

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 14th July 2025 at the Rugby Pavilion**

Present: Julian Hussey, Allan Staerck, Peter Brook, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Charlie Samways, Jim Jones, Simon Bareham, Timmy Edwards

1. Apologies: Guy Livingston, Niamh Vercoe, Pete Dacey, George Hussey, Chris Wood, Rob Sullivan, Nic Courtice

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising:

- The collage for the laminated boards in front of the bar still to be made.
- Agreed we go ahead with installation of 5G internet behind the bar. Lloyd to take forward.
- James to pull together list of people associated with the club who have food vans.
- The positioning of the Lions advertising banner on the fence is not ideal. Jim to check with Palmers if any objection to it being moved to the gate for better visibility.

SB

JK

JJ

4. Chairman's Report:

Observation made of surprise that players had held BBQ the previous Thursday and that committee were not aware. Also that Alex had been paid to man the bar as whenever able this should be done in-house to save costs. As previously discussed a list of people approved to work behind the bar should be displayed behind the bar.

The AGM is this coming Friday 18th July at 7.30pm with the bar open from 7pm. There had been a problem sending the documentation out on GMS as Level 5 access had been removed.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Balance end of June - £70,382.17

Current balance - £66,802.00

Major outgoings approx £2.5k for next season's kit.

June bar takings - £3892.90

YTD - £18,113.90

Draft accounts for both BRFC and BRFC Enterprises had been circulated. Both show a profit though BRFC includes the £23k legacy so in effect a £5759 profit against a loss of £2766 in 2023/24. BRFC Enterprises profit dropped to £1827. The main driver is the fall in bar takings over the previous year with the cost basis remaining broadly the same. It was agreed that we need to look urgently at pricing and that a separate bar committee should be established. As a business going forward more emphasis also needs to be placed on training, regular stock taking etc.

The membership cards should be available for the start of next season and will need to be shown to gain the discounted bar price. VPs, volunteer members, players, committee will be entitled to a card, otherwise social membership is £25. It had previously been agreed that next season there would be an option of one Junior plus one parent social member at £100.

6. Secretary's Report:

No report.

7. VP's Report:

Agreed that Fixture books will be printed as usual for next season.

8. Fixtures:

Waiting for confirmation from Lytchett that they will enter 2 teams for the 10's tournament. If Bridport also put in 2 teams, then a total of 7 teams at present. Unfortunately Barton are no longer able to come.

Pre-season fixture confirmed away against Chard 2nds. Hoping to arrange another game at home.

9. Coaching / Team Management /Captains report:

Pre-season training started last Thursday with good numbers 30-35 so far.

The new Sports therapist has also been in attendance.

Sessions at the Hurt Locker gym start Tuesday.

So far one new player with a couple of other possibles.

Kit has been ordered for next season.

Next season's fixtures are better spread out over the season.

10. Junior's report:

Lloyd suggested holding the Junior Registration day on Sat 30th August and making it a Club pre-season day. Unfortunately that is when the seniors are playing the pre-season friendly away against Chard 2nds. Charlie, Ayo and George to discuss other potential dates.

CS/AF/GH

Girls/Ladies Rugby (Pete Dacey)

Following a number of RFU Teams meetings/seminars I have signed us up to do an activities day for girls between 6-12 during September to coincide with the Women's Rugby World cup. The first 400 clubs that signed up got a free activities pack, which when it arrives we will work out what and when we will do it. I have been in touch with the local Brownies who have expressed an interest, particularly as there is now a Rugby badge they can earn, and they will forward to all the Brownies in the district as well as the Guides. We may look at doing something for older girls and/or Women, depending on the support I can drum up. We should also consider having the Red Roses games and targeting /running some sort of session then.

I have also discussed with several ladies about doing a few sessions of rugby based-fitness and touch, with a view to seeing if there is interest in soft starting a Ladies team, with a view to targeting a full Ladies team in time for this next season's Colts converting up. If we have a few interested ladies at least there may be a few extra bodies for the inevitable drop off.

Aspirational I know, but worth a punt while the WRFC is on.

Again, I have had initial discussions with the Ladies Circle who are tentatively interested in having a session or two and hopefully I can drum up some more support. May be that we target a Roses game, have a Rugby fit/touch session, then watch a game at the Club House. I will be dropping a note around all existing coaches to see what help I can drum up but also maybe worth doing some Socials on this once we have firm plans.

Interested in any and all thoughts on the above.

First Aid

As from August the RFU will no longer be offering the Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union course.

Still no update in the First Aid training scheme and I'm waiting for a call back from the guy who did our training in Bridport. I know Paul Conde is pushing to do our training, and it may well be that this will be the most cost effective way to get more First Aiders, but I think we

should wait for a confirmation from the D&W RugbySafe about the current thinking.

11. Social report:

Wayne and Nic will be taking this forward in next season. It was felt that expenditure should be agreed through the committee with the suggestion of a fixed budget and set dates to be promoted.

12. Grounds Maintenance:

Grounds all up to date. Roadside pitch fully mowed and marked up. Probably will stop mowing now until it rains.

13. Business Development Report:

A delay in the final design has meant the tender has not gone out. The delay is revised substructure design, final coordinated drawings and also down to the Engineer being on holiday.

Final coordinated drawings expected today and tender documents will be updated as soon as received and issued. As part of the tender I will arrange for a site visit with each tenderer to discuss the works and what can be achieved before the start of the season, and what can be achieved during September, i.e. can they complete the sliding door works ahead of the season starting and then have a fully, secured, harrassed off site and continue through the week. Obviously we will get the Principle Designer to review the H&S aspects of this, unless the Club would like to put a hold on works.

We do at some point need to discuss overall budget and financing of the scheme. I'll arrange for a meeting with key individuals to discuss this.

14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – coaches for next season underdoing safeguarding assessments.
- b) School liaison – reminder sent out this week re the Tag festival. Hope to also hold another girls and scouts tournaments next year.

15. AOB:

- a) 1st team Captains board needs to be updated and also 2nd team Captains 2014-15 to be deleted.
- b) Availability of alcohol-free drinks discussed.
- c) Louis had attended the D&W Referees AGM. Next season the referee match fee will be £35 but there is likely to be an issue with availability though referees will be filtered back into the system as higher leagues filled. It is the home team's responsibility to find a referee for their match or otherwise forfeit the game. Agreed we should pull together a list of possibles within the club who would then need to be signed off by D&W –Louis, Jesse, Alan Haggerty, Wayne?
- d) The Active Bystander course will be re-arranged for September.
- e) Lloyd will cost putting floodlights on the end of the clubhouse. However it was agreed we will need to make careful decisions on how money is spent given the substantial proposed outlay on the clubhouse development.
- f) Abbie Shepherd from the LC has asked to use the roadside pitch on Sat 6th September. There is a home match that day but as required from 9.00-2.00 agreed ok.
- g) Ayo advised that the Youth Football had made 2 donations of £250 each for use of the pitch.
- h) Mystic had advised Ayo that R & D Tuck Thatching hoarding available for collection. Allan/Peter will contact Mystic and collect.
- i) Sarah has suggested formation of a Fundraising committee. Chris should be included due

LV

to his involvement with the bricks. Sponsorship this year raised approx £10k and the committee wished to record their thanks and appreciation to Sarah.

j) Charlie, James, Tom Gamwell and Barney will discuss usage and promotion of social media/website over the summer.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm, next meeting Monday 11th August at 6.30pm