

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 14th September 2026 at the Rugby Pavilion**

Present: Julian Hussey, Peter Brook, Allan Staerck, Guy Livingston, Louis Browne, Lou Edwards, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Niamh Vercoe, Jim Jones, Chris Wood, James Keen, Phoebe Goodfellow, Libby Rogers

1. Apologies: Simon Bareham, Ayo Fraser, Sarah Samways, Pete Dacey, George Hussey, Daragh McLoughlin, Jon Dicker

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere):

- Pete Wyrill has measured for blinds but suggested vertical rather than roller which would be very expensive as need to be custom-made. However agreed roller blinds more practical. Julian to ask ABC to quote.
- 60th anniversary event still to be discussed.
- Guy waiting for details re blazers.
- Chris working on GMS.
- Coaching co-ordinator replacement to be discussed at Junior meeting on 5th October.
- Living Tree likely to be interested in Walking rugby.
- Dorset Council not particularly helpful with advice re rabbit problems.
- Lou advised Tom Gamwell has been working on the Hallmaster system and will set up a trial on-line. Cost will be £309/year and needs approval to go ahead. Problems still with website needing to be updated and for Facebook and social media to be linked to it. Lou and Niamh to discuss how to proceed with relevant people and report back to next meeting.

JH

JH/LV

LV

LE/NV

4. Chairman's Report:

Busy day on Saturday with good attendance and bar takings but disappointing result.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Current Balance – £53,430.51

End of August Balance – £57,340.25

Bar Takings to 14th September 2026 – £36,797.15

Bar Takings to 31st August 2026 – £33,068.55

Bar Takings August (in month) - £3,931.50

As previously advised, England Rugby took £12,898.20 from our account (my assumption is that it relates to international tickets). Jas has been liaising with them to resolve and to date £2,023 has been paid back to the club account, although I am expecting significantly more to be credited.

VAT Liability for period 1st May 2026 – 31st July 2026 - £1,094.31 (paid).

Setting up PAYE for payment of key bar staff (up to 2 employees) – will be monthly, with costs for Hartley's to administer of £32.40 compared to weekly payroll cost of £129.60. Any additional employee above 2 will cost £4 + VAT per payroll (on monthly scheme).

6. Secretary's Report:

Declined to enter the Cup again this year as too difficult with more fixtures and delayed start to the season.

Unfortunately not possible to link GMS payment and registration at present but hopefully at

some point in the future.

7. VP's Report:

Fixture books received from Creeds and will be sent out with letter and membership cards to VPs this week.

Agreed that best to hold VPs lunch on a Saturday with no home game. Fixed for Sat 23rd January. Lou will do the catering.

8. Fixtures:

Both the RFU and D&W had been emailed regarding a referee for last Saturday with no response which was very poor. Lack of referees could be a problem for the coming season and suggested that dates were passed to Alan Haggarty to check his availability.

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

Disappointing result from the pre-season game against Wells.

Hopefully some feedback after training on Tuesday.

10. Juniors report:

Junior meeting to be held on 5th October to which all are welcome.

11 schools signed up so far for the Tag Festival.

Proposed that the End of Season Awards be held on Saturday 15th May with the Chairman's v President's game on Friday 14th as the format worked well last year.

Minis:

Essential to ensure that ProActiv is used as likely sanctions if it is not.

Need to fix admin sessions with all coaches. To be discussed at the Junior meeting on 5th October and first Monday in November proposed. One person required from each age group.

Chris is receiving enquiries re the Cubs and will ask Cam for best method of contact.

The Junior banner at the entrance to the Leisure Centre is out of date and needs to be replaced.

Ed May will take over from Paul as lead First Aider. Insurance is provided by the RFU.

James needs to complete Risk Assessments and will obtain relevant templates so that all policies can be kept behind the bar.

Girks / Ladies:

Brownies & Guides Badge Session is this Saturday between 9.30 – 12.00.

(Numbers now more like 20nr for the day)

Currently we have 8nr U16's girls back and will be clustering with Dorchester, Weymouth & Swans as the Warriors this year.

We have 3 U14's and will be combining them with the U16's as before.

Ladies Rugby Fit starts again on Thursday night... may look to get some funding for some temporary floodlighting due to the business of training sessions. (Currently 114nr attending first session back... as briefly mentioned before we may want to think a bit more about what a membership may look like for them? 50% of adult fee and look at if any opportunity for a t-shirt or something to make them feel part of the club?)

11. Social report:

Ladies Day afternoon tea event Saturday 17th October.

Possible Boxing Day family event.

JK

12. Grounds Maintenance:

Grass now needs mowing and the robotmower is working well.

Guy will dig the lines out on return from holiday.

Once the hedges have been cut will need to organise clearing the ditches out.

Unfortunately did not manage to obtain a drone photo of the green strip on the junior pitches while the ground was dry but it is clear it is the overflow from Palmers spring which is causing the problem. Guy and Louis will investigate.

Stuart King is happy to help with the lines when asked.

GL/LB

13. Business Development Report:

Update on Terrace Development required. Lloyd will ask Julian for latest situation with the solicitor. Until the LC document is signed we cannot move forward with any work.

LV

Kathy contacted by Ian Hobbs at Axe Padel & Sauna who was interested in offering raffle prizes or free padel time. Sarah to contact him to discuss opportunities.

SS

Not much to report at present on sponsorship. Guy and Sarah still communicating regarding Players sponsors, with an update hopefully next meeting. Ayo is keen to use any overspill to sponsor the Colts but none at the moment so maybe consider a push on social media to attract more.

Any outstanding sponsorship amounts being chased. Hoardings all taken currently but a couple need to be chased as they have paid for upgrades but not yet been in touch with Mystic.

Agreed that the raffle should continue at all home league games.

Agreed that Graham Ackerman, our main sponsor, is invited to the first home league game for a photo with the team along with the first Match ball sponsor. Subsequently Mark Burwood and second match ball sponsor, then Pete Dacey and third ball sponsor, and so on. Sarah will organise.

Special thanks to Louis who has removed and also put up the new hoardings, and also kindly put up the new and updated internal Sponsorship board in the club.

14. Club Development:

a) Safeguarding – the revised Safeguarding policies had been circulated prior to the meeting and were unanimously approved.

b) School liaison – covered

c) Publicity – volunteer required to write match reports on Junior games which could be published on website and social media.

d) Volunteers – in his letter to VPs Peter has asked for volunteers to help with various tasks within the club.

15. AOB:

a) The membership cards will not be issued in digital form this season as process too complicated.

b) New cover ordered for scrummage machine. Allan will contact Gill re re-stitching the pads as new ones are quite expensive.

c) The Barracudas are holding a Presentation Evening on Sunday 27th September, 5-9.00pm and have requested the bar be open. Agreed we will not charge this year but will advise that takings will need to more than cover the cost of staff, otherwise we will need to charge in future.

d) The benches to fit between the hoardings are being made.

AS

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm, next meeting Monday 12th October at 6.00 pm

