

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club  
Held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the Rugby Pavilion**

**Present:** Julian Hussey, Allan Staerck, Peter Brook, Guy Livingston, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Timmy Edwards, Charlie Samways, Pete Dacey, Rob Sullivan

**1. Apologies:** Simon Hussey, George Hussey, Ross Duncan, Sam Petchey

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

The minutes were approved.

**3. Matters Arising:**

- Lloyd will purchase recycling bins in shortly. Guy will check with Bottleman if they also collect recycling.
- Will is arranging for sanitary bins to be placed in all changing rooms.
- A laminated poster advertising the 100 Club will be put up by the bar.
- Emphasised again that all committee members need to complete RFU courses on Headcase Awareness and Introduction to Safeguarding.
- Louis has contacted Tom re committee member details to be available on the website.
- Work to repair the green container has been hampered by the bad weather.
- Allen will chase Will regarding the outstanding plumbing work - broken tap in the Ladies, the shower in the Referees Changing room and sink in Players Changing Room 1.
- Peter has collected the names for the Memorial Board from Mystic.
- BT Sport now sorted.

GL

LV

AS

**4. Chairman's Report:**

Many thanks to all who helped with organising events over Christmas and New Year. All very successful and great atmosphere. Nearly £2k bar takings on NYE and £25k over the last quarter.

The hallway and vestibule are in dire need of decoration. Suggested the seniors could help one Saturday morning when there is no match, to be followed in the afternoon by BT Sport and bar open.

Need to keep momentum going with fundraising for French tour. Pete will contact Ben for updated situation. Lloyd asked whether it would be possible for till transactions to be rounded up. Julian to ask Karen to check with Sharps.

JH

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Current balance is £56,321.81.

Expenditure included 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of LC invoice, unexpected invoice from French trip and new tables and chairs.

Expected profit from NYE approx £700.

Anticipated good bar takings on Saturdays in January with 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, two home games and Race night.

**6. Secretary's Report:**

No correspondence from RFU.

**7. VP's Report:**

Total received to date £4762 from 62 VPs. Still 3/4 outstanding.

Peter has spoken to Liz re catering for the VPs lunch on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and all in hand.

Members from Lytchett Minster to be invited to attend the lunch prior to the game.

Diary date email to be sent to the VPs regarding the lunch and the Awards Dinner on 4<sup>th</sup> May. **KB**

### **8. Fixtures:**

Crewkerne are very interested in playing the Brown Bowler at home on 20th April when French juniors are here, probably 2/2.30 kick off. This will depend however on how we get on in the plate as the final would be the same day.

Plate dates are:

24th Feb - Oaks away 2pm kick off

9th March - quarter-finals

13th April - semi-finals

20th April - final

John Constable is hoping to come to the club on 20<sup>th</sup> January when we are playing Oaks.

I will pass the invoice for the defibrillator to the Round Table for payment.

### **9. Coaching / Team Management / Captains report:**

Ross unable to attend meeting but sent report:

It's been a tough start to 2024 with illness, injuries and players still being away.

We had 20 unavailable going into our last fixture away to Blandford.

But I wanted to express how proud I was of the lads that made themselves available for the match and in my honest opinion deserved the win or at least the losing bonus point.

Numbers and availability for the weeks to come I hope should improve.

This is a team that is building and is building well, and the only way is up moving forward.

Barry Maidment, an ex-coach at Wimborne and family friend of the Samways family, has expressed an interest in wanting to get back involved in coaching on a part-time basis and wishes to support Bridport RFC.

He won't be able to commit to every week, but I feel his intentions are valid and he seems a top bloke.

Not only will this support myself with the team, but also allow Charlie to build his recovery and focus on getting out on the pitch again as club captain.

This has my vote and I hope this is something you all can support too.

Charlie reiterated the good vibes within the team at Blandford. Despite lack of players there was a totally different atmosphere to when we had to forfeit the previous match against them.

Need to find a date for Chairman v President match which was very successful last season.

Possibility as last game of season if Ellingham & Ringwood are not able to fulfil that fixture.

### **10. Juniors report:**

All good at the moment.

### **11. Colts report:**

Colts now officially disbanded. Lytchett have also been struggling with players. Out of 9 remaining Colts, two will go up to the seniors and the others are happy to play down. D&W have been informed and the necessary paperwork will be signed off.

### **12. Social report:**

Pub crawl well attended, 25 people.

NYE very successful.

Race Night on 27<sup>th</sup> January, proceeds for Weldmar but should be good bar takings.

Awards Dinner 4<sup>th</sup> May, poster to be drafted. Suggested 6.30 start. Ticket price to be £60 plus booking fee for QR code. Dinner to be advertised to players first.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan – Nick Tuck 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday with 100 people.

Need to discuss bar rotas for 6 Nations.

Gill would like to buy material for curtains and window seat cushions. Suggested blue to fit in with new furniture. Agreed.

Allan will check whether the LC is throwing away foam which could be re-used.

Need to make the last home game of the season more of an event. Possibility of Chairman v President match.

AS

### **13. Grounds Maintenance:**

Despite the heavy rain the pitches are holding up well. Slitting definitely helped and will be done again during the season.

### **14. Business Development Report:**

Majority of 100 Club renewals due December are continuing. Need to do a push for new members. Lloyd to do poster for the bar. Kathy to email VPs.

LV/KB

### **15. Club Development:**

a) Safeguarding – ok

b) School liaison – Woodroffe year 7/8 to be approached re Tag Festival. If they want to go ahead, then will approach other schools.

c) Publicity – disappointing that Bridport News did not publish letter from Tracey Jovanovic praising the way Hann and Paul looked after Bert when he was injured. Pete will check whether letter was sent and Charlie will ask Dorset Echo why not published.

Article and picture re presentation of West Bay Day funds to U11's.

d) Volunteers – to try to encourage more volunteers Lloyd suggested co-opting others on to the committee.

e) Development Plan – Pete presented plans for development of the raised deck/viewing area. Comments requested in order to finalise drawings and then go forward to identify funding opportunities. Unanimously agreed this would provide huge benefits and opportunities for the club.

PD/CS

ALL

### **16. AOB:**

a) Julian stated the need to identify any parent or VP who has time to look at funding opportunities for the development plan. Jim Jones has suggested setting up a GoFundMe page. The LC are happy with the proposals. Once we have the final drawings, the Trust and Palmers should be approached for their formal agreement.

b) Oz suggested an event with a DJ following the 6 Nations, funded via a raffle. Guy mentioned Jukes disco were good.

c) Louis has applied for 2 grants for the floodlights but we are not eligible for either.

d) Louis mentioned that the RFU Disciplinary section had sent out a questionnaire re match official abuse. The level of abuse is unacceptable and as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 in order to provide an additional deterrent any offence will be aggravated by an additional sentence.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm, next meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm