

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Bridport RFC
Held in the Pavilion, Bridport Leisure Centre
Friday 13th August 2021 at 7.00pm

Minutes taken by Kathy Briggs

Present: See attached list

President's Welcome – Peter Brook:

Good evening. A very warm welcome to everyone here tonight. WELCOME HOME to our clubhouse. Last year we conducted the AGM outside but now we are allowed inside, a relief to us all.

Fifty years ago Bridport was a strong, resilient and friendly rugby club and now five decades later things in that respect haven't changed although we have better pitches, a fine clubhouse and excellent changing facilities but the club spirit is still outstanding.

Thanks must be praised on our players, the committee and our loyal vice-presidents and sponsors, many of whom financially supported our club during a year without the playing of rugby.

However during the last few months there was training for seniors and juniors and several friendly matches were played by the juniors on Sunday mornings. Thank you Noel, your coaches and your team for all their hard work.

Finally we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Leisure Centre, especially Chairman Malcolm Heaver, manager Will Thrower, Carlos and Nathan for all their help during very difficult times. Following lockdown they allowed us use of the pitches and changing facilities under strict guidelines. We are very fortunate to have such understanding Landlords.

Ladies and Gentlemen that is just a brief summary so I will now hand over to Chairman Julian who will elaborate further on events since last year's AGM.

Apologies: Simon Hussey, Kevin Hart, John Simpson

Minutes of the last AGM:

The minutes of the meeting having been circulated previously, Louis Brown proposed and Allan Staeerck seconded that they be approved. This was passed unanimously.

Matters arising: None

Chairman's Report – Julian Hussey:

The past year has been difficult and challenging but we have pulled through as a stronger club. The Leisure Centre has now offered us the opportunity to run the clubhouse ourselves. This will necessitate a long overdue overhaul of the rules, bylaws and constitution and may result in us having to form a limited company. We will seek guidance from the RFU and other clubs who have followed this route. Members will be given due notice of an EGM where all proposals will be put forward for discussion. It would mean that we would have access to the clubhouse all year with the bar open Friday evenings through to Sunday, as well as possibly weekday evenings. The income from this would all be ours and as such we feel we cannot turn down this opportunity. A sub-committee has been formed to take this forward asap.

Our Zoom committee meetings were interesting and thank you to all the committee for their support.

Also thank you to the many volunteers for giving up their time over the year, led by Guy and also John Patten and Stuart King.

Thanks also to Noel for his work with the Juniors. It is great to see so many juniors back playing. We do need to encourage some younger members to stand for office.

Secretary's Report – Simon Hussey:

Peter Brook thanked Simon in his absence for his work over the past year.

This again has been a challenging year for everyone on and off the pitch but we are now starting to get back to some sort of reality.

Once again I would like to thank Kathy Briggs for her continued support doing the minutes of the meetings.

I have tried to pass on as much correspondence as possible from the RFU and Dorset & Wilts.

Hopefully now with a new season starting and the good news that will be running the bar and venue bookings we will have more of a hand to hand running of the pavilion. More scope to be able to use the club to raise funds for our use in whatever we decide to do.

We did receive some promotional gear from Guinness and this was delivered to Will at the LC who has said he will put up as and when it is needed.

We also had hand sanitizer and a fogging machine from Dorset & Wilts which has come in useful.

We have also had some balls from Simon Shaw rugby and we have to have a zoom meeting with Simon himself and his partner at some point.

Once again thank you all for your support during this difficult year and here's to getting back to normality.

Treasurer's Report – Ayo Fraser:

The accounts have not yet been verified by the accountants. Rugby clubs have been hard hit by the pandemic with loss of income. There was little sponsorship. The VPs kept up their membership. However there were fewer expenses during the year.

Many thanks to Stuart King for his advice and help over the past year.

We have had teething issues regarding changing our bank accounts but hopefully these are now sorted.

We are fortunate as a club to have such great facilities and a good partnership with the LC. We received nearly £3k from them for their use of the pavilion for lateral flow testing. As a consequence we halved our annual fee to them for grass cutting. On a purely cash basis, we are just in profit. As capital investment we have purchased a Veo camera to be used for recording and analysis of games.

The accounts will be circulated once they have been ratified.

Stuart Briggs advised that there had been a big drive on sponsorship over the past two months raising nearly £7k and he would like to thank all local businesses for their support.

Junior Chairman's Report – Noel Gregory:

This has been a very difficult year with no rugby, no clubhouse, no bar.

Vandals broke into the pavilion but out of adversity comes goodwill with a local sports company donating new tackle bags and support from Exeter Chiefs and also a donation of £200 towards mending the broken windows.

The number of youngsters is down on previous years but some loyal parents paid memberships despite knowing there would be no rugby.

We welcome Jo Thompson who is taking over registration and thank our volunteers helping with coaching from the age of 7 upwards.

The biggest negative of the season was the cancellation of the visit by Lege-Cap Ferret but we hope to welcome 60 children next April.

We maintain good contact with Dorset & Wilts and have received our Fixtures matrix for cup games and friendlies. We reached the final of the plate in three age groups but sadly were unable to play these matches.

Summer training started in July and registration will commence at the beginning of September.

The West Dorset Sports Liaison Officer, Nadia Dayley, is in contact with 16 schools notifying them of our commencement date. Two articles will appear in the Bridport News before September and the Banner will go on the roadside netting. We want it to be a successful year and are looking forward to the coming season.

Clubman of the Year:

This was presented to Ayo Fraser in recognition of his enthusiasm and hard work, not only as treasurer and committee member, but for his coaching on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Well deserving of the trophy.

Appointment of Officers:

In light of the proposal received from the Leisure Centre to run the clubhouse, the structure of our constitution will need to be addressed. The status quo will remain for now.

President	Peter Brook
Chairman	Julian Hussey
Vice Chairman	Stuart Briggs
Secretary	Simon Hussey
Minutes Secretary	Kathy Briggs
Treasurer	Ayo Fraser
Junior Chairman	Noel Gregory
Captain	Andrew Livingston
Coach	Ayo Fraser
Fixture Secretary	Kevin Harte
Social Secretary	Dan Butler
Membership Secretary	Simon Hussey
Safeguarding Officer	
GMS Officer - Senior	Jasmine Hussey
GMS Officer – Junior	Joanne Thompson
Publicity Officer	Stuart Briggs
DBS Officer	Charlie English
Referee Liaison	Louis Browne
Volunteer Co-ordinator	Charlie Crane
VP Co-ordinator	Peter Brook
Grounds Maintenance	Guy Livingston
LC Liaison Officer	Allan Staerck
Committee Member	Sam Petchey
Committee Member	Mitch Waters

Any Other Business:

- a) John Patten raised the issue of Vice Presidents and voting rights. Given the proposal received from the Leisure Centre our constitution will need to be reviewed and membership categories clearly defined. Julian Hussey thanked John for his comments and assured him that support from the club was paramount for the future.
- b) Andrew Livingston advised that the 10's Tournament would be raising funds for Weldmar. An Exeter signed shirt has been donated for the raffle.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Signed: **Club Chairman** _____ **Julian Hussey**