

Supporters Board Meeting Minutes – 30th September 2020 – 7pm

Chair's Notes

Season ticket news, club finances and live streaming piracy were amongst the topics discussed at the latest Supporters Board Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September via video conferencing.

The minutes of the meeting shown below provide details of how the pandemic is continuing to affect the club financially which, unsurprisingly similar to all other EFL clubs does not make for pleasant reading but hopefully a rescue package will be forthcoming very soon to provide much needed assistance whilst us fans are unable to attend games.

Piracy of live streaming is also sadly having an adverse financial effect on the club however on a more positive note streaming issues have been reduced significantly to enable us to enjoy matchdays as much as possible via iFollow and Matchday Live whilst the team continue to entertain us with good and winning football. Long may it continue!

Please stay safe and keep well.

UTI

Tony Smith

Attendees

- Andrew Helgesen, Tony Smith, Liam Scully, Jake Longworth, Jon Clack, Jackie Atkins, Dan Rawson, Julian Burley, Jane Chamberlain, Marcus Burton, Nick Procter

Apologies

- Gary Hutchinson, Sam Kendall, Jay Wright, Jonathan Battersby

Season Ticket Update

- As of 30/9/20, 560 supporters requested full credit, 1,300 supporters requested iFollow + credit, 150 supporters requested a pro rata cash refund. Club still waiting on final figures.
- Supporters have been in contact wishing to purchase new season tickets to support the club financially. Club looking at this option. Supporters Board were in full agreement that the club should sell these season tickets should supporters wish to purchase them.
- Should new season ticket be sold, the supporters purchasing them will be supplied a stand with seat details to be confirmed at a later date (season ticket package will include iFollow match pass access plus LCFC credit until crowd restrictions are lifted).
- Should we return to full capacity crowds this season, all 2020/21 season ticket holders who selected a refund will be given the opportunity to renew their seat on a pro rata basis. If they do not renew when full capacity crowds return then they risk losing their seat).
- If we do not return to full capacity crowds this season, those who selected a refund will have the opportunity to renew their season ticket for the 2021/22 season.

Financial Impact of Covid-19

- Cost of Covid-19 to LCFC is in the region of £1,800,000.
- The current situation is dire for all football clubs at this level.
- Club has reduced the playing budget significantly, however the budget was set with the return of fans within the 2020/21 season.
- Already the Club has lost £400,000 to £500,000 in commercial revenue.
- Club will be reliant on a rescue package. If not forthcoming actions will need to be taken to plug the hole.
- This is a bleak period for everyone involved in football. Conversations are ongoing with the EFL and stakeholders.

Live Streaming

- Many issues with iFollow have been proven user error/home set up issues, but the club are in constant dialogue with the EFL to solve other common issues.

- Complaints into the club have reduced significantly from 200 per match day to 20 per match day. Refund requests must be sent to ifollow@efl.com.
- EFL are looking at moving away from a code process to an email/login process for season ticket holders on iFollow.
- Supporters are now solving their own issues with iFollow (e.g. Firefox browser works for many).
- There is still a worrying amount of piracy in the area which is significantly harming the club financially. There will be a national campaign to fight piracy to help protect lower league clubs.
- Club will consider issuing bans for those who are caught using illegal streams to watch Lincoln City matches.

AOB

- Share certificates are still being worked through and are estimated to be ready for collection mid-November.
- Remembrance fixture will be announced in due course.
- Match Day Live has received fantastic feedback from supporters.

DONM

- 4th November 2020 – 7pm