

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held online starting at 7.04pm on Wednesday 15th April 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); Chris Baldam (CB) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Julian Buttery (JBU) – External Relations Director; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Jonathan Battersby (JBA); Kirsty Hackney (KH); 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 Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer.

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 14/01/26 and of RICT’s Directors’ Meeting on 11/02/26 had been published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.
- b. Prior to the BM, draft Notes of RICT’s BM on 11/03/26 had been sent to all RICT Board Members. Those Notes would be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. Work was ongoing with the more focused face-to-face follow-up questions, designed to gain further insight into recurring themes highlighted by RICT’s Youth Survey, on some of which the Club’s Imps Territory project would impact. **ACTION: EC would meet RICT member Anita Pritchard on 21/04/26 to progress the matter.**
- 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 excellent, with the Player of the Match polls being particularly popular. Videos would be recorded on 25/04/26 of fans describing the significance to them of the Club’s promotion.
- 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 interaction with RICT members/other visitors and sales of enhanced teamsheets/prog-zines/Club-related items. Freebies for youngsters remained very popular, as was the rack of second-hand shirts. Seven player-signed shirts had been donated by a RICT member. The Pod’s worktop had been strengthened. Charlie Marshall would be hosted at the Pod, with her knitted Imps, before the match on 25/04/26.
- e. Conor McGrandles, the winner of RICT’s Player of the Month poll for March (which had attracted the highest ever number of votes), had been presented with his trophy before the match on 03/04/26 by the young winner of one of RICT’s competitions.
- f. Regular update messages had been sent on 25/03/26 and 01/04/26 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. All copies of the sixth edition of the “IMPRESS” prog-zine had been sold from RICT’s FV Pod before the home matches on 14/03/26, 21/03/26 and 03/04/26, with copies of the seventh edition going on sale before the match on 11/04/26.
- i. RICT Board Members were still being interviewed frequently on BBC Radio Lincolnshire, the most recent being EC (who also appeared on BBC Radio 5 Live) on the “Hope and Glory” programme on 13/04/26.
- j. Graham Winter Builders Limited had agreed to sponsor the Vic Withers Memorial Trophy award, which would be presented on 25/04/26. Voting would remain open until midnight on 21/04/26. Votes

already cast far exceeded the previous year's total. **ACTION: RB would deliver to CB the trophies to be retained by the players.** SF and RB were thanked for their work on this matter.

- k. Matchday satisfaction of the Club's fans, measured in an English Football League (EFL) survey conducted before the start of the Club's long unbeaten run, was the highest in the entire EFL. An individual who was in the process of attending matches at all 92 Premier League and EFL clubs had stated that the reception received at RICT's FV Pod had been the warmest of the 89 clubs visited to date.
- l. RICT had featured in an article in "The Linc", Lincoln's online student newspaper.

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The FECDs would attend the Club's next Strategy BM on 24/04/26. RICT's Pod, minus cladding, could be lifted and moved to a new FV location as part of the Club's Imps Territory project. **ACTION: RB would discuss the arrangements with the Lindum Group.**
- b. Minutes of the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB) meeting on 28/02/26 had been published on the Club's website. JBa and JBu had attended FAB meetings on 21/03/26 and 03/04/26, the minutes of which had not yet been published on the Club's website.
- c. The recording of a mascot walking out with the team before the match on 17/02/26 was 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. RB, PS and GG had attended a Four Party Meeting on 26/03/26, at which updates had been shared by representatives of the Club, its Former Players Association, Lincoln City Foundation (LCF) and RICT. Minutes of that Meeting had been published on the Club's website. The next such Meeting would be held on 25/06/26.
- e. 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 (SW), the Club's Executive Assistant.**
- f. It had been suggested to the Club that, on behalf of all supporters, RICT should present tangible souvenirs to the players and coaching staff as a token of appreciation of their outstanding efforts in securing a return to the second tier of English football after an absence of 65 years. The Club had suggested that an iconic photograph should be used. **ACTION: RB and PS would liaise with David Lowes, the Club's Fan Engagement Director, to make the necessary arrangements.**
- g. RICT would be represented at the Club's Presentation Night on 26/04/26 and at an event for the Club's sponsors and partners on 08/05/26.

5 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. Prior to the BM, details had been sent to all RICT Board Members of (i) the "1884 Collective" initiative of the joint Fan/Club Heritage Committee, (ii) that Committee's core membership and specialist support and (iii) planned next steps. **ACTION: If possible, JBu would circulate the proposed press release and further details to all RICT Board Members before the launch of that initiative, which was planned for the week commencing 20/04/26.**
- b. Since the previous RICT BM, thirteen more exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum, taking the total number of exhibits to over 400.
- c. There was a need to appoint someone as a key point of contact for anyone from RICT and from the Club who wanted to attend events with representatives of the Bantams Supporters Trust, Bradford City Football Club, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and other organisations to commemorate the lives lost in the Valley Parade Fire on 11/05/85. The Key Tasks in RICT's FECD Role Description would be expanded accordingly.
- d. JBu and PS had visited John Lynch, the managing director of Wimbledon in Sporting History (WiSH), to gain an insight into its award-winning work in preserving the heritage of AFC Wimbledon.

