

Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 10th August 2026 at the Rugby Pavilion

Present: Julian Hussey, Peter Brook, George Hussey, Allan Staerck, Ayo Fraser, Guy Livingston, Louis Browne, Lou Edwards, Sarah Samways, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Daragh McLoughlin, Jon Dicker

1. Apologies: Niamh Vercoe, Simon Bareham, Chris Wood, Jim Jones, Phoebe Goodfellow

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere):

- Lloyd to contact Pete Wyrill at Hillarys and ABC for quotes for blackout blinds.
- Julian and Lloyd to discuss basic costings and arrangements for 60th anniversary event.
- Guy will obtain details of blazers from Barton and pass to Chris.
- GMS mailing list to be updated.
- Jasmine has contacted VPs requiring International tickets to advise next season's donation must be received before applying for tickets. Deadline 20th August.
- Coaching co-ordinator replacement required as Jesse is stepping down.

LV
JH/LV
GL
CW

LV

4. Chairman's Report:

The West Dorset Chairmen's Group is doing a big push on walking rugby for all abilities. Local teams are participating with former players and vets involved. Post to be sent out to assess interest. Living Tree to be advised as may be of interest to them.

Some confusion about payment for Nations Autumn tickets as the RFU have already taken money from us and do not seem particularly concerned about refunding it.

Email from Porter Dodson regarding the club development had been circulated. Further clarification required as still very ambiguous.

Email received from Will advising that as from 1st September when the new intruder and fire alarms become operative BRFC will be responsible from 5pm Fridays to 6am Mondays. Two responders required. Agreed Lloyd and Mark Vercoe. Lloyd to confirm with Will.

GL

5. Treasurer's Report:

Balance end of July - £68,745.51

Current balance - £52,512.34 – due to RFU taking approx £13k for international tickets.

Bar end July - £29,137.05

Bar to date - £29,366.70

Jim has worked up price rise scenarios for the bar taking the VAT into account and will forward for discussion prior to implementation.

Next VAT return for May-July will be submitted shortly.

Kitchen till to be set up for first weekend in September in order to reclaim VAT on relevant purchases/sales.

6. Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report.

7. VP's Report:

Peter is meeting Creeds next Monday re fixture books. Once approved and printed, letter to VPs will be ready to be sent out.

Dates for Past Captains, Sponsors and Vice Presidents lunches to be confirmed.

8. Fixtures:

Discussions are being held on whether it will be safe to start league fixtures by the beginning of September. Risk assessments are being carried out on ground conditions and decision to be made soon.

Joint session organised with Crewkerne for 20th and possible pre-season friendly against Wells on 22nd August.

Louis advised that the RFU are holding weekly planning meetings to assess the situation in different parts of the country.

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

Jon was welcomed to the meeting.

Pre-season training started six weeks ago. No collision work yet as ground far too hard.

Impressed with what coaching group want to deliver.

Numbers are good with some new players.

Felt there is not an issue if the pre-season game does not go ahead.

10. Juniors report:

Cam has agreed to take over Tiny Tots. Facebook advertising poster produced.

Schools have been emailed re the Tag festival.

Paul has stepped down from providing medical cover for the coming season. However every age group does have a registered First aider.

Colts:

Going well, spending game time with the Seniors.

Friendlies organised against Lytchett on 6th and Castle Cary on 13th September.

Kit has been ordered and Crewkerne will be invoiced for 50%.

Changes to playing up rules introduced this season which seem to simplify the process.

11. Social report:

Proposed social following the pre-season game on 22nd August.

12. Grounds Maintenance:

Roadside and main pitch to be marked up this week. Junior pitches to be done for first week in September.

The rabbits are still a problem. Dorset Council no longer provide a Pest Control service but have a telephone number for advice which Sarah passed to Guy.

Suggested a drone photo taken of the junior pitches showing the green strip where water is still obviously leaking from the overflow pipe.

13. Business Development Report:

Pete to update on current situation.

Bookings need to be set up on-line. The trial with Hallmaster booking system has expired but could be renewed. Agreed that all systems – website, social media platforms etc – do need to be linked and website needs updating. Suggested that in September James, Niamh, Lou and Tom discuss how to go forward.

Sponsorship invoices all sent out and money coming in.

Sarah is working with Guy on player sponsorship. Felt players need to commit to a certain number of games/availability over the season.

GL

JK/NV/LE/
TG

All hoarding spaces now taken. Three new boards have been made by Mystic to replace those who no longer pay. Sarah will collect and arrange with Louis to fit. She will also take the Sponsorship board to be updated.

14. Club Development:

- a) Safeguarding – The RFU have a new learning platform and all coaches and volunteers need to complete their annual Introduction to Safeguarding course. Coaches also need to complete their Headcase course. Website is www.learn.rfu.com
- b) School liaison – covered
- c) Publicity – Pete intends to send out a post re ladies/girls rugby

15. AOB:

- a) Peter confirmed Guy Ewart will make the double benches in memory of Josh Houghton to fit in the spaces between the hoardings.
- b) Agreed that Jurassic Fields could use both the roadside pitch and junior pitches for parking but the main pitch to be roped off. George to advise Will. They will man and likely to donate £250 for each pitch as last year. Suggested cars come in at the top of the pitch and leave at the bottom to alleviate traffic problems.
- c) Louis advised that any sanctions received for Match official abuse would be doubled this year in an attempt to curb it particularly at Levels 9-7 where there had been a massive increase over the previous year.

Meeting closed at 7.25 pm, next meeting Monday 14th September at 6.00 pm