



MEETING LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB FAN ADVISORY BOARD (FAB) MEETING
LOCATION Foundation Classroom
DATE 30 September 2023
TIME 12:30 pm

MEETING #38 MINUTES

PRESENT:

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

CHAIRS NOTES

The newly named Fan Advisory Board held our first meeting with club representatives including Liam Scully (CEO) & David Lowes (Fan Engagement Director) on Saturday 30th September following our change of name from the Supporters Board which reflects our implementation of the recommendations (& much more) of the government's recent white paper on the reform of football governance.

Fan related items discussed during our busy meeting included facilities for our travelling supporters at away games,, the twice rescheduled Derby County fixture, EFL ticket pricing, & future streaming of Imps games from next season.

We also enjoyed two presentations from club staff on the club's Fan Engagement Plan & branding involving a possible change for our club badge both of which represent the club's continued commitment to engaging with our fanbase & valuing the views of all supporters concerning club heritage matters.

As part of the club's Fan Led Review we have reviewed our own governance & policies during the last twelve months including our constitution, Memorandum Of Understanding with the club & democratic election process in addition to appointing our own Minutes Secretary (Jackie Atkins) & two Vice Chairs (Marcus Burton & Charlie Beeston). Details of all of our members can be found on the club's website along with our minutes & agendas from previous meetings.

Detailed minutes of our recent meeting can be found below. We can be contacted by email at our new address fabchair@theredimps.com so please get in touch with us if you have any non-football related questions or suggestions which you would like us to ask the club's hierarchy at future meetings.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Tony Smith
Fan Advisory Board Chair



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#	ITEM	ACTION:
1.	Meeting Admin	TS
	A. 100% attendance	
	Noted.	
	B. Estimated or required time of meeting close – 13:45	
	Noted	
2.	Minutes/Actions From Last Meeting	ALL
	<p>All items have been actioned</p> <p>Minutes were agreed and accepted.</p> <p>In agreement with LCFC - FAB will now be responsible for taking the Minutes at meetings. TS thanked Jen and Jay Wright for all their assistance and input to our meetings during the last couple of years. Jackie Atkins (JA) will be Minute Taker with Charlie Beeston (CB) acting as support in case of absences.</p>	TS
3.	Welcome	TS
	<p>TS welcomed everyone to the first FAB meeting. Excellent to see everyone here - thank you. We are in a good place. TS thanked all FAB members and the club for their support (including Exco) and the club board, as well as everyone who has been/is still involved with the FLR working party. TS welcomed David Lowes who has been appointed Fan Engagement Director and will be attending the FAB meetings going forward.</p>	



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4.	Presentation from Jake Langworth and Andrew Whittham (Branding)	
	<p>Presentation to debate a change of official club crest to a refreshed version of a previous design. This is currently being used as the 'alternative' landmark on the 3rd kit; in the Legends Lounge; in the tunnel and on the wall of the stadium. RT - as the badge is reminiscent of the one used in the 1980's - would this perhaps hold some negative memories for supporters? LS we recognise this concern.</p> <p>The change was discussed at the September Exco meeting and has been met very positively by FAB.</p> <p>We all agreed to move this action to the next stage of full fan consultation.</p>	
5.	Fan Engagement Plan	
	<p>DL/RN gave a presentation on the club's fan engagement plan which will be copied to FAB members for further discussion and feedback.</p> <p>LCFC have confirmed they are happy to issue a 'Golden Share' (which will be known as The Fans Share) which will be held by the RICT. Legalities to be considered but the club are in a good position and will be ready for the appointment of the independent regulator of football.</p>	DL/RN
6.	San Diego Loyals	
	<p>MB - is there any impact for LCFC following the recent information relating to San Diego Loyals folding? LS - no financial impact for the club. Landon Donavon will now have more time to focus on LCFC. There has only ever been a partnership to mutually grow the fan base across both teams. JB - what form might Landon's input take? LS - Landon will help within the sporting side of the club, across a range of remits, if and as required, to include assistance with partnership, relationships and possible recruitment matters, should they arise.</p>	MB
7.	Streaming	
	<p>CL - is there a potential for a replacement for iFollow? LS - a TV deal by Sky has been agreed which includes the rights to the OTT (over the top) services. However details have not been confirmed. The EFL digital collective (website and streaming provision) deal expires at the end of this season and the club is currently exploring alternatives.</p>	CL



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8	Fixtures Re-Scheduling	RT
	RT raised concerns regarding the Derby fixture being moved twice. LS - this was initially a request from Derby . LCFC agreed due to a sporting advantage to us both. Derby then asked to move again as there had been pushback from local stakeholders on the new date. We wish to retain the sporting advantage (not having to play Saturday-Tuesday if avoidable), so the 21 st November was reluctantly agreed.	LS
9.	Away facilities	CB
	CB asked if issues relating to the absence of facilities for less abled supporters at away grounds (such as our recent visit to Bristol Rovers) are being recognised by the EFL? LS - We have been approached for our opinion. The new EFL deal will have mandated income to help with the infrastructure of clubs who are falling below the recommended standards.	LS
10	Potential structure change to the FA Cup	RT
	RT asked if potential changes to the FA cup will have an effect on LCFC and the EFL? LS - will present more information when it is available. There will be changes but these are yet to be finalised. For EFL teams, commercially the position is improved. LS to update on progress at the next FAB meeting.	
11	Playing kits - design	TS
	In the past, the FAB (formerly Supporters Board) have been involved in the process - is there a potential for this to happen again? LS – This is becoming increasingly difficult due to the timescales involved. On this occasion, the club has sought alternative means of obtaining fan input.	



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12	Ticket Prices	TS
	<p>TS asked if there had been any discussions within the EFL regarding price capping? LS - confirmed that currently there is not very much support from EFL clubs for price capping. Cost of running club has risen by 18.5% whereas tickets were only increased by 5%. Regarding away games? LS - progress on this is likely once a regulator is appointed, but it will be slow progress as there will be other priorities ahead of prices.</p>	
13	Any other Business	
	<p>CB - Football Disorder. Widely recognised there was a sharp rise in disorder following lockdown. LCFC have not seen the same spike as other clubs have seen. Lincoln City are considered safe. SK - do we still have the high risk rating? LS - Some away forces are applying their strategy based on outdated data and that impacts on their decisions.</p> <p>AH - Operating costs. Should LCFC be looking to cut costs? LS - we have tried to cut costs in areas that can be cut, but to deliver to our high standard in all areas for our supporters - LCFC would need to continue as we are. Further cuts would be detrimental to the club. DL - investors are fully aware of what will be asked of them and this is monitored closely.</p> <p>JC - Congestion at the West Ham game. LS - all gates were open. Late arrival at the ground may have contributed to the delays in getting in before kickoff.</p> <p>TS - Provided the new email address - please forward any agenda items to: fabchair@theredimps.com</p> <p>Agenda items for next meeting: Stacy West development New EFL financial deal</p> <p>Next meeting: 25/11/2023 - 12:30 Venue: Foundation Classroom</p>	LS
	Meeting closed: 13.50 pm	