

RED IMPS COMMUNITY TRUST (RICT)

Notes of the Board Meeting (BM) held via Zoom at 7.02pm on Wednesday 9th September 2026

1 PRESENT

- a. In attendance were Rob Bradley (RB) – Chair and Fan Engagement Team Co-Leader (FETCL); Julian Buttery (JBU) – External Relations Director; Phil Scafton (PS) - Fan-Elected Club Director; Steve Tointon (ST) – Treasurer; Jonathan Battersby (JBA); Gavin Gordon (GG); Claire Hunsley (CH); Anita Pritchard (APr); Steve Freestone (SF) - Secretary; Ian Hodgson (IH) – Membership Secretary; Andy Porter (APo) – Minutes Recorder.
- b. Apologies for absence had been received from Mandi Slater (MS) – Vice-Chair and John O’Gaunts Club (JOGC) Members Liaison Director; Chris Baldam (CB) – Events, Fundraising & Commercial Co-ordinator; Biff Bean (BB) – Community Engagement Team Leader; Emma Crellin (EC) – FETCL; and Tom Baker (TB).

2 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a. Notes of RICT’s BM on 04/06/26 and of the RICT’s Directors’ Meetings on 08/07/26 and 30/07/26 had been published on RICT’s website, with their availability being announced through RICT’s social media channels.
- b. Notes of RICT’s BM on 12/08/26 would be published on RICT’s website, with RICT’s social media channels announcing their availability.

3 FAN ENGAGEMENT

- a. It had been reported on RICT’s website and through RICT’s social media channels that trophies had been presented to Phil Bradley and Mel Tointon (the editors of the “IMPRESS” prog-zine) and to representatives of the 617 Squadron fan group, as joint winners of RICT’s 2025/26 Fan of the Season Award.
- b. A draft leaflet, describing everything on offer for younger supporters on matchdays, would be finalised when the ProAmpac Stadium footprint became established, following the changes made by Club’s Imps Territory project. A competition for young fans had also been devised. Competitive quotes were being obtained for the production of 1,000 RICT Junior Fan Packs, including RICT-branded bags, pens and notepads. **ACTION: RB would circulate those quotes in due course to all RICT Board Members.**
- c. Topical news items continued to be published on RICT’s website, on which departure times and prices for Red Imps Association Travel Section coaches were shown for all away games up to 17/10/26, with the details being further updated whenever (i) matches were arranged (such as Blackpool and Bournemouth) or re-arranged (such as Bristol City) and (ii) tickets went on and off sale.
- d. RICT’s social media output continued to be well-received. The Man of the Match polls were popular and the video from the first home match of the season had attracted a huge number of views.
- e. The Imps Territory infrastructure changes had not deterred fans from visiting RICT’s Pod (which had been emptied, cleaned and re-stocked) in the Fan Village (FV) at the ProAmpac Stadium before the first three home games of the season. Sales of shirts and collectible items remained popular, along with freebies for youngsters. The Club

had agreed that standalone tables could be placed by the Pod, which had enabled Charlie Russell of Charlie's Crochet Cottage to sell crocheted Imps figures before the match on 05/09/26 and which would enable Chris Wray to sell Imptoons merchandise before the match on 19/09/26. Hartsholme Community Trust had offered to donate to RICT two tables with benches (one of which was suitable for wheelchairs), which the Club had agreed could also be placed by the Pod. It was hoped that arrangements could be made for members of the Club's Former Players' Association (FPA) to visit the Pod at pre-advertised times, to be interviewed using RICT's public address system. The Club had provided RICT with a card reader to collect payments for its enhanced teamsheets sold from the FV Pod.

- f. A regular update message had been sent on 30/08/26 to all RICT members for whom an email address was held, save for those who had unsubscribed.
- g. Articles about RICT continued to be published fortnightly in the Lincolnshire Echo.
- h. Copies of the first Championship edition of the "IMPress" prog-zine had sold out at RICT's FV Pod before the match on 22/08/26, with further copies being printed for sale at the match on 01/09/26. The second Championship edition had gone on sale before the match on 05/09/26 and the third Championship edition would follow before the match on 14/10/26.
- i. Delivery was expected shortly of RICT's Player of the Month trophies. It was anticipated that the trophy for August (the poll for which had attracted a record high number of votes) would be presented to the winner, Ben House, prior to the match on 19/09/26.
- j. An article about RICT had been published in the "Late Tackle" football magazine.

4 CLUB ENGAGEMENT

- a. Progress was being made in addressing various snagging issues revealed following the Club's Imps Territory project, the response to which had been overwhelmingly positive. Queries had been raised with RICT about (i) the timescale for opening the hospitality area in the Rilmac Stand, (ii) the limited options available to holders of vouchers for food and drink, given that many concessions sold either food or drink, but not both, and (ii) the impact on the sale of Fun Farm Superdraw tickets of the withdrawal of the facility to pay by cash. **ACTION: PS would raise those concerns at a meeting on 10/09/26 with Liam Scully (LS), the Club's Chief Executive Officer, and David Lowes (DL), the Club's Director responsible for Fan Engagement.**
- b. JBa and JBu had attended the Club's Fan Advisory Board (FAB) meeting on 13/08/26, the minutes of which had not yet been made public. JBa and JBu would also attend the next FAB meeting on 19/09/26.
- c. It had been reported on RICT's website and through RICT's social media channels that a salver had been presented to MS in recognition of her service for seven years on the Club's Board of Directors.
- d. The Club was one of only two that had received a Gold Fan Engagement Award in the 2026 Think Fan Engagement Index, being placed second, behind Exeter City, and ahead of 114 other clubs.

