

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 11th April 2022 at the Rugby Pavilion**

Present: Julian Hussey, Louis Brown, Noel Gregory, Simon Hussey, Ayo Fraser, Stuart Briggs, Dan Butler, Kevin Hart, Allan Staerck, Guy Livingston, Kathy Briggs

1. Apologies: Peter Brook, Sam Petchey, Andrew Livingston

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising:

Simon has contacted Tom regarding the website booking link and is awaiting a response. More input required from Will regarding marshals for the Jurassic Fields parking before we make decision. In past £5/day of which £1 went to Festival and £1 to LC, leaving rest to cover staffing.

Ayo awaiting reply from Will re bar takings. Need to send invoice for bar staff.

Stuart contacted Sidmouth but has heard nothing from Phil Dolman.

Re hoardings Guy advised Hugo Busby wants to proceed immediately. Stuart to chase up.

He will also contact Chris Hanger and Tim MacDonald of MAC Builders.

Allan confirmed the paving slabs had been laid.

Due to Noel's late arrival as bag packing at Morrisons his action points were carried over.

4. Chairman's Report:

Saturday was a brilliant club day, a very hard match against Blandford followed by good evening in the clubhouse for Brett's retirement. Andrew will talk to Brett re an article for the Bridport News covering his long career.

The VPs lunch was also a very successful day, brilliantly organised. Concerns about there not being a match were unfounded. Look at having the lunch on a free Saturday in future years.

Suggestion that the last home match of the season in future be a Former Captains Day.

Many thanks to Allan re the paving slabs. Also regarding the tarmacking at the back of the LC. This will be locked but with advance notice could provide additional parking for 60 cars.

The wedding ring which was lost at last year's 10's tournament and found at the Tag Festival has been returned to its grateful (still married) owner.

Irwin Mitchell are looking at the constitution. We may need to set up a separate trading company for the bar. Their initial quotation for their consultation is £1750 +VAT.

5. Treasurers Report:

Current balance £59,981.85.

Ayo still to contact Simon Hartley re year end accounts. He will try to get the bar staff money back from the LC before the end of the month. Some large bills to pay in connection with the French visit but the bag collection at Morrisons will help. Grass cutting invoice should also be paid by end of month to include in year end accounts.

Stuart will chase up any outstanding payments from sponsors.

Susanna to be asked to do Akuma stocktake.

Meeting to be set up with LC re year end accounts asap.

6. Secretary's Report:

Alice Parker's deposit for 25th March booking to be returned. Also David Shepherd requires invoice for £28 to cover one hour booking. Simon to provide Ayo with email details.

At present LC have following stipulations re bookings: maximum 70 sitting, 150 standing.

Bar available until 12.30, latest 1.00am. No use of kitchen. Live music to finish at 11pm,

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disco until 12.30am. No 18th birthday parties allowed.

Confirmed bookings – Dave Ford 4th June, Cliff Stonestreet 23rd July.

Phil Ackerman – 16th April – 40/50 adults, 15 children. Bar open 7-11.30 pm but would like access to clubhouse from 6pm.

No plans to reintroduce the RFU accreditation scheme, use Club matters tool instead.

Information received re Tag Festival at Salisbury on 14th May, 6 a-side, £100/team.

7. VP's Report:

Many thanks to Allan for help with the tables and raffle and to Julian re the caterer and providing envelopes. Excellent feedback received on great day.

Stuart advised that sadly Marc Braso, a recent VP, had died of a heart attack in the Canaries.

Mark Botten to be contacted re whether to send a letter of condolence from the club.

8. Fixtures:

To date Blandford and Puddletown have confirmed the 10's tournament on 20 August.

Kevin has asked for referees and contacted Gerald Burden re official permission to run the tournament, awaiting reply.

Agreed on £40 entry fee per team and £50 for overnight camping. Teams to be advised that not allowed to bring their own alcohol. The bar will be open from 11am.

Crewkerne were under the mistaken impression the Brown Bowler might be played at the end of the month. Ayo suggested this might be a pre-season fixture.

9. Coaching / Team Management Report:

Numbers for training sadly petered out from the beginning of the season with only 6 at the last training session. Finished 9th in the league which was a good effort. Unfortunately we are losing players for next season with Andrew moving away, Mitch and Chunky retiring.

