

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the online Directors Meeting (DM) of Wednesday 08/07/26 at 7.01pm

1 PARTICIPATION

- a. In attendance were Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Julian Buttery (JBU) – External Relations Director; Chris Baldam (CB) - Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Biff Bean (BiB) – Community Engagement Team Leader (CETL); Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Gavin Gordon (GG); Steve Freestone (SF) – Company Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; and Andy Porter (AP) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence were received from Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and Fan-Elected Club Director (FECD) - John O’Gaunts Club (JOGC); Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; Phil Scrafton (PS) – FECD; Tom Baker (TB); Jonathan Battersby (JBa); Alice Carter (AC), representing Lincoln City Foundation (LCF); 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 six 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 Wednesday 12/08/26.
- 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 12/08/26, in order to facilitate the smooth running of that BM.

3 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BMs on 15/04/26 and 13/05/26 and of RICT’s DM on 13/05/26 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 04/06/26 had been sent to all RICT Board Members. A proposal that they should be published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced via RICT’s social media channels, would be made at the next RICT BM.

4 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. The judging panel had chosen joint winners of the Fan of the Season Award. One trophy had been received and another had been ordered. **ACTION: The winners would be announced on RICT’s website and via RICT’s social media channels after the trophies had been presented.**
- b. A quotation had been obtained for RICT-branded A4 bags with handles, which could contain information packs to be given to young fans. **ACTION: RB would meet EC and Brittany Bell (BrB), LCF’s Operations Manager, on 09/07/26 to agree LCF-related content to be included in those packs, also meeting EC and RICT member Anita**

Pritchard during the following week, to prepare a detailed proposal for consideration at a future RICT BM.

- c. Topical news items continued to be published on RICT's website, including all necessary details for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches to the first four away games of the new season.
- d. RICT's social media output remained impressive, with the number of followers on Facebook exceeding 1,000.
- e. Jason Futers, the Club's Chief Growth and Innovation Officer, had been contacted about moving RICT's Pod (with the assistance of Lindum Group) to a suitable location in the south-east corner of the Club's stadium footprint. Charlie Marshall of Charlie's Crochet Cottage had enquired whether she could display her collectible hand-made Imp figures at the Pod again during the 2026/27 season.
- f. A regular update message had been sent on 16/06/26 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had unsubscribed.
- g. Three more articles about RICT had been published in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- h. RICT had liaised with the Club and its Former Players' Association (FPA) to take the English Football League (EFL) League One Winner's trophy to the 100th birthday party of a fan of the Club.
- i. The eighth edition of the "IMPress" prog-zine would go on sale before the match on 22/08/26, with the ninth edition following before the match on 05/09/26.

5 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. The Club's Imps Territory project remained on time and on budget. ProAmpac, for which RICT had supplied the heritage-related artwork displayed in the Centre Spot Tavern throughout the 2025/26 season, had acquired naming rights for the Club's stadium for the next ten years. **ACTION: RB would convey RICT's appreciation to ProAmpac for its support of the Club.**
- b. JBa and JBu would attend the next meeting of the Club's Fan Advisory Board, the date of which had not yet been fixed.
- c. The meeting on 25/06/26 at which representatives of the Club, the FPA, LCF and RICT would share updates had been postponed until 06/08/26, when representatives of other stakeholder groups would also attend.
- d. David Riley, General Counsel of the Independent Football Regulator (IFR), had been the keynote speaker at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Football Supporters' Association (FSA). The IFR's Licensing Rules and Guidance had been published, which included provisions requiring clubs to engage and consult with fans on various issues (including some relating to heritage), some of which were covered by RICT's Fans' Share in the Club. It was anticipated that the IFR would soon allocate a supervisor to the Club, following which a dialogue could be opened. **ACTION: AP would circulate those Rules to all RICT Board Members.**

6 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. When the Club's Imps Territory project was completed, 1884 Collective displays would be possible in the Clubhouse coffee shop, with a room provided to store memorabilia and a hot desk facility. An "Antiques Roadshow" type event had been provisionally arranged. Through RICT's website and social media channels, fans willing to share on film their recollections of the Club's previous time in the second tier of English football

had been given until 09/07/26 to volunteer their services. Branding was being embedded in relevant communications from both the Club and RICT. The next Heritage Committee meeting would be held on 24/07/26. **ACTION: JBu would meet Luke Thornhill, the Club's Head of Marcomms, at the Gen2 Energy Elite Performance Centre, to consider further display opportunities.**

- b. Fifty one new exhibits had been uploaded to RICT's virtual museum since the previous RICT BM. The museum would continue to be curated by SF, but it would have bilateral links with the 1884 Collective, for their mutual benefit.

