



Committee	Lincoln City Fan Advisory Board Meeting
Location	Co-op Community Hub
Date	26 October 2024
Time	12.30pm

Chairman's Report

Our final meeting of 2024 held on Saturday 26th October prior to the Imps excellent victory against Stockport County focused sadly on the unsavoury incidents which occurred at the Birmingham City fixture which fortunately are extremely rare at our home games. FAB extends our best wishes to the stewards who received minor injuries during the match & thank the club for their detailed responses to questions & comments raised by FAB during our meeting.

The delayed & amended Football Governance Bill, Bradford City Fire 40th Anniversary & very importantly Emergency Medical Protocol at the LNER Stadium were amongst other matters covered, the details of which can be found within our minutes shown below.

Earlier in the day FAB held an internal meeting at which a couple of amendments to our constitution were unanimously agreed regarding our decision making & attendance of members at future meetings. We also thanked Marcus Burton & Jon Clack for their valued contributions to FAB during their time with us. I, Charlie Beeston & Jackie Atkins were unanimously elected for the next twelve months as Chair, Vice Chair & Minutes Secretary, respectively. We will be looking to add to the group soon with details to follow through our usual social media channels.

As usual please send an email to fabchair@theredimps.com if you have any non-football questions for us to ask the club at our first meeting of 2025 ahead of the Stevenage fixture.

In the meantime, season's greetings & best wishes for 2025 from FAB to all Imps fans & everyone at the club.

UTI

Tony Smith

Chair of the Lincoln City F.C Fan Advisory Board

Minutes of Meeting: FAB Meeting, 26 October 2024

Attendees: Tony Smith (TS), Charlie Beeston (CB), Chris Laming (CL), Jackie Atkins (JA), Jon Clack (JC), Jonathan Battersby (JBa), Julian Buttery (JBU), Marcus Burton (MB), Roy Thomson (RT), Samantha Kendall (SK), David Lowes (DL), Liam Scully (LS) Jason Futers (JF), Rob Noble (RN), Damian Froggatt (DF)

Apologies: Toby Freestone (TF)

1. Meeting Admin

- **TS** opened the meeting and it was explained a new transcription system utilising AI for recording and drafting minutes was to be trialled.



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- **JA** was asked to continue recording minutes alongside the AI, as her role remains essential.

Apologies

- Apologies were received from TF, who will return to the meetings on 4 January.
- A proposal was discussed to update the constitution: members missing three consecutive meetings may face removal.

Member Changes

- **JC and MB** announced their decision to step down from the group.
 - The board expressed gratitude for their service over four years, highlighting their valuable contributions.
 - Both assured their continued support for the club.

Recruitment for Vacancies

- TS - No response received from the Women's Team regarding vacancies despite repeated follow-ups.
- TS – The two replacement roles, as well as the pre-existing vacant space, will be advertised soon.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

- TS - Finalisation of the minutes is pending. Changes will be circulated among the group before uploading to the website.

2. Matchday Antisocial Behaviour

- RN - Seven complaints were received regarding antisocial behaviour during the Birmingham fixture, significantly higher than usual.
- RT, SK - Specific issues included attempted player interference and inadequate crowd control.
- LS - Multiple investigations are ongoing, led by the club and police, addressing incidents both inside and outside the stadium.
- LS - Six potential criminal incidents were identified: two inside the stadium and four outside.
- RT – Why are home fans are treated differently than away fans?
- LS – It's not home/away, it is a broader scope, with all 4 stands having to be managed slightly different. The overall stadium management strategy is robustly designed and tested, and not all matters are always obvious to those in the stadium without a holistic view.
- LS - The stewards' approach balances enforcement with minimising escalation risks.
- LS – A Lincoln City fan was identified as a Birmingham supporter due to a misunderstanding (a joke gone bad), leading to significant tension in the crowd.



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- LS - Efforts to remove disruptive individuals during the game were met with escalated violence.
- DF - The club have been looking at plans to install a barrier across the first row of the Stacey West Stand to address crowds standing in the concourse and improve safety. Plans have been met with resistance from the SGSA (Sports Ground Safety Authority), but this remains ongoing.
- Birmingham fans were in the Legends Lounge on corporate ticket allocations. This led to clashes with home supporters at the same time as the response teams were dealing with the incident in upper 7.
- The club will remind ticket holders of their responsibilities and ground regulations regarding purchasing tickets for away fans in home areas.
- The club is always reviewing matchday procedures, particularly around stewarding and crowd control, and this remains no different. Given the dynamics of the event, the Birmingham City fixtures was overall deemed a success, this was externally verified and supported.
- There is ongoing dialogue with fans regarding fairness in enforcement between home and away supporters.
- The FAB emphasised transparent communication with fans about safety improvements and policy changes.

3. Emergency Medical Protocol

- DF - The safety team conducted a timely review of emergency protocols ahead of upcoming matches.
- DF - Incident response during the match at Upper 7 v Leyton Orient was swift and effective.
- DF - Acknowledgement of ongoing training and preparedness by the safety team.

4. Bradford Fire 40th Anniversary Commemoration

- DF - Collaboration with Bradford City FC and Bradford Council for commemorative activities.
- DF - Planned contributions include support for the Burns Unit and remembrance initiatives (e.g., black ribbons, messages on kits).
- DF - Discussions ongoing with relevant stakeholders to determine roles and contributions.
- DF - Commitment to take a supporting role as directed by the organising entities.

5. FA Cup Match Against Chesham

- LS - Chesham FC's decision not to segregate crowds, despite recommendations, was noted.
- LS - Concerns highlighted about the adequacy of facilities to support segregation. The match has been designated as low-risk by management and authorities.



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- The club formally respected Chesham FC's decision and expressed hope for a positive match day outcome.
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6. Football Governance Bill

- LS - Overview of amendments made by the new government to the Football Governance Bill.
 - LS - Key topics included parachute payments and their impact on EFL clubs.
 - TS - Recognition of fans' perspectives and the importance of effective regulatory application.
 - LS - Discussion on how reforms could address disparities and improve club-fan relationships.
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7. AOB

RICT Update

- JBu - Proposal to introduce a youth board member as part of the trust's governance. Linked to the foundation's Youth Committee for continuity and participation.
- JBu - Inspired by successful models and supported by research from the Football Supporters Association.
- JBu - Commitment to share findings and collaborate with relevant stakeholders.

Representation and Inclusion

- JBu - Emphasis on continuing efforts to ensure all fan demographics are represented.
 - TS - Noted progress with EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) commitments in football governance reforms.
 - TS & RT - Positive feedback on the club's Black History Month event, featuring Jason Lee as a speaker. Recognised as a successful initiative with potential for annual repetition.
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Next Meeting: Scheduled for 4 January 2025.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 14:05.