

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 13th November 2023 at the Rugby Pavilion**

Present: Julian Hussey, Peter Brook, Allan Staerck, Guy Livingston, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Kathy Briggs, Ross Duncan, Lloyd Vercoe, Rob Sullivan, Timmy Edwards, George Hussey

1. Apologies: Simon Hussey, Pete Dacey, Charlie Samways, Sam Petchey

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising:

- Malcolm has agreed to share the cost of repairing the clubhouse floor. Peter to speak to Guy Ewart for advice and costing.
- Tony Chant is unable to take on the clubhouse cleaning due to other commitments. Guy will see if any Ukrainians might be interested. The present cleaners have agreed to come in on Sundays at 5pm rather than 2pm.
- Louis still investigating lighting towers. Agreed to go for one diesel generated tower in the first instance, cost approx £1350.

PB

GL

4. Chairman's Report:

The fireworks evening and the Past Captains lunch were both very successful. Many thanks to all the volunteers on firework night for their hard work, especially given the atrocious weather conditions.

Thanks to Lloyd for installing the scoreboard.

Thanks to Kathy, Allan, Peter, Karen and Julian for help in the kitchen last Saturday. Need for volunteers in the kitchen to be discussed later.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Fireworks evening a great success with a profit of £2100. Income £7214 with expenses of £5112.

Bar takings from 1st May to date £36,860, which includes £1987 last Saturday.

Current balance £58,677.12 though several Palmers invoices outstanding.

However year end situation looking healthy.

Hopefully the bank account switch will be completed soon. Further information on Register of Directors and Register of Members has been requested.

6. Secretary's Report:

Simon is now home and hopefully back in action soon.

7. VP's Report:

£3,707 received to date from 48 VPs.

Possibility of 2/3 joining following Past Captains lunch.

8. Fixtures:

The D&W Cup game against North Dorset has been confirmed for next Saturday. Earlier kick off at 2pm in case extra time is required.

Oakmedians have not responded re swapping home/away games so home game will be 9th December and away 16th March.

Entries for the Papa Johns Cup are now open with the first round scheduled for 13th April.

We will enter a team and can decide in January once the draw has been made whether we

want to take part.

Lege Cap Ferret visit on the weekend of 13 April so a senior fixture is needed for the Saturday. Ideally there will be a junior and a senior game on Saturday, then two more junior games on the Sunday.

9. Coaching / Team Management /Captains report:

Now a minimum of 25 players at training every week.

Last Saturday for the first time there were too many players available. Optimism that this situation will continue. General feedback is of vast improvement and much more positivity within the squad.

Five players are now playing up so new talent is coming through.

Bert who suffered a neck injury on Saturday is fine. We had a message from the hospital to thank us for how we reacted to the situation. Bert's mother also expressed her appreciation of how the club took care of Bert. Hann and Paul were very calm and professional.

10. Colts report:

- Rugby Safe GMS information has been updated, with Risk Assessment completed.
- ProActive App has been purchased and all Age groups have been registered with at least one Coach/group. 5 age groups are using it properly so far. Others need some help. It is also capturing injuries, with a dashboard report available for information which is in line with the D&W Rugby Safe guidelines.
- We do need to get more First Aiders up to Level 3. If we get numbers, then there is an opportunity to host a training session.
- Colts numbers still not great though have had two new players. Five Colts are now eligible to play up for the 1st team.
- Still pursuing the linked approach with Lytchett until we have enough players.

11. Juniors report:

Play It Safe course went well. It is likely we will be audited after Christmas. There has been a massive improvement from last year and definitely going in the right direction.

Being much stricter this year in handing out kit but need guidance on GMS to check who has paid. Agreed that a replacement for Jo Thompson be found.

Lloyd feels we should do more recycling. There may be opportunities to share resources with the LC. Allan will check with Will what they are doing at present.

12. Social report:

Mark Regan has been booked for the Club dinner. As a rugby club booking, payment is not required until 10 days after the event. Accommodation for the night with either Graham at the Tiger or Bridge House. Chef has been booked for the evening.

16th December – Junior parents evening with raffle for the French tour.

31st December – DJ booked, tickets £10 to be purchased via QR code app.

24th November – Xmas drinks in the clubhouse from 6.30pm onwards for all coaches, committee and volunteers.

13. Grounds Maintenance:

The pitches are holding up well considering the amount of rain.

Sean will use the splitter again in the winter.

14. Business Development Report:

List of forward bookings for the clubhouse provided by Gill for checking and amendment.

Suggested Junior awards evening is held Friday 26th April. Tbc with Pete.

AS

Majority of 100 Club are due for renewal in December. Kathy will follow up. Ayo to provide bank statements to ensure all Standing orders are still in place.

15. Club Development:

a) Safeguarding – heading in right direction. Emphasised that all committee members need DBS checking which includes completion of Introduction to Safeguarding and Head Case courses.

b) School liaison – OK. Tag Festival went well with good publicity in Bridport News and Mayors Blog.

c) Publicity – Will need additional help to cover matches especially after Christmas when Charlie is back playing. Suggested Adrian Everitt may step in.

Good article in the West Dorset Magazine.

Domvs happy to help with FOC production of events boards but need 3 months' notice.

Blackmore Vale list all Firework events online. Remember for next year.

d) Volunteers – discussion re need for kitchen volunteers. Guy will check if any Ukrainians may be willing to help. Lloyd could also approach Emily Chant. Seniors need to help with clearing/washing up on a backs/forwards rota as used to happen in the past.

Need to be mindful of bar closing times on Saturdays, especially after long shifts such as last Saturday. Bar staff need breaks or possible split shifts Rachel early/Alex later.

e) Development Plan – ongoing.

GL/LV

16. AOB:

a) Dockers had been in contact asking after Bert and the referee.

b) The changing room ceiling still seems to be leaking and the mould needs attention. The LC are aware. Allan will contact Will to ask for a meeting to discuss actions required.

c) New tables/chairs for the clubhouse discussed as the barrels were only on short-term loan from Palmers. Smaller tables that can be converted into round tables and chairs with a back may be preferable. Lloyd will contact Jim Jones at Palmers to see if anything available from them. A watertight container would be required for storage.

d) Allan mentioned Paul Conde thought we might need to purchase a defibrillator for the container. Suggested we approach the Round Table to see if they have any funds available.

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Meeting closed at 9.25pm, next meeting Monday 11th December at 7pm