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website and through its social media channels to the walking football sessions organised by LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner. Surplus items from RICT's stock of old matchday programmes would be used to assist LCF's programme supporting people with Alzheimer's disease.
- b. Some funds raised by the "RICT Community Team 2025" had been earmarked for a new youth project. **ACTION: Tom Baker (TB), supported by JBu, would arrange a meeting with key LCF personnel.**
- c. A further batch of steel Imp plaques had been ordered, because the entire initial batch had been sold from RICT's FV Pod, raising funds for the installation of a Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench at the LNER Stadium. RICT had received a donation of £200 from Hartsholme Community Trust for that work.
- d. Representatives of Edison's Light had visited 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.
- e. Members of the 1237 (North Hykeham) Squadron Air Cadets had visited RICT's FV Pod on 03/04/26.
- f. On the eve of LCF's Community World Cup 6-a-side tournament, RB would be a speaker at a "More than a Game" function, celebrating Premier League investment in clubs, communities and grassroots football. Georgina Weller and Tanya Akofri of Threshold, the agency leading the function's organisation, had visited RICT's FV Pod on 11/04/26.
- g. An application had been submitted for the selection of RICT as a Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion.

7 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- a. Prior to the BM, details had been circulated to all RICT Board Members of a fan engagement survey by the Independent Football Regulator (IFR). **ACTION: JBu would submit RICT's response to that survey before the deadline of 16/04/26, having regard to all feedback received from RICT Board Members.** The deadline was 05/05/26 for responses to the IFR's Second Licensing Regime Consultation. **ACTION: JBu would circulate a draft response to all RICT Board Members for their comments and would continue to monitor further IFR consultations.**
- b. RICT's response had been submitted to the Football Supporters' Association mid-season survey.

8 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. 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 and EC would discuss options on 23/04/26, with CB having further discussions with PS and with Biff Bean, RICT's Community Engagement Team Leader.**
- b. The Golden Eagle public house would hold a raffle for a signed shirt on 25/04/26, raising funds for RICT.

9 MEMBERSHIP

- a. RICT's JOGC Gold Legacy Members had met on 11/04/26.
- b. MS would meet Liam Scully, the Club's Chief Executive Officer, and Ron Fowler (RF), the Club's Chairman, on 12/05/26 to discuss the extension into the 2026/27 season of RICT's JOGC partnership with the Club.
- c. Correspondence was ongoing with SW about the presentation of RF's honorary RICT membership certificate either at the Club's Strategy BM on 24/04/26 or at the match on 25/04/26. **ACTION: IH, SF, PS and RB would liaise to make the necessary arrangements.**
- d. RICT membership was an automatic benefit provided (with a right to opt out) to all 2026/27 Club Gold Members. Over 6,000 sales had been processed before the first window closed on 02/04/26. As demand from new members had already exceeded the supply available, a waiting list had been set up.

- e. Prior to the RICT BM, a draft RICT Membership Policy 2026/27 had been sent to all RICT Board Members. The draft was approved, subject to the correction of the date of the RICT BM and subject to any amendments that might be approved subsequently to sections F, G, H and I. That Policy would be submitted for ratification at the AGM.
- f. RICT's Data Sharing Agreement with the Club would expire on 31/07/26. **ACTION: IH would request an extension for another year from Rob Noble, the Club's Head of Club Services.**

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. The photograph of TB had not yet been uploaded to RICT's website, with supporting biographical details. **ACTION: TB, JBu and SF would liaise to take the necessary action.**
- b. The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 was being implemented in stages. Much of it (relating to issues such as automated decision-making, scientific research, intimate images, digital verification services, legal professional privilege, national security, child death investigations, smart data, national underground assets and online registrations of births and deaths) would not impact on RICT. Of relevance were new provisions applicable, when data protection rights were exercised, for the searches required and for the time limit for responses to be given, with the need for an impact assessment being removed in certain situations where legitimate interests were relied upon as the lawful basis for processing personal data. Prior to the RICT BM, suggested amendments had been sent to all RICT Board Members to RICT's Data Protection Policy (DPP), Privacy Notice and Handbook of Data Protection Procedures. Those amendments were approved, subject to the correction of the date of the RICT BM. All references in those documents to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) would be amended to the Information Commissioner (IC) when that re-branding of the regulator took effect and the amended DPP (and IOC/IC amendments) would be submitted for ratification at RICT's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 04/06/26.
- c. Advance notice of the AGM had been sent to the RICT members for whom no email address was held before the deadline of 04/04/26, with such notice being sent on 01/04/26 (i.e. before the deadline of 09/04/26) to all RICT members for whom an email address was held. The deadline was 07/05/26 for receipt of both nomination forms for election and proposals for resolutions.
- d. RICT's strategy document, drawn up in 2023, required updating following subsequent changes within RICT, the Club and football generally. Matters which would be considered after the AGM by a RICT Strategy Working Group were agreed.

11 FINANCES

- a. RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/25 were in the process of being drawn up. **ACTION: ST would present those accounts for approval at the next RICT BM.**
- b. The agreement under which TTR was RICT's main sponsor had been extended most recently in May 2025. **ACTION: RB would negotiate renewal terms, with input from CB.**
- c. All payments received on matchdays at RICT's FV Pod had been forwarded to ST, with supporting information required for accounting purposes.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next RICT BM would be held virtually via Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday 13/05/26, apologies for absence being tendered in advance by PS.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.18pm.