



MEETING LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' BOARD MEETING  
 LOCATION Zoom  
 DATE 19 April 2023  
 TIME 19:00

**MEETING #36  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Jackie Atkins (JA)  
 Jonathan Battersby (JB)  
 Charlie Beeston (CB)  
 Marcus Burton (MB)  
 Jon Clack (JC)  
 Toby Freestone (TF)  
 Andy Helgesen (AH)  
 Sam Kendall (SK)  
 Rick Lalka  
 Rob Noble (RN)  
 Liam Scully (LS)  
 Tony Smith (Chair) (TS)  
 Roy Thomson (RT)  
 Jay Wright (JW)

**APOLOGIES:**

Chris Laming (CL)

**CLERK:**

Jen Coulson

#	ITEM	ACTION:
1.	<b>Meeting Admin</b>	
	A. Apologies	
	Noted above.	
	B. Estimated or required time of meeting close – 20:30	
	Noted.	
2.	<b>Minutes/Actions From Last Meeting – 09 02 23</b>	
	All items have been actioned or are covered elsewhere in this Agenda.  Minutes were agreed and accepted.	
3.	<b>Rails in U7</b>	
	LS noted that rails will be added to U7 next year, following consultation with the fan base. This comes after a survey of fans of whom 96% were in favour.  LS said that some fans had been concerned about the club's decision given historical events at other stadiums. The club has met with a number of those concerned in attempts to offer reassurances and show them how the technology and stadium management strategies are now very different.	
4.	<b>End of Season Awards</b>	
	LS confirmed that the end of season awards would be presented pitch side following the last game against Shrewsbury, provided that fans stay off the pitch.  The EFL now has a zero-tolerance stance against pitch incursion. This message will be strongly communicated prior to the game via social media.	



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5.	<b>Gold memberships</b>	
	<p>We have had a positive sales window and at the time of the meeting approximately 420 memberships down year on year. LS noted that feedback from fans is that the advertising of prices for window two has made some people comfortable to hold off on purchasing their season membership until 30<sup>th</sup> June as the price rises between windows are modest.</p>	
6.	<b>Kit supplier 2023/24 season</b>	
	<p>LS informed the group that the Errea contract will conclude at the end of May. Following a tender process asking for bespoke kits across the whole range, smaller minimum order quantities as well as a higher spec (ie. embroidered club crest) and sustainable and ethical manufacturing processes, Oxen has been identified as the new supplier and we have signed a contract on an initial two year term.</p> <p>The club did receive tenders from 'premium brands' but the lack of bespoke range, increased unit price (which would have meant a significantly more expensive cost to the fans) plus lack of flexibility meant that the club opted to go with Oxen on this occasion.</p> <p>The home shirt will be launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.</p>	
7.	<b>Matchday programme</b>	
	<p>The Supporters' Board asked if the club had opted to cease production of the matchday programme. LS confirmed that the club has received a number of proposals from suppliers and partners, all of which have increased costs in the region of 18-22%. With less than 400 programme sales per game, it is likely that production will cease, albeit, the executive has been tasked by board to consider alternatives before a final decision is made.</p>	
8.	<b>SW and Summer Improvements</b>	
	<p>The Stacey West works will begin soon, pending some legal sign offs. These works will run alongside the usual summer maintenance and upgrades which cost approximately £150k annually.</p>	
9.	<b>Golden Share</b>	
	<p>LS and TS noted that there is a Working Party set up to look at the Fan Led Review and that we hope to go further than the government White Paper which was published recently.</p> <p>LS noted that the board would be largely in favour of a golden share being awarded, with some caveats.</p>	
10.	<b>Fan Engagement</b>	
	<p>CB and TS congratulated the Club on scoring well in the Fan Engagement Index and asked what can be done to improve further.</p> <p>LS noted that the Club will work to improve the visibility of some initiatives which we already undertake but do not evidence well and welcomed any feedback from this group.</p> <p>CB, in conjunction with TS and JA, is in the process of setting up a new supporters' group for fans with disabilities. LS thanked them for this work.</p> <p>RN noted the LGBTQ+ event in February and stated that the Club is aiming to create a supporters' group for this community. It would need to be led by fans.</p>	
11.	<b>Matchday music</b>	
	<p>TS circulated a song devised by a fan before the meeting. This was discussed with a view to adding it to Poacher's Playlist.</p>	



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<b>12.</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p>The ongoing problem of pigeon waste in U1 was discussed. It was agreed that this is unacceptable but that a permanent solution is difficult to find. The team will investigate installing gable end coverings as per Upper 7. This will require investment of around £7k but it is agreed that solutions need to be found.</p> <p>The stewarding at the Sheffield Wednesday game was discussed. Fans were prevented from going to the fan village at half time. LS stated that this was to stop overcrowding but noted that it created flash points between stewards and supporters. It is difficult to manage crowd dynamics and to have up to the minute communications in the moment and that this was what had happened in this instance.</p> <p>LS noted that there will be a lot of activity at the Shrewsbury game, including items mandated by the EFL for the Coronation, the laying of the wreath for the Bradford memorial and an early kick off. Fans are encouraged to be seated early. This will be communicated via social media in advance. There will also be the end of season awards and an extra game for Academy players following the final whistle.</p> <p>RT noted that he had used a box for a recent game that the service had been top notch. He thanked the club for the experience.</p>	
	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	TBC	

**MEETING CLOSED AT 20:27**