5 CLUB HERITAGE PRESERVATION

- a. During the following week, JBu would meet Bobby Copping, the Club's Chief Commercial Officer, to discuss the possibility of some Club partners sponsoring

signage for a heritage exhibition at Lincoln Museum, whose representatives JBu would also meet. The next 1884 Collective Heritage Committee meeting would be chaired by JBu on 11/09/26.

- b. RICT's virtual museum continued to attract many visits, sixty five new exhibits having been uploaded since the previous RICT BM. **ACTION: RB would work with RICT's Media Group to devise a process for securing publicity through RICT's social media channels about major new exhibits.**

6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- a. Attention had been drawn on RICT's website and through its social media channels to the support for children in care provided by Lincoln City Foundation (LCF), RICT's permanent charity partner, via its "Your Home Team" initiative. Funds had been raised at RICT's FV Pod before the first three home games of the season (including £100.00 from an auction of boots worn by Tendayi Darikwa in 2025/26) which, if combined with £300 pledged by the "RICT Community Team 2026" initiative, could be applied towards the cost of LCF's inflatable football pitch (displaying RICT's branding) for use at community events away from the ProAmpac Stadium. **ACTION: RB would discuss the opportunity with Brittany Bell, LCF's Operations Manager.** Donated commemorative mugs would be auctioned from RICT's FV Pod in due course.
- b. The Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench had not yet been installed at the ProAmpac Stadium.
- c. Following RICT's selection as a Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion, fundraising was ongoing at the Lincolnshire Co-op Lower High Street branch.
- d. It was envisaged that RICT would host some representatives of Pals Battalion Community Interest Company prior to the Club's match on 31/10/26, at which Remembrance Day would be commemorated. **ACTION: JBu would send an email to Louise Wade, the Club's Head of Retail and Ticketing Operations, about match ticket availability.**
- e. It had been announced on RICT's website that RICT members could obtain entry at discounted prices to the Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum.
- f. RB would investigate opportunities for collaboration with other organisations in the local community voluntary sector, by attending (along with APo) the Lincoln Voluntary Sector Forum organised by CVS Lincolnshire on 06/10/26.

7 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- a. Supervisors were being appointed by the Independent Football Regulator for all clubs under its jurisdiction. **ACTION: PS would ascertain from LS and DL the name of the Club's supervisor.**
- b. Ticket prices for away fans at some EFL Championship clubs exceeded the £30 maximum permitted in the Premier League. Discussion had taken place at the latest Football Supporters' Association Championship Network (FSACN) meeting about campaigning for the Premier League rule to be extended to the Championship. **ACTION: PS would draw the issue to the attention of LS and DL, with JBu circulating minutes of the FSACN meeting (once approved) to all RICT Board Members.**

8 EVENTS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The 2026/27 Red and White package scheme membership terms were confirmed in the Membership Policy published on RICT's website. **ACTION: RB would work with RICT's Media Group to arrange further publicity.**

9 MEMBERSHIP

- a. Contact details had been received for Club Gold Members, including those who were under 18 years of age. RICT membership was an automatic benefit (subject to a right to opt out) of that scheme, as it was of the Club's Silver, Bronze and Junior Imps schemes, sales of which were ongoing, with around 650 Silver memberships having been bought by 11/08/26. Additional people had joined RICT directly, including through the JOGC Gold Legacy Membership (GLM) scheme. **ACTION: ST would send to IH details of the members who had renewed their RICT membership subscriptions by standing order.** All members of the FPA also belonged to RICT.
- b. The 2026/27 GLM terms were shown in the Membership Policy published on RICT's website.

10 GOVERNANCE

- a. RICT's Annual Return to 31/12/25 had been filed with the Financial Conduct Authority.
- b. APr's photograph and biographical details had been published on RICT's website, along with RICT's updated governance structure flowchart.
- c. Alex Bavin, LCF's Director of Growth, hoped to attend a future RICT BM.
- d. Whenever TB was unable to attend future RICT BMs, he would liaise with APr to ensure that a report was submitted. **ACTION: SF would add "Young Fans' Feedback" as an agenda item for all future RICT BMs.**

11 FINANCES

- a. RICT's annual accounts to 31/12/25 had been signed by RB, ST and SF.
- b. Work was ongoing to estimate the amount of money that could be used from RICT's reserves to support future initiatives.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next RICT BM would be held via Zoom at 7.00pm on Tuesday 13/10/26, the Club having a match on Wednesday 14/10/26.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. RICT's strategy document had been re-drafted. **ACTION: RB would circulate the revised version to all RICT Board Members.**
- b. Kieran Maguire (KM) of The Price of Football podcast had expressed an interest in observing a RICT BM. **ACTION: RB would invite KM to attend such a BM whenever it was convenient for him to do so.**
- c. It was suggested that RICT Board Members should meet socially following a home match before Christmas. **ACTION: RICT Board Members would submit expressions of interest to RB.**
- d. There being no further business, the BM closed at 8.01pm.