

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club  
Held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Rugby Pavilion**

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**Present:** Julian Hussey, Simon Bareham, Allan Staerck, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Charlie Samways, Kathy Briggs, Niamh Vercoe, Lloyd Vercoe, Chris Wood, Wayne Munro, James Keen

**1. Apologies:** Peter Brook, Guy Livingston, George Hussey, Pete Dacey

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

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

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

- Costings for Bingo evenings being prepared. Unlikely to happen this season.
- CCTV now working and policy written. External cameras still to be priced.
- 6 small round tables and 10 chairs ordered and received in time for VPs lunch.

LV

**4. Chairman's Report:**

Not much to report due to absence but some good events taken place. Some discussion on the email received from Will, though it was felt that Fred had also given some input. Guy had previously sent comments on the drainage issues and works carried out by Valley Drains (see Grounds Maintenance). Lloyd and Will had spoken constructively following which Julian and Will had also had a positive conversation. Some of the issues raised in the email are not relevant, such as deep cleaning of the kitchen as we do not have a deep fat fryer. Evacuation procedures to be discussed with Lou. The RFU insurance covers buildings and Ayo will check with them whether this also includes contents.

AF

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Balance end of February - £86,389.90

Current balance - £77,266.59

Main expenditure – tables & chairs, VPs lunch and Palmers

Bar takings on old till - £38,243.35

Bar at end of February - £49,214.16, total £87,457.51

Bar YTD - £50,435.81, total £88,679.16

Sky have been taking a payment from the account of £540 from October onwards. The contract for the Lions games was a three month package which finished in July. George to investigate.

GH

The post protectors should arrive in 6 weeks.

Agreed that before the end of the season the measures put in place to improve the profit line need to be analysed to check percentage profit over turnover has improved. If not prices may need to be increased again. Lloyd to speak to Jim.

LV/JJ

**6. Secretary's Report:**

Very little of interest in Mid-season briefing received from RFU.

New D&W Rugby Safe lead seems to be more pro-active.

Fine received from D&W as not notified of score against Puddletown even though this had been confirmed as a HWO when Puddletown arrived with only 13 players. Although the game was played as a friendly, the issue is that BRFC as the home team did not notify the league or referee on the day. George to check.

GH

**7. VP's Report:**

VP receipts as last month, £6270 with 75 members.

The lunch was a great success and Liz Beale and her team produced a delicious menu. 77 attendees with four cancellations the previous day and four non-shows on the day. The bar must have done well.

Thanks to Allan for organising the raffle which made a profit of £560, to the five juniors who waited on tables, the bar ladies and Guy who supplied the cheeses and arranged with Palmers to deliver wine and glasses.

A very good day with several emails and phone calls received complimenting the club.

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

No referee appointed as yet for the re-arranged match at Wheatsheaf this Saturday.

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

Very good wins this weekend against Swans and for the Colts with their first win of the season. Also a nail-biting win the previous weekend against Wimborne.

Thanks given to Wayne for driving the minibus this season. Thought to be given to who might take over next year. There will be an issue with the minibus in future as Dorset Vehicle Rentals have sold out, so Bridport depot closed and now have to pick up and return bus from Dorchester at present and if this closes then Yeovil which is not possible. Niamh suggested the garage in Musbury who will deliver and pick up. Julian to investigate.

Wayne raised the possibility of buying a second-hand bus but agreed this not practical in terms of upkeep, insurance etc.

JH

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

Nothing to report.

Planning for end of season awards day well underway. Lou will be in charge of the outside bar. Food vans arranged. Band organised for the evening.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March the U15s are playing their Cup final, also Girls and Colts matches. Poster to be produced and sent to VPs.

KB

**Girls:** Expression of interest post for social media forwarded to Charlie for a ladies fitness session. Possibly target some ladies 6 nations matches for taster sessions. Suggested dates weekends 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> May if available.

Girls had first proper game for a while yesterday and smashed Ringwood and Ellingham 80-26. Home game due on 22<sup>nd</sup> against Touring team Pulborough.

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

Past Captains lunch enjoyed by all.

Quiz night planned for month end.

11<sup>th</sup> April Race night.

Great British Bake off over four pubs, starting at the Tiger and finishing at the clubhouse.

Sponsorship lunch – 12.30 21<sup>st</sup> March. Sarah sending out invitations. Taj Mahal not providing food this year so buffet lunch will be prepared by Lou.

Updated boards will be put up shortly.

Suggestion of some Vets matches next season. Swans and Weymouth expressed interest.

After some discussion it was decided that the Fireworks event would not go ahead this year as considerable amount of work involved with little profit. Impossible to compete with the West Bay event so will skip for a year and gauge reaction as to whether to continue in future.

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

Comments on drainage issues raised by Will.

Downpipe: Valley Drains were paid to investigate the blocked drain from the downpipe at

the back of the bar which was found to be a soakaway. This was cleared as far as possible but quickly filled again. Possibility of diverting this downpipe to a drain which goes under the clubhouse. Valley Drains to revert with quote. However drain covers now added to the soakaway and seems to be working ok. Situation needs to be monitored.

Sean does not discharge waste from the white lining machine into the gully.

Drainage ditch: this was totally blocked with tree roots and debris. Since cleared by Valley Drains it has not flooded onto the pitch. Further investigation is needed into where the pipes go from the inspection chambers by the coach parking.

Comments made after the game on Saturday as to how good Swans pitches are though they do have a good ground crew of 8/9 people. They had help and funding from the RFU and it may be worth us revisiting the recommendations made following our own RFU pitch inspection as our pitches could be improved.

The white lining on the main pitch needs to be correct for our next home game.

### **13. Business Development Report:**

Allan passed copies of lease agreements to relevant people.

Pete checking into LC archives for more drainage information. Guy has information on the drains to pass on. Valley would like to do a dye test.

All three quotes have been received and the clear winner is Gary English who would like to start end of May. After discussion it was agreed that we should go ahead and start the works asap, possibly breaking through and putting in the new doors out to the terrace before the Awards day so that everyone is aware the development is going ahead. Even though agreement to the development has already been received from all parties we need to formally request this again in the correct order. Julian will compose a letter to Will.

As there is a possible conflict of interest with both BRFC and Palmers using Kitson & Trotman, Richard Salt has offered his assistance if needed.

Once the work has started it could prove more difficult for the LC to obtain planning permission for any proposed development. As yet no plans have been submitted and LC members not consulted.

Agreed the development should be funded initially by using half of the current bank balance plus funding from the bricks which will be pushed again once building has started. Also a possible scheme for VPs to loan £5000 which would be paid back within ten years.

### **14. Club Development:**

a) Safeguarding – nothing to report. The U7-10s have been increasingly using WhatsApp for communication. Next season it will be club policy for all age groups to use GMS and Spond.

b) School liaison – nothing to report

c) Publicity – good coverage continuing in Bridport News.

### **15. AOB:**

a) New fridge needed in kitchen but sourcing right size a problem. May need to have an overspill fridge downstairs instead. LB to check options and LV to speak to Lou.

b) Date for AGM to be fixed at next meeting. All outstanding bills need to be in by end of April.

Meeting closed at 7.35 pm, next meeting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00 pm

LB/LV

