

MEETING MINUTES

Lincoln City Fan Advisory Board - Meeting #54

Date: Thursday 13 August 2026

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Co-op Community Hub

Chair: Charlie Beeston

Present: Jonathan Battersby, Nick Procter, Tony Smith, Julian Buttery, Sam Kendall, Chris Laming, Roy Thomson, David Lowes, Liam Scully, Dan Seaborne, Bobby Copping, Lou Wade, Mark Johnson.

Apologies: Jackie Atkins

1. Meeting administration

- The target closing time was noted as 8.30 pm.
- The meeting was transcribed solely to assist with the preparation of minutes in the absence of the regular secretary.

2. Imps Territory and stadium works

- Members received a tour and progress update. Approximately 40 weeks of work had been compressed into a 16-week programme.
- The Club was comfortable with overall progress but stressed that the facility would not be fully settled from the first match. Initial operational issues and a continuing snagging programme were expected.
- Outstanding work would be managed through red, amber and green priority lists over the following weeks.
- A key building-control inspection was due the following week. A wider site compliance checklist also remained in progress, including load testing and approvals relating to the Stacey West Stand, temporary stand and Rilmac areas.
- The away allocation would be housed in the temporary stand to improve home atmosphere and maximise home attendance. Away allocation will be approximately 10% of capacity (to the nearest block/sensible level of segregation).
- Dan Seaborne and Bobby Copping were also introduced in their new senior roles (COO and CCO respectively).

3. Sanctions Panel

- The Club aims to return to a proportionate sanctions process, with panels convened only when required and with an independent supporter representative nominated through the FAB.

- Panels will normally comprise Mark Johnson as chair, the Safety Officer and one FAB representative. Meetings can be arranged flexibly. A different independent representative may be required for any appeal.
- FAB representatives will rotate, with conflicts of interest declared and the relevant person standing aside.
- The Club remains subject to an FA warning. A further incident could result in sections of the stadium being closed. Members discussed the importance of renewed pre-season messaging, supporter self-policing and positive equality, diversity and inclusion communications.

4. Ticketing

- Fanzone Plus: members queried whether the published pricing was sufficiently clear. The Club confirmed that the seasonal price is £845 in total, not £845 in addition to an existing season ticket; for an existing general season-ticket holder, the upgrade is approximately £400. Sales were reported to be progressing well.
- Middlesbrough away tickets: the Club acknowledged that the online experience had not been as smooth as they would have hoped. Demand had reached approximately 6,000 logins and a waiting-room system had not initially been enabled.
- A waiting room is now active. Once traffic exceeds the configured threshold, fans will be placed into a waiting room. No comparable concerns had been reported during the subsequent Portsmouth sale, although demand was not as high.
- The Board discussed loyalty schemes at length. Members recognised that any model would still leave supporters disappointed, could be gamed or monetised and could create new questions of fairness, family access and historic entitlement.
- No change will be rushed during the current season. However, the issue will be actively explored before the next Gold membership sales window, using purchase data, supporter research and a possible joint working group. The Club confirmed that historic purchase data has been retained, subject to account use as intended.
- The FAB will develop an action plan and consider a call for supporter participation. A future fan survey may be co-designed with the Club.
- Away allocations and pricing: members noted a wider Championship trend towards minimum allocations and higher prices. The Club had not formed a position on a proposed away-ticket price cap and would consider the matter separately.

5. Cashless stadium

- The Club confirmed that the stadium will operate on a cashless basis, with cash facilities retained in the club shop.
- The decision reflects transaction data showing that 91% of stadium payments were already by card or contactless, with most remaining cash use taking place in the shop and ticket office. It

also supports faster service, stronger controls and avoids disproportionate investment in additional cash-handling till systems.

- Members stressed the need for clear supporter communications. The Club confirmed that Wi-Fi improvements had been made.

6. 2027/28 kit

- The Club proposed involving two or three FAB representatives in a working group on non-design elements of the 2027/28 kit, such as material, collar, fit and available options.
- Final visual design decisions will remain with the Club and supplier, recognising that design preferences are subjective and that direct supporter ownership of the design could place representatives in a difficult position.
- The FAB agreed to participate and will nominate representatives.

7. Fan Engagement Plan

- The updated Fan Engagement Plan has been completed and submitted to the EFL. It follows the existing format, with refreshed content, a review of the previous year, forward objectives and a new page covering the 1884 Collective.
- The Plan will be published following a final internal review.

8. Independent Football Regulator

- The Club is preparing its application for a provisional operating licence. This is a substantial piece of work and confirms that the new regulatory regime is now active.
- The regulator may engage with supporter groups when testing information supplied by clubs. However, the Club expects a proportionate, comparatively light-touch approach given its current governance and financial position.

9. Any other business

- Matchday parking: increased operational, broadcast, team and disabled-parking requirements mean that general on-site parking is no longer available. Approximately 65% of affected parking can be accommodated at established off-site locations, with the balance directed to the South Common. An unweighted ballot will be used where demand exceeds supply. The Club continues to seek additional spaces.
- EFL FAB Network: Charlie, Nick and Tony are participating in the network and currently maintaining a watching brief before determining where active involvement would add value.
- Stakeholder group: the recent core stakeholder meeting was reported to have been productive. A written update, including heritage matters, will be circulated to FAB members.

- League One trophy: further advertised opportunities will be provided for supporters to have photographs taken with the trophy.
- FAB recruitment: the Board currently has nine members against a potential complement of 12. Recruitment is intended within the next three to six months, following an update to the website information and application process.
- Premier League/EFL financial agreement: no formal update was available. It was noted that any financial package would need to be considered alongside its wider conditions and impact on the football pyramid.
- Club representation: Jason Futers will leave his full-time role at the end of August but will continue part-time with a focus on the Innovation Lab. Dan Seaborne, Bobby Copping, Liam Scully and David Lowes will represent the Club at future FAB meetings.

10. Actions arising

#	Action	Owner	Target
1	Confirm a rota of FAB representatives for sanctions panels and appeals.	Chair/FAB	Within 7 days
2	Issue renewed supporter messaging on the Club's FA warning and prohibited conduct ahead of the first home fixture.	Club communications	Before first home match
3	Review Fanzone Plus communications to make clear that £845 is the total seasonal price and clarify the upgrade cost.	Club	As soon as practicable
4	Prepare an action plan for exploring away-ticket priority arrangements, including a supporter working group and survey approach.	FAB, with Club support	Initial plan within 2-3 weeks
5	Consider the Club's position on any proposed Championship away-ticket price-cap campaign.	Club	For a future meeting
6	Communicate the cashless-stadium arrangements clearly to supporters.	Club communications	Before first home match
7	Nominate two or three FAB representatives for the 2027/28 kit working group.	Chair / FAB	Within 7 days
8	Publish the updated Fan Engagement Plan following final review.	Club	As soon as practicable
9	Circulate a summary of the recent core stakeholder meeting, including the heritage update.	FAB representatives	After the meeting
10	Update FAB recruitment information and the application process on the Club website.	FAB / Club	Before recruitment opens

11. Next meeting

- Saturday 19 September 2026, aligned to the Swansea City home fixture. Venue and time to be confirmed.