

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridport Rugby Football Club
Held on 8th April 2024 at the Rugby Pavilion**

Present: Julian Hussey, Allan Staerck, Peter Brook, Guy Livingston, Ayo Fraser, Louis Browne, Kathy Briggs, Lloyd Vercoe, Timmy Edwards, Rob Sullivan, Ross Duncan, George Hussey, James Keen, Sam Petchey, Pete Dacey

1. Apologies: Simon Hussey, Charlie Samways, Niamh Vercoe

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

3. Matters Arising:

- Sharps have confirmed that till transactions can be rounded up.
- Palmers will fund new post protectors next season.
- Peter has written to thank Mark Banham for all his efforts and contributions to the club.
- Pete has replied to Robert Wheelwright re his comments on the proposed development.
- Allan has spoken to Will re sharing the cost of installing the defibrillator. Lloyd hopes to have it in place before the Round Table AGM this Friday.
- The LC will contribute towards the cost of commercial deep cleaning the kitchen in the summer after the children's camps have finished.
- The Club dinner has been promoted with advertising flyers on tables and email sent to the VPs. Phil Frampton has been invited and Pete will speak to Jim Jones.
- Plastic 2 pint glasses seem a non-starter as the minimum order is 1000.

4. Chairman's Report:

The league season is now finished. After a disappointing start, it was a tough finish. However Saturday night really ended it on a fantastic high. There are now two more games at home to round off the season.

Many thanks again to everyone for all their help and support this season.

Nominations will be needed for the AGM for a Secretary and Vice Chairman next year.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Current balance is £57,032.30.

Best weekend ever for bar takings at over £5k for Saturday and Sunday. To date the bar takings for the year are £75k.

Given expenditure this year we are still in a strong place at year end which will help towards funding capital projects.

Events need to be planned ahead and put in the diary, potentially a band every six weeks.

Look at Carnival weekend after the 10's tournament and the first match of next season.

6. Secretary's Report:

Emails received from RFU including Volunteering panel and Supporters Charter re training to stop spectator abuse.

D&W AGM to be held on Wed 17th July at Salisbury.

7. VP's Report:

One more VP making a total of £5140 in donations plus £660 taken at raffle at VPs lunch so grand total this year of £5800.

A few more potential VPs noted for next year.

PD

8. Fixtures:

President's XV v Chairman's XV confirmed for Sat 13th, kick off 2.30pm.

Brown Bowler confirmed for Sat 20th, kick off 2.30pm. Louis to ref.

10's Tournament confirmed for Sat 17th August. Fee will be increased to £60/team and invitations have been sent to over 30 teams. First game to kick off at 11am.

9. Coaching / Team Management /Captains report:

Unfortunately Ross is not available for the next two Saturdays. Good numbers already confirmed for the President's v Chairman's match.

Ross thanked the committee for all their support throughout the season. This season has been a learning curve with many ups and downs but much greater positivity at the end of the season.

Training will continue for the next two weeks, then a six week break for the seniors. Summer touch to start on 5th June to 17th July, then six weeks pre-season training.

10. Juniors report:

Great news that the U14's have finally won a game so hopefully will commit to next year under the round robin format.

Lloyd thanked whoever had cleaned up after Saturday night. Given the broken glass outside plastic glasses should probably be used for large functions.

During the French visit it will be suggested that going forward all trips should be self-funded.

There is a meeting Thursday evening to discuss the itinerary.

First Aid course arranged for 12th May following which every age group should have a qualified first aider.

12. Social report:

With £530 from the Six Nations sweepstakes and 40 tickets sold so far for the Club dinner the speaker's costs should be covered.

Lloyd proposed and Louis seconded that the ticket price be reduced to £40 for players only with those who had already purchased tickets being refunded. This was agreed.

13. Grounds Maintenance:

The pitch was mown today. In the last six months there has been 887 mm of rain, more than normally in a full year.

Guy will chase Palmers re the drainage pipe.

Sean will white line the pitches this week and they will be slit once conditions have improved.

14. Business Development Report:

The Club Development plans will need to be submitted for approval.

The timeframe for the planning decision should be 16 weeks latest but in the meantime work can start on obtaining prices etc. Potentially aiming for May/June next year.

Sponsorship for next season to be reviewed. As there will be a new kit provider next season, Ayo suggested the possibility of one main sponsor for the front of all club shirts.

15. Club Development:

a) Safeguarding – Volunteers application form drawn up, now all online.

b) School liaison – will be looked at in off-season.

c) Publicity – Good match reports continue. Should have good coverage over the next couple of weeks and hold reports on the French visit back until later.

d) Volunteers – always required.

GL

e) Development Plan – ongoing

16. AOB:

- a) Ayo had approached four kit suppliers and presented the proposal received from VX3. Agreed to choose two to progress and invite to the club for further discussion. Ayo has circulated the proposals from VX3 and Kukri.
- b) James updated the meeting on work so far to update the website. The Age Group listings have been set up and can now easily be updated year on year. The email inboxes now all exist and are being tested. Posters can be produced using Canva. Proposed single club diary to be set up showing all club bookings potentially including the LC.
- c) Bibi, the cleaner, is away from 12th May to 9th June. Julian to contact Simon.
- d) Allan has taken the old chairs to a homeless charity.
- e) Allan has registered BRFC with Aramis for the chance to win free specialist training equipment.
- f) Allan suggested approaching Richard Balson to give a talk to the club.
- g) Timmy mentioned the incident at Weymouth when a spectator was injured by players. It was agreed we need to ensure that all spectators stand behind the barriers on the main pitch and that either pitch side barriers are used on the roadside pitch or that it is roped off properly. Also agreed in future all players/coaches should stand on the far side of the main pitch.
- h) Guy queried that the LC was the first venue seen when googling Clubhouse hire recently. Allan will check with Will but it is likely to be a function of Google.
- i) Guy, formerly at the Market House, has taken on Shaves Cross and may be interested in a hoarding.
- j) Guy mentioned the possibility of Geoff Hunt doing a collection for the Blind next season.

JH

AS

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm, next meeting Monday 13th May at 6.30pm