. the display of their logo on the website of the Trust.
- iii. The annual fee payable by such members is £75, which covers the period from the date of joining or re-joining to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~.

#### **J. FPA Members**

- i. This category of membership is open to everyone who has had a professional playing contract with the Club who also belongs to the FPA. Such members must provide the FPA's Secretary with either an email address or a postal address. In accordance with any Data Sharing Agreement that may be signed on behalf of the Trust and on behalf of the FPA, that Secretary will act as the Trust's agent and share with it any information that might be necessary in order to enable such members to vote on any Trust matters.
- ii. The one-off joining fee (which will be paid by the FPA to the Trust on behalf of its members) for each such member is £1, which covers the entire period throughout which they retain their membership of the FPA.

**K. Honorary Members**

- i. This category of membership is open to anyone who the Trust Board deems to have provided exemplary service to either the Trust or the Club or the local community. Such members must provide the Trust with either an email address or a postal address.
- ii. If such members are already Trust members at the date of being awarded Honorary Membership status, no further fee is payable. If such members are not already Trust members at that date, then a one-off fee (which may be paid by the person nominating or seconding to the Trust Board the award to them of Honorary Membership status) of £1 is payable. In either case, such memberships will lapse on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2027~~6~~, but may be renewed before 1<sup>st</sup> August each year for another year without any further fee being payable, if the member certifies to the Trust's Membership Secretary that, for data protection purposes, s/he consents to remaining on the Trust's mailing list.

**L. Life Members**

- i. This category of membership is open to anyone who the Trust Board deems to have provided service of the highest standard imaginable to either the Trust or the Club or the local community. Such members must provide the Trust with either an email address or a postal address.
- ii. If such members are already Trust members at the date of being awarded Life Membership status, no further fee is payable. If such members are not already Trust members at that date, then a one-off fee (which may be paid by the person nominating or seconding to the Trust Board the award to them of Life Membership status) of £1 is payable. In either case, such memberships will continue for the rest of the member's life.