

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 12th January 2026 at the Rugby Pavilion**

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

1. Apologies: Peter Brook, Wayne Munro

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes were approved, proposed by Guy and seconded by Allan. All in favour.

3. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere):

- Spreadsheet of revenue and costs relating to the fireworks has been produced. Still to be discussed.
- Contact details of possible volunteers for bar staff passed to Lou.
- Confirmation from D&W that if we finished top of the league we could decline promotion this year but would need to accept it the following year.
- Cameron has been thanked for donating the Christmas tree.
- Costings still to be produced regarding Bingo evenings.
- New sound system acquired.
- Website has been discussed with Nikki.
- VPs have been advised re membership cards for discounted drinks and instructions on downloading an electronic card have been circulated.
- Photo of minute's silence has been sent to John Bandey.
- Lloyd will email the LC with costs for the boiler, total £3200+VAT, which they previously advised they were happy to share 50/50, possibly by means of a rebate. Will await their ok before proceeding then schedule work asap. Further alterations to the kitchen to be carried out at the end of the season.
- Dryrobes currently out of stock at VX3.

WM

LV

4. Chairman's Report:

Well done for the win on Saturday. Another good day in the clubhouse.

Further email received from Fred with acknowledgement of support in principle for our proposed development. Suggested a 3-D image of the padel courts is produced to show how it will encroach on our spectator viewing area. However this cannot be done until we have sight of their drawings.

PD

Deeds to be checked regarding ownership of green space/distance from LC to ensure their plans are valid.

JH/PD

On return from holiday Peter will meet with Jason Hodnett of Kitson & Trotman regarding the legality of the LC proposals. Peter will speak to Josh at Palmers to request a copy of the sub-lease.

PB

We are prepared to meet the LC halfway but if they are unwilling to do so, then we will not hesitate to oppose them all the way and actively explore options to relocate from the Brewery Ground.

Despite statements to the contrary it seems the LC have not yet discussed this planned development with their membership. No planning application has been submitted to the council.

Locating the padel courts at the back of the LC is an issue apparently due to access.

The RFU have confirmed the minimum 5 m safe distance from the boundary and will fully support the club. 3-4 other clubs have been in a similar position with the end result being

the proposed courts had to be relocated.
Decision to be made next meeting on whether we go ahead with our development.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Balance end of December - £79,274.40
Current balance - £82,365.46
Bar takings on old till - £38,243.35
Bar at end of December £28,209.49 on new tills, total £66,452.84
Bar YTD £34,553.69, total £72,797.04
Total takings last year were £73,264 so nearly at that target already with the hope of reaching £90-100k this year.
Several new bookings for the clubhouse recently.
One instalment still due on the LC invoice of £6225.60.
Minimum order for plastic cups is 2500 but Palmers will do a split order meaning we can have our own branded glasses. Agreed to charge £1 deposit.
Lou has done bar rotas for next 2/3 months.

6. Secretary's Report:

Still investigating costs of club blazers.
Chris, Julian and Pete to meet Abbi Watkin, the new Development Officer.
Bournemouth 3rds have been kicked out of the league due to too many defaults on matches.
Nothing official from SW league yet but should be notified by Wed.

7. VP's Report:

Currently donations stand at £6,270. Invitation to lunch on 28th February will be emailed out on return from holiday. Possibility discussed of a second lunch combined with Sponsors lunch on 21st March if acceptances for 28th February exceed clubhouse capacity.

8. Fixtures:

Saturday's match against Bournemouth will not be played although no official confirmation received so far that they have been kicked out of the league. Looking at a second team game instead this Saturday.
Puddletown at home on Sat 24th January.

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

Good win on Saturday against East Dorset Dockers.
Unfortunately Charlie needs an operation on his knee and will be out for the rest of the season. All in favour that Daragh should be captain in Charlie's absence.
Training numbers are good.
Andy Cuthbert is stepping down from midweek coaching duties but will continue on Sundays.
Ayo stepping down as Head Coach and handing over to Charlie. Will start to plan coaching structure for next season.

10. Junior's report:

All going well.
Starting to plan End of season awards day with same format as last year.
Agreed that a third till is needed for busy occasions behind the bar which can be used in the kitchen when not required. Costs are less than for the sum-up machines.
Chris will organise a First Aid course for February.
Finding accommodation for the French tour is a problem. Peter gave Ben Stephens details for Highlands End but they are fully booked. Newlands in Charmouth may be able to help

PB

but Ben is having difficulty getting any response from the French regarding dates.

11. Social report:

Update needed for numbers for Past Captains lunch on 24th January. Appear to be only two acceptances so far but unsure about who has been contacted. Simon to follow up. Also update required on planning for Sponsors lunch on 21st March.

SB/WM

WM/SS

12. Grounds Maintenance:

The new white lining machine is working well and uses considerably less liner so will be saving money.

Need to sort the blockage in the middle drain to alleviate the flooding.

13. Business Development Report

Already covered.

14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – nothing to report. All checks up to date.
- b) School liaison – nothing heard from Scout group. Allan to ask his contact.
- c) Publicity – good coverage in the Bridport News. Some favourable comments from VPs re emailed match reports. Chris to look at possibility of digital newsletter.

AS

15. AOB:

- a) Pete is planning Rugby fit/touch sessions with the aim of a women's team in two years time.
- b) Allan contacted Will regarding water pouring through the ceiling in the changing rooms. It seems the gully continually overfills and need to explore options to divert elsewhere. Pete to investigate.
- c) The shower in the referee changing room is not hot. Issue for the LC.
- d) The two gas cylinders in the corridor to be moved to the container.
- e) Process to inform VPs of how to download membership cards had been easy. Jim advised around 20 had been downloaded and last Saturday around half of the transactions had been made by members. Need to work out how to contact Junior parents in same way so cards are available for use asap and before Six Nations games. Via GMS? Posters to be put up in toilets advising membership cards required for discounted drinks. Price lists needed behind bar.
- f) Tony is happy to continue cleaning the clubhouse. Otherwise will need to charge bookings.
- g) Lloyd to chase up CCTV.
- h) Spare set of keys is now in safe.
- i) Problems with U9's sorted and should improve next year.
- j) Will Scott to be chased re sponsoring new post pads and corner flags. Ayo will get design and send over to Will. It would be good to have in place for the Sponsors lunch.
- k) Ayo will check with VX3 re replica shirts.
- l) 100 Club members are dropping. Need another push, maybe with Juniors?

PD

LV

AF

AF

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm, next meeting Monday 9th February at 6.00 pm