

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club  
Held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Rugby Pavilion**

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**Present:** Julian Hussey, Allan Staerck, Peter Brook, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Niamh Vercoe, Charlie Samways, Ross Duncan, James Keen, Sam Petchey

**1. Apologies:** Simon Hussey, Guy Livingston, Rob Sullivan, Pete Dacey, George Hussey, Timmy Edwards

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

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

**3. Matters Arising:**

- Simon Bolton attended the Club dinner in place of Jim Jones.
- Allan spoke to Will re googling Clubhouse hire but it seems set up so the LC appears first.

**4. Chairman's Report:**

Many thanks to everyone for their help and support in making the Club dinner, the French tour and the Junior Awards night all so successful.

The next challenge will be the Sponsorship draw. After the meeting with the kit supplier on Wednesday, we will be able to move forward on this.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Closing bank balance at end of April was £56,603.90. With some additional cash in hand and monies from the French tour, the total at year end is £60,265.01 compared to £51,703 last year. This is an extremely good position going forward.

An interim payment of £23k has been received from the legacy left by Trevor and Di Matthews with a further small amount still to come. It was unanimously agreed that this money should be ringfenced towards the club development of "Trevor's Terrace".

Including this legacy the current balance is £79,531.10. A few bills are still outstanding but all invoices for the Club dinner and the French tour have been paid.

Ayo hopes Simon will be able to do the accounts by the end of June so the AGM can be scheduled for soon after.

Bar takings 1<sup>st</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> April were £87k.

**6. Secretary's Report:**

Chris Wood will take over as Secretary next year.

Simon has forwarded various emails to Julian and Lloyd for action.

D&W AGM on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> July at Salisbury.

Next season Adult player registration must be done through GMS. Lewis Dunn will take over the Junior registration and hopefully will also help with Seniors. The whole system needs to be cleaned up as much duplication at present as well as missing information.

**7. VP's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**8. Fixtures:**

Uptake for 10's tournament slow so far so will start chasing this week. To date Blandford have committed and Wimborne 3rds shown interest. Is Timmy putting in a team? Rory has been contacted. Wheatsheaf don't seem to have received information, George to check. Barton Rugby Club have been in contact via Jamie Livingston who plays for them about a

possible pre-season tour. If they cannot make the weekend of the 10's tournament we will look for a different date for a fixture.

The players that went have said the tour with Crewkerne went well and they would like us to do our own next year.

Round Table would like to use the clubhouse for meetings on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> October, December tbc and 4<sup>th</sup> February. Timing needs to be confirmed with Gill.

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

Ayo put together a player feedback questionnaire which was circulated to all players, 22 responses received out of 35. Some good positives and commitment shown. To date three players definitely not continuing next season.

There will be a Senior team meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to which qualifying young players will be invited. Ross, Ayo and Charlie are working on a plan for next season.

Summer touch will start on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Opportunity for all age groups to participate but help needed in running. Both pitches will need to be marked up.

Discussions around two training sessions a week pre-season.

Charlie suggested looking at player sponsorship for next season.

SW league meeting in 3 weeks to discuss where teams will be placed next season, following which fixtures will be decided. Agreed on the need to avoid 6 Nations dates and to have fixtures better spaced out than this season.

GL

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

Lloyd:

- Junior membership fee to be frozen for next season.
- Floodlights will be done next month.
- Defibrillator needs to be installed. Paul will take care of training later.
- Pete is stepping back and James will take over.
- Agreed that Noel's idea of storage underneath the proposed development was an excellent idea and the sheds could then be got rid of.
- A package re the brick sales will be put together once planning permission received.

Pete:

- French Weekend:

A tremendous weekend all round and huge credit to all involved. It felt like a true Club weekend and having the Brown Bowler on the same weekend really worked. Big thanks to Steve the Chef who smashed it out of the park all weekend and to the breakfast and lunch efforts by the club/committee members. Big thanks to all who made things happen in the background. A huge success and definitely fired up some coaches for the next French Tour.

- Junior Awards night:

Went really smoothly and thought the new orientation worked. It was brilliant that the young Exeter player turned up off his own back and perhaps something we should look to try and do again next year.

- Club dinner:

Brilliant job Rob and Timmy. It was great to see a full room and everyone having fun despite the "efforts" of the speaker.

- First Aid:

Finally we have 8nr new ERFAU qualified First Aiders, who help to bring up our compliance as far as RugbySafe goes, but we will need a few more. I am going to find out which teams do not either have one of these FAs or a Level 3 qualified FA as part of the setup and try and organise another one in August. It can be opened to other clubs if we need more people. I understand Weymouth and Chard are keen.

James will take over the RugbySafe mantle probably in the next 2 months. I will run through all updated Risk Assessments etc ahead of next year so we start the year compliant. Refresh and update of all First Aid equipment to be addressed with Paul once all the kits are back from the coaches.

Proactive is fully up and running. Everyone must do it next season so a refresher session might be needed.

- **Development:**

The Architect is finishing off the Design and Access Statement of the Planning Application and is expecting it to be submitted next week.

Noel has suggested we put a room under the decking and he may be able to access funding.

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

Agreed that an official complaint should be made about the speaker at the Club Dinner as Mark Regan's behaviour was appalling and very offensive especially towards some of the ladies present. Julian will write to his agent. Depending on the response, we may take it further with the RFU.

Allan again mentioned a social evening with Richard Balson. Julian will contact him.

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

Mowing done. Sean will try to use the slitter this week before the ground gets too dry.

Alex has now started to clean the lines as he is now more available to us.

Would any of the people who are working voluntarily behind the bar consider being paid for helping at outside events when we are short of staff?

Emailed Josh re the drainage pipe and awaiting a reply.

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

The legacy will be used for the Club development project.

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

a) Safeguarding – all going ok. Website needs to be kept updated.

b) School liaison – will be looked at in off-season.

c) Publicity – Charlie to do a report on the Club Dinner. Ben Stevens reporting on French visit.

d) Volunteers – suggested notices in clipframes in the toilets.

e) Development Plan – ongoing

### **16. AOB:**

a) Agreed that the Sponsorship draw would be held during one of the Summer international so need to invest in Sky. Sam will investigate. Kathy to send him contact details.

b) Louis will update Ross and Charlie on law changes for next season.

c) Charlie raised the issue that we need to be stricter on who is allowed behind the bar. A laminated list will be prepared for next season.

d) Allan has received tackle shields and balls from Aramis.

e) James will set up a hit counter on the website.

f) Louis will fix the new hoarding and take down Chesil's.

g) Peter advised that Aidan Creedon would like a hoarding.

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm, next meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm

PD/JK

JH

JH

SP/KB

