

Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 8th December 2025 at the Rugby Pavilion

Present: Julian Hussey, Simon Bareham, Allan Staerck, Peter Brook, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Charlie Samways, George Hussey, Guy Livingston, Kathy Briggs, Niamh Vercoe, Lloyd Vercoe, Jim Jones, Chris Wood, Wayne Munro, Paul Conde

1. Apologies: Pete Dacey, James Keen

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Matters Arising:

- Spreadsheet of revenue and costs relating to the fireworks to be produced for discussion at the next meeting.
- Last year's Gift Aid forms passed to Ayo at the meeting.
- Several responses to the email sent to the VPs regarding bar staff. Kathy will pass to Lou for her to contact them.
- Awaiting response re possible social night for girls' section.
- Possible bingo evenings – see Social report.
- Stock levels are being monitored to flag up potential shortages.
- Jonathon Dyke has been contacted – see Social report.
- Further work on development project on hold for the time being.

SB

KB

4. Chairman's Report:

A fabulous day on Saturday with the brilliant win over league leaders, Lychett Minster. A further meeting held with the Trust, which originally seemed to be positive but then an extremely confrontational email received from Fred. For the time being Lloyd will step back from future meetings as he needs to work with the LC. The email dated January 2024 giving their approval of the development plans will be forwarded to Fred. There will be no further expenditure on our side until issues resolved.

Some discussion regarding ideal place for the padel courts. It seems the LTA is putting money in but not aware whether plans have been yet submitted by the LC for approval. Louis will speak to the RFU Facilities Manager regarding safe distance of any potential structures from the pitch. Agreed we need to put constructive proposals forward. Peter to speak to Richard King, Kitson & Trotman, regarding the legality of the LC proposals. A copy of the sublease relating to our rights regarding the pitches will be requested from Palmers.

LB

PB

5. Treasurer's Report:

Balance end of November - £76,208.87

Current balance - £75,883.80

Expenditure on LC invoice, £6k+ which is paid in 4 instalments.

Bar takings YTD £38,243.35 on the old tills, £20,773.19 on the new system, total £59,016.54

Peter passed over VP Gift Aid forms, meaning £800-1000 can be claimed back.

6. Secretary's Report:

Various emails received from the RFU and D&W and will be circulated as appropriate.

The RFU reported a £2m loss last year.

D&W Age grade disciplinary document of 50 pages will be summarised before circulation.

Unfortunately unsuccessful with latest grant application.

7. VP's Report:

To date £6015 received from 72 VPs, £1500 more than last year with 10 new VPs.

8. Fixtures:

Final two games of this year, away to Oakmedians this Saturday 13th kick off 2pm and home against Dorchester on Saturday 20th December.

All agreed on the email responses to the SW December Newsletter relating to promotion/declining promotion. It was felt that should we win the league this year, which is our aim, it would not be a good move to take promotion. At present we do not have depth in the squad with older players looking to retire and colts possibly moving away. We need time to consolidate.

Agreed that the Nominated League contact should be the Fixtures Secretary. Chris will respond to the League Secretary that we would decline promotion this year and at the same time give some constructive criticism regarding present league structures and challenges.

CW

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

After three good wins we are now league leaders and looking to maintain our position.

Training numbers are ok but do fall understandably in the weeks there are no games.

Many thanks to Lou and the kitchen team. Really good feedback on the match food.

Would like to get a 2nd team game on 20th December involving some colts and vets and will ask Dorchester whether they would do a double header with 12.00 kick off on the roadside pitch.

PB

10. Junior's report:

Peter will thank Cameron for donating the Christmas tree as usual.

A reminder that the Christmas pub crawl is this Friday evening and all are welcome.

D&W gave Charlie English permission to draw up his own matrix of our junior matches which has now been circulated to all Dorset clubs for their own use. Lloyd has thanked him for his great work.

We have been approached by Brighton U13's to play on the last Saturday of the season.

Weymouth have agreed that it can be played before the senior game,

Ethan Staddon has agreed to present awards at the End of season. He is also happy to do a training session with the Juniors.

11. Social report:

Wayne had held Bingo night at Symondsbury which was very successful. Still feels we should run one every month maybe on a Thursday. Accurate costings needed before making a decision.

WM

Dorchester will stay for food after the match on 20th but are not committed to staying on for the party. Agreed to spend £100 on finger food for the evening. George to purchase.

GH

Julian will locate equipment for a Race Night.

LV

Lloyd to investigate costings for sound system.

Jonathon Dyke will become a VP and he would like to organise a quiz night in the New Year. He has also agreed to take professional photos at the end of the season.

The Sponsors board needs to be updated for this season. Names/captaincy years on the 1st team captains board should be consolidated to give more space, also the 2nd team captains board to be relocated.

WM

24th January – Past Captains lunch – Wayne to send out invitations. Lou to be asked to provide food.

21st March – Sponsors lunch – Wayne to liaise with Sarah who will be asked to send out the

WM/SS

invitations. Taj Mahal to be asked to provide food.

12. Grounds Maintenance:

The new white lining machine from HuckNets works much better.

Despite over 2" of rain this month, there is no lying water so it seems that the ditch clearance has made a significant difference.

13. Business Development Report

No further work for the time being.

14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – nothing to report
- b) School liaison – possible interest from Beaminster
- c) Publicity – social media posts good. Match reports to be emailed out to VPs and Sponsors.
- d) Volunteers – Mark Wilson's partner Lucy (new VPs) would like to get involved with volunteering with the Juniors

15. AOB:

- a) Chris was approached by Snooks regarding manning road closures at the Hat Festival in September. Cannot do as first Saturday of season.
- b) Chris investigating costs of club jackets/blazers similar to Yeovil's.
- c) Louis reported an U11 suffered a nasty injury to two front teeth which cannot be treated on the NHS. Insurance cover for orthodontal treatment to be investigated through the RFU/Injured Players Foundation.
- d) Fixtures on the website are totally out of date. Simon to ask Nikki about taking over the website. SB
- e) All members will need to show cards for discounted drinks at the bar. Kathy to send VPs email list to Jim and advise VPs that electronic versions are available or alternatively cards can be collected from behind the bar. Full price will be charged to all non-members and posters to be put up advising membership cards need to be shown. KB
- f) Lloyd has a projector and screen which if suitable could replace the main TV which could then be moved to the darts area.
- g) Paul Conde advised that children had been trying to get into the First Aid room on Sunday and the cabinet had been jemmied. Agreed room should be kept locked during games.
- h) Gavin Norman wanted to provide free mulled wine at the bar on Sat 20th. Not possible as needs to come through Palmers and be sold.
- i) Peter will send John Bandey a photo of the minute's silence for Pauline. PB
- j) Considerable money is being wasted on heating and work to change the boiler needs to be done asap. Simon will schedule. SB
- k) Agreed to order 3 Dryrobes from VX3, including one for Fleur. Airtags to be purchased to ensure they don't go missing. AF
- l) Julian suggested inviting up to 4 members from opposition to lunch before games, food similar to match food afterwards. To be available to anyone else at £10/head. Agreed.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm, next meeting Monday 12th January at 6.00 pm