

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club  
Held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the Rugby Pavilion**

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**Present:** Julian Hussey, Simon Bareham, Peter Brook, Allan Staerck, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Guy Livingston, George Hussey, Jim Jones, Charlie Samways, Kathy Briggs, Niamh Vercoe, Lloyd Vercoe, Chris Wood, James Keen, Pete Dacey

**1. Apologies:** None received

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

The minutes were approved, proposed by Chris and seconded by Niamh. All in favour.

**3. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere):**

- External CCTV cameras to be priced.
- The RFU insurance cover is limited to liabilities. Ayo to contact Howdens re contents cover.
- The Sky payment has been sorted and will be refunded shortly.
- Bar pricing will be looked at after the end of season stocktake. Any increases felt necessary will not be made before start of next season.
- George will speak to the league re the fine against Puddletown. A fine also just received re late submission of Saturday's result against Oaks, submitted at 17.33 instead of 17.30. George to suggest to League Secretary that submission times alter accordingly when kick off times are later.
- New fridge purchased and installed.

**4. Chairman's Report:**

Saturday was a good day, though shame about the result.

The U15s Cup final day was also very successful with excellent results in all games.

Further communication received from the LC wanting us to sign an agreement which we are not happy to do. Further meeting to be requested and Richard Salt asked to check documentation before meeting takes place.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Balance end of March - £81,167.24

Current balance - £79,213.26

Bar takings on old till - £38,243.35

Bar to end March - £63,978.86, total £102,222.21

Bar YTD - £105,483.81

March takings - £14,734.07

As bar takings are now over £90k we are liable for VAT and communication received from HMRC that we are now registered for VAT. Quarterly returns will be required which Hartleys will prepare on our behalf.

Pricing to be looked at end of season. Biggest cost is obviously stock, followed by staff.

Probably need to take a view on staffing levels.

Clubhouse booked for another 3/4 events before month end.

**6. Secretary's Report:**

Application to win a Robot mower through the RFU successful. Need to display promotional material – pitchside signage board and posters.

Email received regarding GMS and new Financial Conduct regulations.

Email from John Constable regarding the RFU SGM at the end of May. Main intentions

LV

AF

GH

PB

appear to be reform of grass roots rugby and taking away the clubs' power to vote. Agreed to give proxy to John Constable to vote on our behalf but also emphasise that there should be more engagement at club level.

#### **7. VP's Report:**

An issue on Saturday with a VP complaining about international ticket applications. Agreed that VPs will be made aware of the ticket policy and that to be eligible to apply payment of VPs donations must be received in future by a set date.

#### **8. Fixtures:**

3pm kick off confirmed at Dorchester this Saturday. 4 committee members have been invited to a buffet lunch at 1.15pm. Dorchester have requested our team sheet by Thursday for inclusion in the match programme.

Invitation received from Puddletown for their mixed teams summer touch tournament.

Agreed to organise a home pre-season fixture rather than 10's tournament this year.

Memorial game to be first home game of season.

Chairman's v President's match to be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, ko 7pm as outside bar will already be set up for Awards day on Saturday.

#### **9. Coaching / Team Management / Captain's reports:**

Sadly results not good for the past few matches. At this point in the season injuries have taken their toll with 12 senior players out for the Lytchett game. Never really recovered from the problems in Jan/Feb with cancelled fixtures and now having to play 6 games back-to-back. Cancellation by Wheatsheaf did not help this situation.

Colts had a good win against Oaks and were unlucky against Dorchester last Sunday.

Hopeful of player retention for next season. Positive vibes last Saturday.

#### **10. Junior's report:**

All good. The U13s will be playing Brighton before the final senior match of the season away at Weymouth so all support welcomed. Poster to be produced and sent to the VPs.

Next two weekends very busy with touring teams.

**Minis:** Problems with U9s earlier in the season resolved and all age groups now have good numbers.

**Colts:** Next season there will not be sufficient Colts for a stand-alone team. Discussions held with Crewkerne re combining into a 'Crewport' team. Confirmation needed as to whether they will play in Somerset or D&W. Separate training sessions on Tuesday, joint sessions on Thursday rotating venues. Important that parents are kept fully in the loop on decisions.

**Girls:** All going very well. Several have been picked for Dorset v Devon at Salisbury this weekend.

12/15 signed up for the Ladies Rugby Fitness sessions starting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **11. Social report:**

Need to ensure proper communication of events. Not aware of the quiz night on Saturday which was cancelled.

#### **12. Grounds Maintenance:**

Started mowing pitches again and need to be marked up for this weekend.

Once season has finished need to get soil into the low bits of the pitch. Lloyd will message

PB

Juniors to ask for some assistance.

Re drainage issues, Will had originally offered to pay half but all seems to have gone quiet. Need to do a dye test to check where the pipes go across the pitch and if they are blocked causing some flooded areas.

Will check the agronomist report again to see if any funding available.

GL

**13. Business Development Report:**

Bridport Windows are interested in quoting for the doors out to the new terrace. Once buildings regulations are passed, contact will be made.

**14. Club Development:**

a) Safeguarding – issue with an U13s game still ongoing. Louis and Niamh to liaise re letter to D&W regarding their delays in response.

b) School liaison – email to be sent to schools in June/July re Tag Festival. Approx 50 expected for Brownies and Guides on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

c) Publicity – good coverage continuing in Bridport News and social media

LB/NV

**15. AOB:**

a) Ayo is assisting with coaching D&W U17s. Each club can nominate 3/4 players to take part. Three county matches have been arranged.

b) New post protectors and flags were used last Saturday.

c) Social media posts need to be passed by coaches before publishing. Lou to be added to group.

d) A live booking system on the website suggested but not possible at present. Bookings now mainly made by phone rather than through website. Lloyd will speak to Will re the security lights on the LC turning off midnight or 1pm on Fridays and Saturdays. At present they turn off at 10pm.

LV

e) Lloyd and James to formulate proposal for junior membership for discussion at next meeting.

LV/JK

f) AGM to be held 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> July depending on how quickly Hartleys can produce the accounts.

g) Agreed website should provide better sponsor coverage with logos etc. Sarah to be asked to take on board.

h) Large TV to be moved to side wall and projector screen used its place.

i) Graham from the Tiger is keen to provide some kit sponsorship. Ayo to contact.

AF

j) The Summer International matches should be shown in the clubhouse and tie in with the sponsorship draw. However due to bookings already taken for the clubhouse it seems 4<sup>th</sup> July is the only free date.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm, next meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 6.00 pm

