Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 11th May 2026 at the Rugby Pavilion

Present: Julian Hussey, Peter Brook, Allan Staerck, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Guy Livingston, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Chris Wood, James Keen

1. Apologies: Simon Bareham, Niamh Vercoe, Pete Dacey, Charlie Samways, Jim Jones, Wayne Munro, George Hussey

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:
The minutes were approved, proposed by Peter and seconded by Allan. All in favour.

3. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere):

- CCTV cameras costed - £84 inside main clubhouse, two x £169 for outside 180-degree coverage, £260 increased hard drive for memory capacity. Agreed to go ahead with installation asap also as robot lawn mower now received from RFU which will also be fitted with an air tag. Signs also need to be installed.
- Ayo to contact Howdens re insurance cover. CCTV cameras may help reduce premiums. **AF**
- George has contacted D&W re fines but no response. Would be logical for submission times for results to alter according to kick off times.
- VPs will be emailed before the start of the season re renewal and made aware that payment must be received before entering the ballot for international tickets in order to be eligible to apply. **PB**
- Dye test to check drainage issues to be carried out. **GL**
- Letter sent to D&W regarding delays in response to Safeguarding issue with U13s game. No response yet, to be chased up. **LB**
- LC happy for timing of security lights to be altered to midnight at weekends.
- Agreed junior membership to be held at this year's level for next season. Payment and registration to be linked on GMS to ensure all pay. Probably still missing 5-10% each year.
- Ayo to contact the Tiger re kit sponsorship. **AF**

4. Chairman's Report:
Many thanks for all the messages received on the passing of Simon.
The Awards day was a fantastic day and great thanks to Lloyd for all the hard work. In total for Friday and Saturday with the bar, food, raffle etc the club took over £11.5k. Next year will look to book the LC hall for the inflatables etc as a back up in case of bad weather.
Josh's mother would like to make a donation to the club. Agreed this should be used for something tangible for the Junior section. Peter and Noel will take her to lunch to discuss.
AGM to be held on Friday 17th July, 7 for 7.30pm. Posters to be done to encourage attendance. Proposals/nominations for Officers to be completed at next meeting.
The Presidents v Chairmans memorial match on Friday was another successful evening. Agreed that playing it the evening before the Awards day worked well and this format should continue in future.
Pete's Rugby Fitness sessions for ladies have been a great success. It may be worth contacting the RFU to ask if any grants available. Possibly to improve changing facilities. **CW**

5. Treasurer's Report:
Balance end of year - £80,376.01
Current balance - £84,257.18
Bar takings on old till - £38,243.35

Bar year end - £72,863.81, total £111,107.16
April takings - £8,884.95
May to date - £12,301.95
Hartleys have prepared the first set of VAT returns which will now need to be completed every quarter at a cost of £100+VAT. Going forward will need to be more diligent with record keeping.
Annual bill received from LC is £9,719.81 for 2025-26, compared to 2024-25 £6,255.60 and 2023-24 £8,521.37. Biggest areas of increase are gas and water. Gas, water and insurance make up £6,800 of the bill.
Broken boiler obviously contributing to increased costs as on all the time. Also the LC now use the kitchen for holiday camps over the summer as well as at Easter and half terms whilst our usage drops considerably out of season. Agreed to negotiate on us being able to use the clubhouse at times when now required during the day for events such as wakes rather than negotiating a decrease in charges.
Soldo card to be acquired for Lou to use for food purchases etc.

<u>6. Secretary's Report:</u>
Minutes from the SGM received and circulated. Both resolutions voted against.
Disappointment expressed to D&W with their lack of engagement at club level.
Robot lawnmower now received and signage displayed. It will be used for the main pitch.

<u>7. VP's Report:</u>
Nothing to report.

<u>8. Fixtures:</u>
No response from D&W re fines. George to chase. **GH**

<u>9. Coaching / Team Management / Captain's reports:</u>
Plans for the proposed Colts 'Crewport' team going ahead. Parents to be approached first, then players with meetings in June/July. Looking at possible player sponsorship for the Colts. Proposing one club provide a joint team kit and the other a training kit. Potential difficulties in asking for Graham's help with this.

<u>10. Juniors report:</u>
Email to be sent to schools before term end re Tag Tournament in October.
Considering whether to do summer touch rugby.
John Schneider from West Virginia Warhounds and Head of Sport at Salem University has been in contact regarding scholarship opportunity. Maisie Pitcher interested in applying

Minis: U9s shirts appear to have been lost but will be replaced.
First Aid kit order will be completed for next season.
James is stepping down as Chairman but has possible replacement candidates in mind.

Ladies: The Rugby Fit sessions have been amazingly successful. Four sessions held so far with the biggest group being 19 despite 4 regulars not being able to attend. May enter a touch team for Puddlefest.

<u>11. Social report:</u>
No report.

<u>12. Grounds Maintenance:</u>

Little growth at present due to the dry conditions.
Sean will use the council tractor to slit the pitches on Tuesday.
Must ensure any remedial work is undertaken before start of next season.
Rabbits becoming a problem again. Gareth Thomas to be contacted as he has a shooting licence. **LV**

13. Business Development Report:
Further invoice received from the Architects re Fire regulations.
Peter has taken professional advice on the last email received from the LC regarding the licence they wish us to sign. Advised against signing as our consequent liabilities would be far too great. Another meeting with the LC required to find a mutually acceptable way forward. If the LC remain unwilling to change their position we may be forced to write to all our members explaining why we cannot go ahead with the development.
Suggested we go ahead and put the doors in anyway as that would increase our capacity for insurance purposes.

14. Club Development:
a) Safeguarding – nothing to report.
b) School liaison – already covered.
c) Publicity – good coverage continuing in Bridport News and social media

15. AOB:
a) Lou has requested some changes to the bar. Coffee machine to be installed in the corner with one sink underneath removed and the other to have hot and cold running water. Also to remove the small wine fridge and replace with a second double fridge to avoid need to restock as frequently during busy periods. Agreed, work to be carried out over summer. **LV**
b) Website needs updating. James to speak to Tom Gamwell and if he is not interested then Nikki Bareham to be contacted again. **JK**
c) The projector picture is greatly improved when darker outside. Gill had previously suggested making curtains and will be asked to speak to Lloyd. If not curtains, then look at blackout blinds. **GL/LV**
d) The kitchen alterations will be undertaken over the summer. LC will go 50/50 on the boiler. The heating cabinet is surplus to requirements as more work surface required but could be useful for outside events. Problem is where it could be kept.
e) As 2028 season will be our 60th anniversary Lloyd suggested that it be made a really important event with a marquee, speaker etc. Good speakers require at least 18 months' notice. Agreed that proposal should be formulated and brought back to the committee. **LV**
f) Ayo proposed purchasing a new camera for the Seniors/Colts with the old one used by the Juniors. Quotes to be obtained. **AF**
g) Chris and Sarah have discussed sponsorship opportunities and suggested that after the main sponsorship draw the next ten names drawn be offered match ball sponsorship for the home games and invited to pre-match lunch.
h) There will be the same number of teams in the league next season with Blandford likely to replace Bournemouth 3rds. Possible we may acquire some players from Dorchester.
i) Barton have purchased striped blazers from China. Guy will pass details to Chris. **GL**
j) Julian emphasised that once all work is carried out behind the bar it is essential all the grilles lock securely.

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm, next meeting Monday 8th June at 6.00 pm