

Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 10th November 2025 at the Rugby Pavilion

Present: Simon Bareham, Allan Staerck, Peter Brook, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Guy Livingston, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Jim Jones, Chris Wood, James Keen, Wayne Munro

1. Apologies: Julian Hussey, Niamh Vercoe, Charlie Samways, George Hussey, Pete Dacey

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Matters Arising:

- Email sent to the VPs advising of dates for VPs, Sponsors and Past Captains lunches.
- First Aid course arranged for 13th December. The LC will take one free place in lieu of charging for use of the room.

4. Chairman's Report:

The Tag Festival was a great event. Really positive feedback received so many congratulations to Lloyd on his organisation.

Many thanks to Wayne and Nic for bringing together the Firework display. Plenty to build on for next year. Disappointing that not more helpers there on the day. Apologies that the gazebo was not taken down as I had intended to ask the Seniors to do it before training on Tuesday.

Lloyd and Guy queried whether all the hard work by various people over the course of the entire day had been worth all the effort given that the net profitability was questionable. Concerns were also raised about the costs of the band, lack of advertising and free entry. It was agreed that the figures need to be reviewed before making a decision on future years. Jim will provide a till breakdown of the hourly takings over the day so that a spreadsheet of revenue and costs can be formulated to be discussed at the next meeting.

As Alex is no longer working with us we need to recruit more staff to help behind the bar. Guy has indicated that he will be stepping down from running the bar at the end of the season but will continue with Grounds maintenance.

Thanks to Jim for sorting the new tills and Lloyd for setting up the WiFi.

We need to ensure enough Clubhouse keys are available in order to avoid the situation that arose on Saturday.

Plans for 20th December after the Dorchester game need to be confirmed.

JJ/SB

5. Treasurer's Report:

Balance end of October - £76,632.74

Current balance - £81,737.43

Initial revenue for the fireworks includes £3625.55 on the bar, £2080 on the sum-up machines covering food and the outside bar, and £440 in buckets.

Bar takings YTD £38,243.35 on the old tills, £10,811 on the new system.

Peter will send Ayo last year's Gift Aid forms from the VPs.

PB

6. Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report from D&W.

Applied for another grant from Allianz.

7. VP's Report:

To date £4445 received with around 12 outstanding to be chased.

8. Fixtures:

No game this weekend, then five in a row from 22nd November until 20th December against Dorchester at home.

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

Training still somewhat hit and miss, especially when there are gaps between games.

No senior fixture this weekend but a Colts game on Sunday against North Dorset.

A potential clash on 29th November at Yeovil as the Colts have a game the following day.

A great win away on Saturday against a strong Wimborne team. There is a player social this Saturday followed by England V New Zealand and hopefully Ireland v Australia later.

Teamwise the Colts and Seniors are bonding well together and good to see all travelling to matches on the bus together.

10. Junior's report:

The Tag Festival was absolutely brilliant with 12 teams and took over £1900 which is up from last year. Great club promotion and exposure. In comparison North Dorset's tag festival only attracted 6 teams.

Hoping to do something similar with the cubs and scouts.

The U13's remembrance game last Friday was a great success despite the awful weather and also took £700 over the bar. The floodlights are suitable for junior games and it was agreed this should be investigated further with U13's and above to utilise Friday evenings.

Junior numbers are doing well at around 180 but still some not paid/registered so probably should be around 200. Agreed need to unify payment and registration to keep better account of numbers.

Given the bar staffing situation, agreed we need to recruit 3-4 paid bar staff. Email to be sent to VPs to see if anyone is interested.

KB

Some complaints from parents that they have paid their social membership but not received a bar card.

Paul will run a Level 3 accredited First Aid course on 13th December. Need one First Aider per age group. This should not be the coach.

Girls/Ladies rugby (Pete Dacey)

Although we lost the Colts team, we have managed to retain 3 players and get them RFU approved to play down, which has meant we have been able to form a full Bridport U16's team.

A great start to the season and have 6 players in the U16's PDG set-up and 1 player asked back for the final trial for the D&W County side.

Still managing to keep 3 age groups running through training although this is difficult when we have games.

Kitty and I would like to hold a social night at the club soon for the Girls section. Will check available nights and confirm what is planned.

PD

The Brownies and Guides would like us to do their badge day in April when the weather is better. Too late this season but hopefully may recruit a few for next season. Looking at more than 40 girls so will need some planning but a great opportunity for the club.

11. Social report:

Firework night successful with over 800 people.

Planning a Race Night in the New Year.

Suggested Bingo nights be held twice monthly on Friday nights but would need investment in calling machine. Mixed reaction as Friday nights very popular for other bookings. Agreed

more research and accurate costings needed before making a decision. To counter potential problems with lack of bar stock, suggested minimum stock levels could be increased and the tills programmed to flag to Palmers to re-order when levels drop. Dorchester will be staying for an Xmas party after the match on 20th December. Format to include games and a DJ. Guy will pass details to Wayne re Jonathan Dyke who would be happy to run a quiz night. Peter will contact him re becoming a VP.

WM

JJ

GL

PB

12. Grounds Maintenance:

Derek mowed last week.

The new white liner from HuckNets is arriving shortly.

13. Business Development Report

Two tenders have been returned with a further one due later this week. A report will be done for Julian, Ayo and Lloyd with a view to bringing a proposal forward to the next meeting.

PD

14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – an issue has been logged that on Sunday a parent mentioned a bystander had asked twice whether the girls were playing that day. Apparently he had also been seen earlier watching the Tiny Tots. This has been addressed on Pro-Activ.
- b) School liaison – extremely successful Tag Festival.
- c) Autumn Internationals to be promoted across social media this week.

15. AOB:

- a) Chris suggested starting touch rugby for seniors together with Dorchester and Weymouth. Also possibility of mixed ability touch across all age groups.
- b) Exeter College has been selected by the RFU to represent England at the Sanix International Youth tournament in Japan. Andy Cuthbert is looking for sponsorship. Ayo proposed we offer him £250 which was passed unanimously.
- c) The coaches are doing their Xmas pub crawl on Friday 12th December. Lloyd welcomed all committee members to come along. Itinerary is on Spond.
- d) Jim has purchased 34 tickets for 22nd November for Exeter v Bristol Bears for Juniors at £1 each. Lloyd will send message out.
- e) Ayo advised VX3 have Bridport branded Xmas jumpers for sale.
- f) Bar openings for Autumn Internationals
Sat 15th 2pm prior to England v New Zealand at 3.10
Sat 22nd 2pm – home game against Swans, also Wales v NZ at 3.10
Sun 23rd – Colts match followed by England v Argentina at 4.10
- g) Peter passed on email from Simon Blunden who would like to sponsor a player.

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm, next meeting Monday 8th December at 6.00 pm