



DORSET & WILTS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

A meeting of the Dorset & Wilts. RFU Council was held on Tuesday, 5^h August 2025, from 7:00 p.m. at North Dorset RFC

MINUTES – AGENDA

[working assumption: papers sent with or referred to in this agenda will be taken as having been read]

No	Item	Lead/Action
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1. Attendance, Inc. apologies: co-options and any introductions

Mike Moysey [MM]	Apol	Nigel Mattravers [NM]	Atte	Gerald Burden [GB]	Atte
Alison Hunter [AH]	Apol	Marcus Monier-Williams [MMW]		Alan Ottaway [AO]	Atte
John Constable [JC]	Atte	Michael Bamsey [MB]	Atte	Nicola Vaughan [NV]	
Elena Notarbartolo [EN]	Apol	Ed Taylor [ET]	Atte	David Wookey [DW]	Atte
Duncan Souster [DS]	Atte	Chris Taylor [CT]	Apol	Sean Macey [SM]	Apol
Jane Hart [JH]		Andy Marriott [AM]			

2. Minutes:

To note the of the Council meeting held on the 8th of July 2025. To view Please [Click Here](#)

➤ Administration

🚦 Nigel Mattravers was elected as the Chair of the Council meeting

🚦 John Constable was Co-opted on to the D&W Council

🚦 Invite the following to attend the D&W RFU Council – Non voting

Marcus Monier-Williams – D&W Referees or nominated Representative – Agreed

Andy Marriott – England Rugby Schools or nominated Representative – NM to talk with England Rugby Schools – Gordon Harding about a possible conflict of interest or D&W role regarding Jason Yarwood.

Action – NM

Nicola Vaughan – RFU CBRM – Agreed

NM stated that the Council is bogged down with Admin issues rather than thinking about the game.

🚦 GB requested that all section leads to review and update their section of the D&W Website, info to admin@dwrugby.co.uk.

MB stated that the contents on the website should be reduced to make the information more current, with each section reviewing their pages every month with links to the RFU pages.

GB stated that he requests updates from all section leads every Council meeting, the response is non-existent.

GB stated that he had received an email stating that there were too many links to the RFU pages and the D&W website should use their own text.

It was agreed to continue using RFU links on our website, because our policy and operations have always to be subservient to RFU policy and operations, so changes to RFU policy & operations would be automatically updated.

Updated – 26th of August 2025

Action – All

🚦 Updates wanted for the pages below

[Page of Remembrance](#) – Information to all clubs – Area Representatives.

Action - All

[Honours](#) – Information to all clubs – Area Representatives.

Action – All

🚦 Budget – See attached

Names to be inserted within the budget document – Stakeholder meeting. **Action – GB/NM**

Agreed, subject to the following conditions – The budget to be reviewed every three months including income.

Action – AH

NM to arrange a meeting with Rob Langham regarding sponsorship, any funding from an outside source would improve the overall budget.

Action – NM

CB Engagement Team

➤ Governance

🚦 Rugby Safe – Nothing to report

🚦 Discipline – One Red Card so far (two yellows) for a REME player passed to the Army

➤ Club Support

Club Support (Business Operations) Workshops via CBs

The RFU's Club Business Manager (Martin Woodward) would like to hear from CBs interested in hosting in person workshops for clubs in your CB territory. Delivered by subject matter experts, the workshops will focus on specific 'off-field business operations' topics.

The purpose of these workshops is to help clubs increase their topic specific knowledge/awareness and understanding, whilst providing an opportunity to network and create contacts across the CB region.

There are a range of topics on offer:

🚦 Sponsorship

🚦 Running Events

🚦 Social Media

🚦 Running an efficient and profitable bar

🚦 Renewable Energy (focus on Solar PV and Battery)

Your CB can request up to three workshops, each one must be a different topic.

If your request is successful, the role of the CB would be to find a suitable club venue/date to host the workshop. Then to promote the workshop across its clubs.

Each workshop will run during a weekday evening and last approx. 2-2½ hrs and be hosted by a RFU member of staff from the Clubs & Communities team, with the core of the workshop led by a subject matter expert.

The RFU will pay for the subject matter expert and pay the host club to provide food/refreshments for attendees.

We are looking to run these workshops over the following periods:

🚩 Early October – early December

🚩 Mid Jan – early May

Avoiding the main school holidays

Once you've registered your interest, Martin will arrange a short call to talk through the detail and agree next steps. Due to the total number of workshops on offer, we can only guarantee one workshop per CB. Please note you may not get your first choice of workshop but wherever possible we will try to oblige. Also, if we can increase the number you can host, we will.

