

Supporters Board Meeting Minutes – 5th May 2021 – 7pm

Chair's Notes

The Club's new catering partner and fresh investment were amongst the various positive items discussed during the latest virtual Supporters Board meeting.

We were pleased to be joined at the meeting by Craig Stewart, Elior's Regional MD who encouragingly emphasised the importance Elior place on feedback from fans and local sourcing of food. We are all looking forward to tasting Elior's range when the new season commences.

Clearly the recently announced new investment together with the additional financial input from Vice Chair Jay Wright will go a long way towards enabling the Club to continue the progress made during the last five years both on and off the pitch. Hopefully Imps fans will get the opportunity to welcome Harvey Jabara and his family at a game at the LNER Stadium very soon. There was some interesting speculation at the meeting from our board members as to the identity of the US based former footballer.

We also discussed the safe return of fans for our League One Play-Off games. After a fifteen-month absence, it was great to see so many Imps fans meeting up in the stadiums and elsewhere to enjoy supporting the team together again at last.

Finally, the Supporters Board would like to thank everyone at the club for a magnificent season which exceeded all expectations during very difficult circumstances.

UTI

Tony Smith

Attendees

- Andrew Helgesen, Tony Smith, Liam Scully, Jake Longworth, Jay Wright, Jackie Atkins, Dan Rawson, Julian Burley, Marcus Burton, Gary Hutchinson, Sam Kendall, Jonathan Battersby, Jon Clack

Apologies

- Jane Chamberlain, Nick Procter

Health & Safety

- N/A

Equality & Diversity

- N/A

Elior – New Catering Partner

- We were joined by Elior's Regional Managing Director, Craig Stewart for this section of the meeting.
- Liam Scully confirmed Elior were the best at tender process and had only heard great reviews after speaking with other CEO's that have partnered with them.
- Elior are the 4th biggest catering company in the world generating £4.8b.
- They look after a range of other clubs' catering facilities including Rangers, QPR, Sunderland, AFC Wimbledon and Murrayfield.
- Elior want to make supporters proud of Lincoln City's catering partner.
- Fan experience is one of their key principles and they'll listen to clients to ensure supporter needs are being met.
- They would also like to source food locally.

- Elior will look to introduce an app for supporters to order from to help reduce queues.

New Investor

- Club are at the final stages of this process and are really excited to have them on board.
- The values of the investor match those of the club.
- US based former footballer will also be linked with the new investor.
- Announcements will be made following the end of the season.

Club Shop Feedback

- EPS have listened to supporters and have added a sizing guide to their website to help supporters across a range of products including Errea kit and the Formation Range.
- Shop at the stadium will have stock reduced with online sales and Waterside Store continuing to be the primary way to purchasing LCFC merchandise.

Peterborough United Penalty Decision

- The club received an apology from the PGMOL
- Many sports lawyers have been in touch, but no action will be taken by Lincoln City FC.

Return of Fans

- Club received three green ticks from local government, SAG and opponent's office for the Sunderland (H) fixture to go ahead.
- Home fans only for the play-off fixtures were agreed amongst all clubs partaking in the play-offs.
- Ballot process for play-off games to be offered to 2020/21 season ticket holders first.
- Masks currently needed to attend matches (unless exempt).

Vaccine Passports

- Club are yet to hear an official stance on this.
- If this was mandated and enabled the club to house a full stadium, it will be utilized.
- Liam Scully believes that full capacity crowds could return in August.

Lincoln Pride/LGBT+

- Club will continue to help promote and build the profile of this supporter group.

Season Tickets

- 2,500 season tickets sold as of 5th May 2021.
- Payment methods – PayPal to be introduced later. Club have set up an appointment service to help supporters renew.
- The reasoning for BACS being the preferred payment method was because merchant banks would spread payments for season tickets over the course of the season. This does not allow the club to plan/budget accordingly as the club wouldn't receive all of the money until May 2022.
- Sports industry is classed as 'high risk' by merchant bank due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Chair

- Tony Smith offered to step down as chair to allow another member of the supporter's board to take over.
- The group confirmed their wish for Tony to stay on as chair, which Tony accepted.

AOB

- UEFA Article 48 – This ruling on 3pm kick offs will be reapplied once supporters return to stadiums in full capacity to protect attendances.
- Match Programmes – Club still very much considering a hard copy programme for the 2021/22 season. Jake Longworth is working on a tender process for this.

DONM

- 30th June 2021 at 7pm