



MEETING LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB FAN ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) MEETING
LOCATION Foundation Classroom
DATE 16th March 2024
TIME 12:30 pm

**MEETING #41
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Tony Smith (Chair) (TS)	Roy Thomson (RT)
Jon Clack (JC)	Charlie Beeston (CB)
Rick Lailka (RL)	Marcus Burton (MB)
Jonathan Battersby (JB)	Chris Laming (CL)
Jackie Atkins - Minutes Secretary (JA)	Rob Noble (RN)
Sam Kendall (SK)	Liam Scully (LS)
David Lowes (DL)	

A busy and varied agenda was discussed at our latest Fan Advisory Board meeting held on 16th March ahead of the excellent five goal win against Bristol Rovers.

Several fans contacted us via email address fabchair@theredimps.com asking off-field questions ahead of our meeting which we put to the club's executive leadership as detailed within our minutes shown below. Many thanks to Richard Wilkinson, Mick Hupolowsky, J.Wright (not club director Jay Wright) and Lissie Wilkins for getting in touch. Please drop us an email if you have any non-football matters that you would like us to cover at our next meeting.

As we approach the end of the season many thanks from FAB also to our Minutes Secretary Jackie Atkins who has done an excellent job taking the minutes at our always busy FAB meetings which is never an easy task.

We were also pleased to be joined during the meeting by Albert who was introduced to us by Liam as part of the club's ever popular Junior Takeover Day. We hope Albert enjoyed being with us and enjoyed his day along with everyone else who took part.

The last few weeks have been very exciting for all Imps fans with plenty of wins and goals for which FAB send our thanks and best wishes to Michael and his team for the remaining games of the season.

UTI

Tony Smith
Chair of the Lincoln City F.C Fan Advisory Board

#	ITEM	ACTION:
1.	Meeting Admin	TS
	A. Apologies	
	Formal apology from Toby Freestone (through Chair) No formal apology from Andy Helegesen	
	B. Estimated or required time of meeting close – 13:45	
	Noted	



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2. Minutes/Actions From Last Meeting	TS
Minutes from last meeting accepted and approved	TS
3. Fans' Share	ALL
<p>RT/SK - following some negative posts on social media; could clarification be given. SK - personally is positive that there are no issues, but would like to be clear so that we can offset any negativity.</p> <p>DL - whilst protecting fan interests through a "fans share" the Board need space to be able to run the club and ensure as far as possible there is no negative impact on the clubs brand value. The recent posts by AH are a misrepresentation and contentious in asserting the fans share is meaningless as the club can still do what they want if they claim it is in the best interest of the club. The query regarding location is a fair one and was covered at the AGM when raised in that the club felt they must strike a balance and need to protect future investment opportunities. RICT and FAB have the opportunity to raise concerns and call for a vote. If any changes to the protected items were proposed the club would provide transparency with a rationale and business plans being brought to meetings with RICT and FAB. If there is a disagreement or ultimately a vote against by fans and the board still believes in the proposal, it can go to the independent regulator. The independent regulator will look to see if fans opinions have been taken into account. LS - taking a matter to the independent regulator is declaring an arbitration method; a resolution process not a veto - the mechanism is to resolve deadlock. LCFC is one of only 3 clubs who have implemented a Fans 'Share (Golden Share) and we are being asked to help with other clubs who are in the process of setting theirs up.</p>	RT/SK DL LS



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4. Code of Conduct	FAB Members
<p>LCFC Representatives did not take part in the following discussion nor did they offer any comment or guidance</p> <p>TS - The Code of Conduct (as agreed by all FAB members and available on the LCFC website) clearly defines: The FAB will require it's members to adhere to the following values & code of conduct:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work & communicate as a team • Treat fellow FAB members, fans, club officials & everyone else with respect • Promote equality, diversity & inclusiveness within the FAB, our fanbase & Lincoln City FC <p>The following behaviours will be considered as unacceptable resulting in suspension & disciplinary action against a FAB member with possible action including expulsion to be decided by a disciplinary panel containing one independent third party appointed by the Chair (or Vice Chair should the Chair be the subject to an investigation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breach of confidentiality • Discrimination • Bullying, personal abuse or harassment • Disruptive conduct • Bringing LCFC or FAB into disrepute in any way including inappropriate use of personal social media • The decision of the disciplinary panel will be final <p>CB - has checked through recent social media posts made by 'the member' and he has failed to adhere to the C of C in several areas and therefore we have no option but to follow the suspension and disciplinary action.</p> <p>TS - 'the member' has been asked to resign but refused</p> <p>A vote that disciplinary action is implemented against 'the member' in accordance with our Code of Conduct was taken by FAB members (independent of the representatives of LCFC as such representatives are not permitted to vote or express an opinion on the vote) Those in favour - 10 (attending) 1 proxy vote (confirmed via telephone conversation) Those against - 0</p> <p>The disciplinary panel will be TS, MB, CB with an independent 3rd party (TA will approach FSA). 'The member' has the right to bring a person of his choice to be an observer. Dates to be confirmed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TS</p>
<p>Note: At this point Albert (Junior Imp takeover) joined the meeting briefly. Welcomed by TS</p>	



