

## **Supporters Board Meeting Minutes – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 7pm**

### **Chair's Notes**

The Supporters Board hope that all Imps supporters & families are keeping well during this difficult time.

Our latest scheduled meeting took place via video conferencing on Wednesday 13th May.

As you will see by reading the detailed minutes below the club is facing enormous financial challenges in order to come through the pandemic in decent shape. As fans, we are extremely fortunate to have a board of directors which continues to engage transparently with their fanbase during this extremely tough period for us all as well as getting the club into a reasonable position prior to the pandemic from which to overcome these challenges which lie ahead.

Sadly, it looks like being some considerable time before any of us will be able to attend Imps games again however as fans we can all play our part as much as we are able to by supporting the fund raising initiatives to be launched by the club in the near future. As we all know it will not be the first time that our loyal fanbase and fans groups have pulled together in order to help the club survive a difficult financial situation!

Please stay well, UTI!

Tony Smith

### **Attendees**

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

### **Apologies**

- Gary Hutchinson

### **New Member**

- Marcus Burton was welcomed to the group after joining the Supporters Board.

### **COVID 19 – Update**

- The cancellation of the season could see the Club lose out on over £900,000 worth of revenue.
- Loss of revenue and cashflow are the key challenges for the Club. As expected very minimal income is being generated currently.
- We know of clubs on the very edge of existence. Lincoln City is in a more stable position than most, however the prospect of an extended period without football and/or behind closed doors presents significant challenges.
- The most important part of this process is that the Club gets through this difficult period. Survival is the aim; however we are also planning for football on the other side of the pandemic and financial crisis.
- From a budget and sporting perspective we do anticipate League 1 will concertina, however as an unintentional consequence the gap to the Championship is also likely to grow.
- There is an EFL meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to discuss the next steps.
- Lincoln City FC would vote in favour of curtailing the season if the various challenges in resuming are not overcome. These include health and safety of all involved, cost of testing and concerns regarding the sporting integrity for games beyond 30 June.
- Ending the season on a points per game (home and away) basis is the Club's preference should an artificial mechanism be required.
- Testing for coronavirus should the season restart would cost between £125,000-140,000
- The decision is yet to be made on when the 2020/21 season will start but we anticipate the earliest would be September 2020
- 2019/20 season ticket refund process is being discussed internally but it could cost the Club £360,000 if all season ticket holders request a refund for the final 5 fixtures that have not been fulfilled.
- In addition, the Club is forecasted to miss out on £170,000 worth of match day ticketing revenue with the loss of 5 remaining home games.
- Other match day income, such as food and beverage, programme sales & car parking is a loss of revenue of around £95,000.
- Commercial claw back could be as much as £345,000.

### **COVID 19 – Recovery Process**

- The Club is working on various initiatives whereby the supporters can help the Club survive.

- It is requested that the various fan groups get behind the Club's future fundraising events in order to maximize impact. Smaller fundraising projects are very much appreciated, however we are cautious of various campaigns simultaneously starting, which could be viewed as insensitive where all parts of society are hurting financially.
- It is extremely difficult to attract new investment during this period as many potential investors and their businesses are affected by COVID 19.
- Furlough scheme being extended until October 2020 is a positive for the Club.

**AOB**

- Supporters Board was consulted regarding whether the car park behind the Stacey West would be suitable inventory to be sold/provided to sponsors as part of the overall fundraising challenge. It was concluded that the car park is a plot of land behind the Stacey West stand and not part of the Stacey West stand itself which is the sacrosanct tribute to Bill & Jim.

**DONM**

- 10<sup>th</sup> June – 7pm