



MEETING	LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' BOARD MEETING
LOCATION	LNER Stadium
DATE	5 JULY 2022
TIME	18:30

MEETING #31 MINUTES

PRESENT:

Tony Smith (Chair) (TS)
Jackie Atkins (JA)
Jonathan Battersby (JB)
Charlie Beeston (CB)
Marcus Burton (MB)
Jane Chamberlain (JCh)
Toby Freestone (TF)
Sam Kendall (SK)
Chris Laming (CL)
Rob Noble (RN)
Liam Scully (LS)
Roy Thomson (RT)
Jay Wright (JW)

APOLOGIES:

Andy Helgesen (AH)
Jon Clack (JCl)

CLERK:

Jen Coulson

CHAIR'S NOTES:

Plenty of good news for Imps fans was discussed at the Supporters Board's close season meeting including a reduced matchday travel ticket price offer from Stagecoach for season membership holders & the continuation for this season at least of a new look physical matchday programme however it's longer term survival will be dependent on more of us buying a copy on matchdays or by seasonal subscription.

Amongst our busy and varied agenda was our scheduled review of the matchday use of the Dambusters theme and siren more of which can be found within the detailed minutes of our meeting shown below. The club will continue to show our support for the people of Ukraine including those within our local community in many different ways such as via social media channels and LED perimeter advertising.

Gold Memberships exceeding 5600 purchased for the new season is yet again a magnificent achievement by Imps fans even more so during the current economic situation affecting us all. Alternatively, the revamped Silver Membership Scheme also offers excellent value for fans who wish to attend home games regularly.

We also welcomed Toby Freestone to his first Supporters Board meeting. Toby is the fourth new member to join us in recent months following regular board rotation and will provide us with a 617 Squadron perspective again on all Lincoln City off-field matters.



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Like all Imps fans, the Supporters Board extends our best wishes to Mark and the team for a successful and exciting season.

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Tony Smith
Chair of the Lincoln City FC Supporters Board

#	ITEM	ACTION:
1.	Meeting Admin	
	A. APOLOGIES	
	Apologies were received from Andy Helgesen and Jon Clack. TS welcomed Toby Freestone to the Board.	
	B. ESTIMATED OR REQUIRED TIME OF MEETING CLOSE – 20:00	
	Noted.	
2.	Minutes/Actions From Last Meeting – 19 03 22	
	All items have been actioned or are covered elsewhere on this agenda. Minutes were agreed and accepted.	
3.	Safeguarding	
	Nothing to report.	
4.	Health & Safety	
	Nothing to report. LS noted the quantity of works that have gone on over the summer, including health and safety improvements.	
5.	Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	
	Nothing to report.	
6.	Siren & Dambusters Theme	
	Following discussion, it was agreed to remove the temporary pause on the use of the Dambusters Theme and to communicate with the siren operators that it is their choice as to if they bring back the siren for home games.	
7.	Ticketmaster Loyalty Points System	
	RN outlined a proposal that used a simple model for allocating points. This would be 10 points per game basis (home or away) with a Gold Member getting 230 points as part of their membership package. Some alternative models were briefly discussed, but it was agreed simplicity was the best application LS reiterated that he is still not keen on the use of loyalty points and noted once more that at the moment, we are simply capturing the data so that we could apply a method in the future, if it was decided that it was the correct thing to do at that time.	
8.	Memberships	



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	<p>RN informed the group that we have sold 5600 Gold Memberships to date and that this figure is pretty much as per expectations of the club. This figure also includes 300 new season members.</p> <p>Following research, it appeared that many fans did not realise how the Silver Membership work. RN noted that we also planned to increase the number of games in this scheme from 5 and 10 to 6 and 12 following feedback from people who used the membership scheme. This was agreed.</p>	
9.	Fan Engagement/Website	
	<p>TS explained that a new page on the Club website would be developed as a way of improving the Supporters' Board profile. Head shots of Board members have been taken and will be uploaded along with a short bio. It was agreed that this gives the Board a more visible presence and improves accountability and approachability.</p>	
10.	ASB Suspensions & Appeals Process	
	<p>LS explained that ASB is a huge issue, particularly in football stadiums at the moment and that the authorities are monitoring this closely.</p> <p>Lincoln City now has qualified 'risk groups', meaning that a stronger police presence at away games may be expected. This could impact all fans, and it is in our interests overall to work to reduce the incidents of ASB along with taking suitable preventative and/or strong measures when such behaviour occurs.</p> <p>As a result, the Club needs to look at overall sanctions and has revamped and introduced the use of Club Bans. Several bans have been issued and an appeals process is in place with Supporters' Board members sitting on the panel as independent fan representatives.</p> <p>LS asked the group if they were happy with this process and it was unanimously agreed by members present at the meeting that Club Bans work well.</p> <p>Marcus Burton left the meeting at 19.33.</p>	
11.	Fan Led Review	
	<p>Chairs of Supporters' groups were invited to a joint meeting recently to work through the recommendations of the recent Fan Led Review. The review can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fan-led-review-of-football-governance-securing-the-games-future/fan-led-review-of-football-governance-securing-the-games-future</p> <p>LS noted that the Club is happy to consider the provision of a 'Golden Share' but before that can happen, one group with good structure needs to be identified/created. The Club has appointed Jim Lord, an independent consultant, to help with this process.</p> <p>With regards to the formation of a Shadow Board, the Supporters' Board seems a good option but it was acknowledged that a constitution and some rules will need to be implemented. Jim Lord will also help with this.</p> <p>The timescale for both processes is estimated to be 12 months.</p>	
12.	Matchday Travel/Green Team Update	
	<p>LS noted that Stagecoach will be changing their offer to Season Membership holders and a reduced ticket price will be implemented. Full details are not yet known. This will be communicated as soon as we have the information.</p> <p>The Green Team has put up a new cycle shelter in the car park with spaces for 30 bikes.</p>	
13.	EFL Trophy Kick Off Times	



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	Following discussion, it was agreed that the Club will ask opposition teams for a kick off time of 7pm as a preference with 7.45pm as a back-up. It was noted that both teams have to agree kick-off times.	
14.	Matchday Programmes	
	<p>It was noted that this could be the last season with physical programmes on sale at games should a major increase in sales not occur. The costs of production and resource taken is not in line with return. The programme made a loss in the 2021/22 season.</p> <p>The Board was urged to encourage those fans who want to keep the programme going to purchase programmes.</p>	
15.	AOB	
	<p>RT asked if the club could help fans with the cost of living in any way, such as encouraging car sharing. LS noted that that it should be encouraged via fan groups.</p> <p>Capping Away Tickets by reciprocal arrangement: The club already benchmarks ticket prices and aren't in position to offer reciprocal arrangements, while retaining a single tier price policy.</p> <p>iFollow/ Article 48: L1 and L2 voted in favour of streaming all matches during the World Cup.</p> <p>Elior has asked that we make the stadium cashless. Following discussion, it was agreed to put an emphasis on contactless with fewer cash tills. Extra signage will be needed. The aims are to speed up service overall, but we do need to recognise some fans do prefer to pay with cash.</p>	
16.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	TBC	

MEETING CLOSED AT 20:15