

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 9th November 2020**

Present : Julian Hussey, Allan Staerck, Andrew Livingston, Peter Brook, Guy Livingston, Ayo Fraser, Simon Hussey, Stuart Briggs, Kathy Briggs

1. Apologies : Kevin Hart, Tom Gamwell, Noel Greogry, Louis Brown, Simon Peck, Dan Butler, Rich Layzell

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting :

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

3. Matters Arising:

Constructive meeting with Will Thrower re use of clubhouse and kitchen. However everything now back on hold until early December.

Guy, Louis and Stuart looked at drainage issue. The ditch is blocked and needs to be cleared out. Feeder ditches may also be blocked. Palmers indicated there is a plan in the LC office. Stuart suggested a budget of £500, including hire of digger, for Louis to carry out the work. However Julian suggested that we talk first to the contractors on the building site, who had expressed interest in sponsorship, to see if they would do the work for as the issue has partly arisen because of the building work. Guy will talk to their foreman.

Guy Livingston

4. Chairman's Report:

Julian expressed disappointment that we are now back to where we were at the beginning of the season. We'll have to see what happens at the end of this lockdown.

5. Treasurers Report :

Change of mandate forms have now been sent to Barclays. Ayo will chase up. Balance approx. £8k, with invoices for Players insurance and Tom re the website having been paid.

Annual payments for the 100 Club are due in December. Stuart advised he will be sending out reminder emails. He has asked Stuart King to confirm that all Standing order payments are being received. There are 82 members at present.

Need to push Seniors to pay subs, which should be £50, same as the Juniors. Payment has to be made on GMS. Karen will set up the Senior membership for 2020 on GMS.

6. Secretary's Report:

Simon had collected some post from the LC dating back to February, which had not been passed on. He is still trying to send the accounts through to the FCA.

7. VP's Report:

To date Peter has received £1290 in donations and three BACS payments, amount unknown, so likely total £1500. Another newsletter will be sent before Xmas thanking VPs for their donations, updating them on the current situation and hopefully encouraging others to make a contribution.

The website now has three categories of membership, including VPs from £50pa. There are some VPs who pay less but likely that we would only lose 3 or 4.

8. Fixtures:

Nothing to report.

9. Coaching / Team Management / Captains Report:

Despite the circumstances there has been a reasonable turnout for training over the last few weeks. Great disappointment that the season has been cancelled but Ayo is hopeful there will be some form of rugby over the coming months.

Sadly the game against Weymouth was cancelled as they could not get a team. Ayo and Andrew are talking about friendlies with other clubs and maybe a form of mini-tournament. The RFU is aiming for more local games this season to avoid too much travelling. Ayo has introduced a new form of R4R to encourage numbers. Hopefully at the end of lockdown we will go back to Stage D minimum.

10. Juniors and Colts Report:

No Junior report, but numbers were good on Sundays before lockdown.

In the Colts match against Weymouth & Portland there was one red card incident for over-exuberant contact. This was a registered fully approved guest player on loan from Dorchester playing for Bridport. As this is the 1st red card in the country, it is being taken very seriously.

The Juniors will be allowed to use the Clubhouse on Sundays once this is open.

Peter and Stuart talked to several parents at one Sunday training and may have found a Junior Fixture secretary, Fiona Hannam. Ayo will follow up.

Several parents also expressed interest in helping.

Karen has a meeting on Friday with Dave Wookey, responsible for GMS in Dorset and Wilts. There is a big problem with Junior registration as at the end of last season all juniors and parents were de-registered so have all to be set up again.

11 Social Report:

Nothing to report.

12. Grounds Maintenance:

The pitch needs mowing again. Guy will discuss with Noel re white lining, however it was agreed the lines should be cut.

Simon has some old plans from 2014 re drainage which he will pass to Guy.

13. Business Development Report:

Stuart has had a Zoom meeting with the CEO of SNAP, who is extremely bullish about opportunities on social media. Stuart will talk to Tom re Facebook etc.

14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – everything now signed off.
- b) School Liaison – emails still being received about playing. Suggest they come along on Sunday when possible.
- c) Publicity – article was published on the Juniors, together with the link to SNAP. Allan suggested a Club Captain profile. Andrew will draft an article for the Bridport News.
- d) Volunteers – possible Junior Fixture secretary and others.
- e) Development Plan – on hold. No idea who our RDO is. Julian has a West Dorset Chairmen Huddle meeting on 12 January.

15. Any Other Business:

- a) Stuart asked if anyone had done Simon Peck's Safeguarding course. Nobody as yet.
- b) Andrew mentioned that as the clubhouse would have been open for the Juniors, it was looking much more positive for use by the Seniors. Peter confirmed the meeting with Will Thrower had been very constructive and he had suggested up to 36 in the clubhouse.

Ayo Fraser

However senior rugby and serving of alcohol will need to be handled very carefully. Ideas such as using the undercroft or the junior pavilion to serve alcohol were suggested but no actions to be taken until lockdown finishes.

c) Meeting re constitution not yet taken place, hopefully December.

d) Ayo suggested a reminder needs to be sent out prior to each meeting. Simon will do on the Friday before.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm, next meeting Monday 14th December 2020