Suggested Topics (TBC)

1. Renewable Energy (focus on Solar PV and Battery)
2. Sponsorship
3. Social Media

[The Area Representatives to consult their nominated clubs for the final selection.](#) Information to the RFU by the 29th of August 2025.

[Updated – 26th of August 2025](#)

Action – AO/Area Representatives

➤ **Director of Rugby**

🚩 Walking Rugby – Nothing to report

🚩 Representative Rugby

🚩 Under 18's South West Rugby update – See attached notes

MB reported to the meeting, on his telephone conversation with Shane Aldridge. It appears that this is not a RFU programme, but a group of individuals running Under 18's boys rugby on behalf of the 8 CBs within the South West region.

GB raised concerns about the invoice for the South West England Counties Under 18's trials at Hartpury being paid into a personal account.

The plan going forward once the new manager is appointed, is to arrange an online meeting with all interested parties.

This programme does not match the RFU Age Grade Calendar.

🚩 JC updated the meeting on the Hampshire discussion paper on the future of Adult Representative Rugby.

🚩 The Senior Women's management have started to look for sponsorship for the 2025-26 season.

🚦 Nothing else to report.

🚦 Age Grade competitions details circulated.

🚦 The U18's Boys RFU competition development cup club rankings have now been submitted

🚦 Competition Committee – Newsletter circulated.

🚦 League Secretaries – Referee meeting on Wednesday 20th August at Salisbury RFC stating at 6.30pm update

Currently only two clubs have replied with five people attending.

Clarity of the information being promoted is important, to the event being a success.

The evening is open to all.

Action – JC

➤ **RFU Council Representative**

🚦 Nothing to report

➤ **Invited Attendees**

Referees

Schools

CBRM

3. AOB:

🚦 Update on your Innovation Funding

Player Retention – £3,000.00

Melksham RFC – Portable Training Lights

Devizes RFC – Support for Girls Rugby

Pewsey Vale RFC – Retention

Amesbury RFC – Recruitment

Referee Recruitment & Deployment – £3,000.00

Four courses (RFU Introduction to Refereeing (ITR)) were run in the end, Oakmeadians, Dorchester and Trowbridge (x2), with 60 participants attending at a cost of £50.00 each (Equipment – Venue hire etc) .

🚦 Club Conference – held over from last season

Action – CB Engagement Team

🚦 NM reported that Prevented Ocean Plastic had offered D&W branded Water Bottles (FOC). The first 200 standard bottles are to be despatched to NDRFC for collection.

🚦 The two sets of missing D&W Post Protectors

🚦 GB reported he and others had received an Email from Jan Edwards – England Rugby Schools (D&W) regarding who is the D&W point of contact for the Schools Rugby Managers. GB stated that he has no record of receiving the email from Chris Sigsworth / Mark Saltmarsh which was referred to.

GB asked who the D&W contact should be, if it was agreed that NM would talk with the England Rugby Schools (D&W).

Action – NM

✚ Email received from Weightmans LLP regarding a request for information/records from a former player of Dorset & Wilts RFU, in relation to personal injury claims which are being pursued by former rugby players against World Rugby, the Welsh Rugby Union, and the RFU.

GB believes that the records requested would date from the 1980's and would have been destroyed long ago.

GB to reply.

Action – GB

✚ ET stated that the meeting did not cover issues relating to clubs.

NM reiterated his view that the Council needs to reduce the Admin side of the Council and the need to concentrate on the playing side of the game.

Club at Risks

Action – AO

Weymouth & Portland RFC – lack of players and coaching staff.

Action – ED

Concerns were also raised about Bournemouth RFC and Lytchett Minster RFC.

✚ Dates wanted for Huddles.

Action – Area Representatives

✚ DW asked if he could order polo shirts for the Area Representatives.

Action - DW

✚ GB asked DW to arrange a shirt for Rob Langham – Sponsorship.

Questions from the AGM

1. Governance Email – Report was not included within the AGM report. GB agreed with JH that he would add the report to the next Council meeting for discussion.

It was agreed that NM would meet JH to offer her support.

Action – NM

2. Nicola Wallace-Walton raised concerns regarding the management of the D&W RFU Vice Presidents membership.

It was agreed that a working group should be set up, to work out what should be on offer.

Action – NM

3. League Secretaries meeting on Wed 20th August 2025 at Salisbury RFC starting at 6.30pm. See above.
4. Jamie Shanks from Bournemouth RFC asked if the D&W RFU could produce a support sheet for new club management members.

The meeting agreed to produce a working handover paper for Club/CB.

Action – All

Gerald Burden – Gen Sec