

Supporters Board Meeting Minutes – 10th June 2020 – 7pm

Chair's Notes

We hope that all supporters are keeping well during these challenging times.

Our latest Supporters Board meeting was held via video conferencing on Wednesday 10th June which was the day following the announcement by the EFL of the decision to curtail the 2019/2020 season.

Please take a few minutes to read the minutes below of the meeting. As ever, we thank Liam & the club board for their continued openness and transparency when communicating with our fanbase.

The effects of the pandemic have sadly contributed to several players including fans' favourites and staff leaving the club. We thank them all for their contributions to the club's recent successes and wish them well for the future.

On a more positive note the response to Clive's letter regarding 2019/2020 season ticket options has been amazing with 80% of fans during uncertain times deciding and able to leave potential refunds with the club in exchange for shares which yet again shows what a fantastic fanbase Lincoln City FC is fortunate to have.

Looking ahead hopefully by the time next month's meeting comes round we may have some clarity as to when and how next season will commence. Let's hope that it will be safe for all of us to return to the stadium very soon.

Please stay safe and keep well

Tony Smith

Attendees

Andrew Helgesen, Tony Smith, Nick Procter, Liam Scully, Jon Clack, Sam Kendall, Jackie Atkins, Dan Rawson, Jay Wright, Julian Burley, Gary Hutchinson, Jane Chamberlain, Marcus Burton

Apologies

- Jonathan Battersby

EFL Meeting

- All club proposals were rejected, including that of Lincoln City and season was ended on an unweighted points per game system with play offs to continue following votes from all clubs.
- LCFC voted in favour of curtailing the season which was also backed by 18 other LG1 clubs.

Retained List

- The club is not in the position to extend contracts at present.
- Club entered contract negotiations with Ellis Chapman prior to the pandemic so these talks will continue.
- Once we have more clarity on the 2020/21 season, it's possible that we may revisit deals for out of contract players (should it suit both parties).
- Question was asked surrounding possibility of resigning Joe Morrell on loan, but it is thought he will play at a higher level than League One next season.
- COVID 19 will most likely result in smaller squads whilst lowering player wages. There is also ongoing conversations with the EFL on 'Financial Cost Proposals' to reshape the rules relating to player related spend. Included in this are salary caps and squad size limits.
- Jez George has been pivotal with recruitment and will help bring in permanent and loan signings.

Season Ticket Refunds

- Club wanted to be open and transparent with supporters urging them to consider their financial situation ahead of the club.
- Bury fixture was also included in remaining balances.

- Supporters Board members reiterated that Clive's letter was well received.

2020/21 Season

- There is no definitive date when League One football will resume but the earliest possible date would be early/mid-September.
- Decision is yet to be made on whether fans will be allowed to enter stadiums for the start of next season. There could be no fans allowed in at all or the possibility of socially distanced crowds.
- iFollow will play a significant role in enabling supporters to watch the matches whilst also
- Mothballing the club would cost in the region of £1m for the period July-December and this is not deemed a viable option for Lincoln City.

COVID 19

- Retail partners (EPS) have been heavily marketing products due to sales drying up during this tough period.
- During the early stages of lockdown, EPS had £100,000 worth of stock in their warehouse which would be outdated ahead of next season.

Ticketing Partner

- New ticketing provider will enable supporters to print tickets from home as well as using tickets on mobiles.

Stadium Atmosphere

- Club will look into the possibility of generating atmospheres should crowds be affected.

Staff Redundancies

- There has been 6 redundancies within the Club as a result of Covid19. 3 of the redundancies made were voluntary with a further 3 unfortunately being required outside of VR.
- Members of the SMT, plus many others have taken a voluntary pay cut. This includes Liam Scully, Michael Appleton, Jez George & Damian Froggatt.

AOB

- Club branded face masks have sold well with over £500 being raised for the Trust/Foundation.

DONM

- 29th July 2020 – 7pm