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5. Naming of Stands	LS/RN
<p>RN - Richard Wilkinson has raised a question asking if the stands could be named after former managers. LS - we have to be conscious that the club has to be commercially aware of the restraints that may impose. Naming the stands after managers would put us at a competitive disadvantage as sponsors would want to be able to use their name as prominently. TS - there are other ways for managers to be recognised - eg: executive boxes could be named. JC - could blocks be named? RN - we need to be aware that not all sponsors are LCFC supporters so that could significantly reduce desire for association. CB - last thing we need to do is reduce opportunity. MB - most supporters will be able to separate the commercial benefit from the emotional wish. JB - Doncaster Rovers have a Hall of Fame around the back of the stands. LS - will take these suggestions on board but will also explore other avenues.</p>	RN/LS TS JC/RN CB MB JB/LS
6. Hall of Fame	TS
<p>FAB will take on the responsibility for the Hall of Fame choosing the former players and managers to be inducted, this will be in consultation with Former Players Association (FPA) - 3 per season. Inductees will receive 4 tickets to hospitality, a framed certificate, half time hospitality. There will be a Hall of Fame page on the website and recognition in Legends Lounge. Fans to be asked to nominate potential inductees which will be chosen by FAB with the FPA. All members happy.</p> <p>Note: Matt Murgett joined the meeting</p>	



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7.	Changes to Anti-Social Behaviour Procedures	MM
	<p>Procedural changes will be implemented next season to bring it in line with the EFL practices. Sanctions panel is the first action point. Further investigation will then be implemented or the investigation will end depending on the outcome. Supporters can appeal the decision which will then be heard by an appeals panel. Both sanctions and appeals panels will have a member of FAB as fans' representatives with club officials. MB - will the policy be on the website? MM - yes it will be when it is launched - will be signposted to a specific page. RT - how will incidents be reported? MM - there are QR codes around the club which link to the club site feedback process and it can also be reported under specific headings. Police feed reports into the club. LS - EFL policy adopted by other organisations. There can be contentious complaints (based on personal feelings) but complaints have to be evidence based and investigated formally. SK - will we still work with the police? MM - Yes. LS - Our aim is to stop people getting criminal records, unless it is the last resort</p>	MM MB RT LS SK LS



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8.	AoB	
	<p>Communications from Fans</p> <p>Nick Hupalowsky - has requested that footfall from lower 6 to upper 6 be restricted as he is obstructed from watching the game by people leaving 10 minutes before half time and returning 10 mins after second half starts. Could fans use gate at block 1? LS - Technically fans can move from upper to lower (to access the fan village). Lower do not need to move to upper. RN - the Safety Officer has discretion to allow access to upper turnstiles to increase the flow. LS - club needs to accommodate the flow of ingress and egress; however - will remind stewards about movement.</p> <p>Lissie Wilkins - could the club replace missing seat numbers? LS - yes, this will be done for the new season.</p> <p>J Wright - FAB Sponsor - been approached to see if FAB could attract a corporate sponsor LS - need to be clear what inventory and sponsor is (and isn't). Have to protect against and club sponsors, conflict of interest and/or being clear that club inventory could not be used for this purpose. All agreed to politely decline</p> <p>RT - What is the response by LCFC regarding the premier league meeting held recently? LS - disappointed, deflated, devastated; it was everything that was feared could happen at the 11th hour. RT - are there any thoughts on doing anything more disruptive than EFL posting negative comments? LS – Regulator needs powers to intervene with financial distribution. DL - the next TV deal increases League 1 and League 2 coverage. LS - we have had to re-budget. FAB members can lobby local politician to make sure our voice is heard in Westminster.</p> <p>JC - a colleague is writing a dissertation relating to football supporters. Anyone willing to help with this - send email to JC.</p>	<p>LS/RN</p> <p>LS</p> <p>LS</p> <p>RT</p> <p>LS</p> <p>DL/LS</p> <p>JC</p>
	Meeting closed: 14.03 pm	
	Date of next meeting: TBC	