7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website to the free access space service provided by LCF, RICT's permanent charity partner, to members of the local community, enabling them to do whatever they liked, through its Social Club initiative. **ACTION: RB would meet EC and BrB on 09/07/26 to identify further projects that might benefit from RICT funding.**
- b. The location for the new Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench would be agreed with the Club when its Imps Territory project was further advanced.
- c. Thanks to RICT's selection as a Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion, fundraising would take place at the Lower High Street branch over the following few months.
- d. Discussions were ongoing about further joint ventures with the Golden Eagle and Millers Arms public houses. **ACTION: BiB would also contact Pals Battalion Community Interest Company about possible joint ventures.**
- e. Bodies under consideration to receive support from funds raised by RICT's "Community Team 2026" initiative included newly-formed grassroots football clubs. Financial assistance would be provided for a barbecue on 28/07/26 at the Risby Green retirement housing complex.
- f. Publicity would be given by RICT to Hartsholme Community Trust's Summer Festival (including a 65-year Lincoln Sunday Football League Reunion Party) on 23/08/26 at Hartsholme Sports & Social Club, Ashby Avenue, Lincoln LN6 ODY.

- 8 **EXTERNAL RELATIONS** JBu had left the FSA network for representatives of supporters' trusts associated with clubs in EFL Leagues 1 & 2, joining the equivalent network for EFL Championship clubs. He had attended workshops on fan engagement and young supporters at the FSA AGM. Voting preferences on future FSA AGM motions would be agreed in advance at RICT BMs.

9 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- a. The agreement under which Tension Twisted Realities (TTR) was RICT's main sponsor had been extended most recently in May 2025. **ACTION: CB would discuss arrangements for ongoing sponsorship with Stewart Millar, TTR's proprietor.**
- b. Advertising literature was being finalised in readiness for the launch of RICT's revised Red and White Membership Scheme packages with effect from 01/08/25, the fees payable being £250 and £150 respectively. Previous members of those Schemes would be invited to renew. The Schemes could be highlighted in one of RICT's occasional articles in the IMPress prog-zine. Care would be taken to complement, rather than compete with, the CETL's fundraising activities. **ACTION: SF would provide CB with the email address of commercial@redimpstrust.co.uk.**

10 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The deadline for renewals of Club Gold memberships having passed on 30/06/26, the Club was working through the waiting list for new Gold memberships. Renewals of Club Silver memberships would be offered soon, with new Club Silver memberships becoming available later on. RICT membership was an automatic benefit provided (with a right to opt out) to all members of the Club's Gold, Silver, Bronze, Young Imps, Junior Imps and Little Imps 2026/27 schemes.
- b. Renewals of RICT membership by people who had joined directly, rather than through the Club, were progressing well.

11 FINANCES

- a. RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/25 had not yet been signed. **ACTION: RB, ST and SF would sign those accounts.**
- b. Prior to the DM, 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 30/06/26.
- c. Consideration was being given to preparing a RICT Budget Forecast for the year from 01/08/26, for review at all subsequent RICT BMs, incorporating projected income and expenditure figures (including any appropriate financial support for the 1884 Collective) provided by the RICT Board Members with team leadership responsibilities. **ACTION: ST would ask Sarah Campbell, LCF's Business Support Manager, whether she would collate the necessary data.**

12 GOVERNANCE

- a. RICT was required to file an Annual Return with the Financial Conduct Authority by 31/07/26. **ACTION: SF would file the Return once RICT's annual accounts had been signed.**
- b. Draft minutes of RICT's AGM had been published on RICT's website, with their availability being announced via RICT's social media channels, through which attention had also been drawn to the updated governance structure flowchart that had been uploaded to the website. It would be possible to co-opt volunteers to fill the two remaining vacancies for RICT Board Members. **ACTION: All RICT Board Members would consider whether they knew anyone who might be interested in filling the vacancies.**
- c. Progress was being made in updating RICT's 2023 Strategy document. **ACTION: RB would submit a revised document for approval at a future RICT BM.**

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Kirsty Hackney was congratulated on her recent marriage to former RICT Board Member Rick Lalka.
- b. It was considered that the DM had been a valuable exercise, with nine people participating online, benefiting from reports having been circulated in advance: it would have been a valid BM if only one more RICT Board Member had attended, with two RICT Board Members having submitted their apologies for absence less than one hour before the start of the DM, due to understandable family and work emergencies. Therefore, it was considered that BMs should in future continue to be held at monthly intervals throughout the year.
- c. There being no further business, the DM closed at 7.56pm.