

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 9th October 2023 at the Rugby Pavilion**

Present: Peter Brook, Allan Staerck, Guy Livingston, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Kathy Briggs, Ross Duncan, Lloyd Vercoe, Rob Sullivan, Timmy Edwards, George Hussey, Charlie Samways, Pete Dacey, Sam Petchey

1. Apologies: Julian Hussey, Simon Hussey, Timmy Edwards

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising:

- Fixture books have been printed and are being sent out to the VPs.
- The hedges have now been cut.
- Allan has spoken to the LC regarding a windsock for the Air Ambulance. Unless this is specifically requested the LC will not pursue due to cost.
- Peter will speak to Malcolm Heaver regarding the clubhouse floor. The major usage of the clubhouse is by the LC through the week, so suggested it should be a shared cost.
- Comments on the Disciplinary policy received. This has now been signed off and a copy displayed on the notice board.

4. Chairman's Report:

Report sent in advance.

After the glee of gaining 5 points and an additional home fixture when Ellingham and Ringwood cancelled, it was frustrating for all concerned that we then lost these when we did the same to Blandford – I'm sure during the course of the meeting this will be much talked about.

It is now vitally important that we both retain and where possible recruit players. Ensuring that the player pathway from colts to seniors is a smooth transition is now even more important.

Kitchen – this has to be addressed. So far we have played two games at home this Season and the same faces have made sure that after-match food is available.

I know the Referee must love the fact that I'm in the Kitchen and not on the touchline, giving my much-needed advice. This is a welcome relief but I do actually enjoy the odd game or two.

Agreed that we need to ask for more volunteers. Allan happy to help and also Ross can prepare in advance when his wedding season is over. The girls who help out on Sundays may help if paid but would still need to be supervised. To be discussed again at next meeting.

Cleaners – they seem to be very inflexible in their approach to us. We cannot always be expected to finish by 2.00pm on a Sunday. What will happen when the Colts are playing at home? We either need to ask them to move their start time back or look at an alternative.

Louis advised that the cleaners appeared to have been on site for less than 45 minutes last Sunday. Guy will check availability/charges of Tony Chant for one cleaning session/week.

World Cup – so far I think the atmosphere within the Clubhouse has been really great. A few moans to start off with about the new seating but this has been soon overcome. Thanks to everyone for stepping in and helping behind the bar and especially providing the fabulous food – they may even consider doing match days....

Firework Display - 4th November

Anytime Fireworks will be charging us £2,750.00 this year. Admission prices are £5.00 per

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adult £2.50 per child with sparklers at £1.00 a pack.

No need to order Glowsticks as plenty left over from last year.

We will need Sum Up machines for the entrance point, sparklers (and glowsticks), BBQ and Hot drink stall. **Suggested we should purchase another Sum Up machine.**

Anytime Fireworks will be letting me have the Risk Assessment in due course. This will need sending to the Leisure Centre.

Paul Conde is booked to provide First Aid cover.

Police and Fire Service will be notified by two of our members (Lewis Dunn & Chris Wood).

Advertising - we are having banners on five of the Town Council sites and one on the fence opposite the School. Coaches have also been given posters and handouts. There are still some available.

Attractions - as in previous years, Stuart Townsend will be providing some small fairground attractions which will be set up in the main car park. We will need to cone off the car park.

Stuart will also prove candyfloss and doughnut stands.

BBQ will be organised in conjunction with Ross. Hot drinks stall outside. Both Gazebos will need erecting.

Bar – we need to ask Palmers if we can use some of their extensions and go across the width end of the Clubhouse to increase the serving area and possible extra pumps as well. Guy, please can you liaise with Palmers.

Past Captains' Lunch – Saturday 11th November.

As per last Season I will arrange for soup, cheese and biscuits required.

Please can we start getting some idea of numbers as this was well received last year and could be a good way of getting some of these gents to reconnect with the Club. **Peter to ask**

Simon Bareham and Clive Samways if they will help organise.