Need forward planning re integrating the Colts, more incentives to train and organise some proper player recruitment. Suggested a review meeting with some senior players in May.

Jesse had notified Noel some months back that he would forward his future plans towards the end of the season. He has now notified Noel that:

- 1) he would like to step down as Colts Coach.
- 2) he would like to progress his Refereeing Qualifications.
- 3) he would like to continue his role as Coaching Courses Co-ordinator.

The Committee would like the Minutes to register their warm thanks for all Jesse's time as a Coach with the Club's Age Groups, and show their gratitude that he will continue guiding the many new parents and current coaches onto the relevant Courses.

They wish him well in his endeavours to attain Senior Refereeing, and will obviously give support where needed to a person wishing to support and increase the Club's much needed Refereeing resource.

The Committee accepted unanimously the offer of Chairman Julian Hussey and George Hussey to take on the role of Colts Coach.

10. Juniors and Colts Report:

Bag packing started at Morrisons today. Boys are well received and very courteous. Help required on Friday evening if any committee members available.

The French arrive on 22nd April. Noel will circulate the visit programme to the committee.

Bar will be open 11.00-2.00 pm Saturday and Sunday.

30th April incoming tour Weymouth Vandals.

6th May Junior Awards Dinner – bar organised. Suggested booking the Chariots of Fire pizza van for food.

11. Social Report:

End of season dinner booked for Friday 27th May. Dan circulated two menus from Liz, £18 and £20 per head. Decided on menu at £20.

Rachel can do bar, 6.30-11.30pm.

Ticket price £25.00, maximum 60.

Phil and Lynn Frampton to be invited. Phil has sponsored Player of the Year Awards.

Brett will present his trophy this year.

12. Grounds Maintenance:

Pitch has been mowed today. Guy will speak to Sean re the splitting machine but the pitches need rain before this can be done.

Louis mentioned a RFU initiative re free pitch assessment and has forwarded the link to the committee.

13. Business Development Report:

Meeting to discuss next year's sponsorship to be held in May. Stuart to do agenda.

Irwin Mitchell's comments to be followed up.

14. Club Development:

a) Safeguarding – still looking for permanent solution

b) School Liaison – Tag Festival moved to beginning of October. Lloyd Vercoe has suggested 7 schools may like to participate in a Tag Festival for the U'11s and U'12s. Good idea. Noel to follow up.

c) Publicity – future articles – profile on Brett, French weekend and visit of Weybridge Vandals on 30th April. As well as the Bridport News, Stuart is now sending articles to the West Dorset Magazine and to Lottie Welch for Bridport Nub.

d) Volunteers – need to push for more

e) Development Plan – ongoing.

15. Any Other Business:

a) If available, Noel thought Kelly Jenkins at Morrisons would appreciate the offer of a ticket for the Wales v England game next season. To be reviewed when allocation known.

b) Louis has gained the Advanced Match Official Award so is now allowed to do refresher coaching courses, assessments etc for the club. Many congratulations.

c) Allan queried lack of recent minutes on the website. Kathy apologised for the delay in sending to Tom. The minutes are uploaded when received.

d) Guy suggested a press report in the summer on Louis' refereeing and coaching qualifications.

e) The applications for the Autumn internationals start in May. Stuart will email VPs and Sponsors. Matches against Japan, Argentina, South Africa and New Zealand.

f) England have three matches against Australia in July. We need to look at feasibility of opening the clubhouse. What channels will the matches be shown on? Stuart to speak to Sky.

g) After the Tag Festival Julian was approached by a mother whose daughter would like to continue playing touch rugby and could be interested in doing touch rugby for mothers and daughters. Mark Banham has a group of 10 U'15 girls who are interested in playing. In the recent Chairmen's Huddle Forum putting together a zoom event for those interested in ladies rugby was proposed. Also trying to get coaching courses back centrally. Noel will speak to Mark. There are some ladies teams already, Crewkerne, Weymouth & Dorchester, and Sidmouth.

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Meeting closed at 8.45pm, next meeting Monday 9th May 2022