New Club Developer

Her name is Sadie Lawson and she has just returned from Maternity Leave. She will be our Club Developer moving forward covering Dorset, half of Somerset (shared with Ben Smith) and half of Devon (shared with Rachel Miller).

If you have any questions or need assistance with anything then please do not hesitate to contact her. She says she is really looking forward to working with us in the not so distant future and getting to know us and the club.

Her email address is - SadieLawson@rfu.com

Lastly, Simon is now back at DCH on the Stroke Unit and will be there for some little time. He seems to be in good spirits and remains in a positive frame of mind.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Current balance is £53,147.05. Junior kit order (£5,700) deducted.

Since May to end September bar profit £4,200.

Both Senior and Junior memberships need chasing up.

Sponsorship £8k and VPs donations starting to come through.

Cleaning costs are high and need to be looked at.

Paperwork to open the new account with Barclays has been sent but no reply to date. Allan suggested contacting the Area Manager.

6. Secretary's Report:

No report.

7. VP's Report:

£1522 received from 18 VPs to date.

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8. Fixtures / Coaching / Team Management / Captain's report:

The last game of the season against Ellingham & Ringwood will now be at home due to their cancellation. The game against Blandford on 6th January will now be away due to our inability to raise a team.

Charlie is looking at a friendly at home against Wimborne. Discussion as to whether this was feasible, availability of players, possibility of injuries prior to our league match with them. Decision to be made in next few days.

Also much discussion about our inability to get a team to play Blandford and the general lack of commitment amongst some players. A meeting which Julian and Peter attended had been held with the senior players with some home truths spoken in an effort to emphasize importance of team spirit and motivation and necessity of fulfilling fixtures.

9. Colts report:

Lack of commitment also from the Colts. The original 20 now reduced to 18 but best turnout is 13. Lytchett would like to explore the possibility of team share which worked well last Sunday but feel we need to primarily be a Bridport team.

10. Juniors report:

The following Safeguarding documentation was reviewed and agreed and website will be updated accordingly.

- Safeguarding policy
- Good parents code
- Social media policy
- Equity policy statement
- Players code of conduct
- Club code of conduct

The Tag Festival is all organised for this Saturday 14th. The Mayor will present the prizes.

The scoreboard is now ready to be set up, just awaiting the Cresta signage.

Lloyd needs list updated for those who need to be informed re Junior fixtures.

Pete needs copies of last year's Risk Assessments for updating for D&W RugbySafe lead.

Agreed to purchase ProActive App for logging injuries. Cost £60 for 60 licences.

11. Social report:

Discussion re Club dinner. Agreed Oz to go ahead and book Scott Quinnell if still available.

Non-refundable deposit of £2k required.

Timmy has a further marquee quote.

Based on 200 people, income £13,000. Costs approx £11,500.

Suggestion of using the LC hall instead of hiring a marquee. Allan to ask Will.

Louis will also investigate how much a referee might cost as speaker.

12. Grounds Maintenance:

Unfortunately the rabbits are back.

Repair of white lining machine will be approx £400-500. Agreed.

The freezer will be taken to the dump.

Louis gave an update on fixing the floodlights. Even with potential funding grants the costs cannot be justified. Agreed to investigate portable lighting towers to boost the lighting, cost £1,500-2,000 each.

13. Business Development Report:

No report.

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14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – course in clubhouse on 6th November for coaches and those involved with children.
- b) School liaison – Tag Festival this Saturday.
- c) Publicity – Match report against North Dorset in Bridport News. Should get good publicity for Tag Festival with Mayor presenting prizes.
- d) Volunteers – more required especially in kitchen.
- e) Development Plan – ongoing.

15. AOB:

- a) Once the World Cup and the Fireworks are over, more social events will be organised.
- b) George to mention at training that players expected to volunteer to help on Firework night.
- c) Fundraising in hand for the French visit in April. A Seniors match may be planned for the same day.
- d) Provisional booking for 30th Birthday on April 27th 2024.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm, next meeting Monday 13th November at 7pm