



DORSET & WILTS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED

A meeting of the Dorset & Wilts. RFU Council will be held on Tuesday, 17th February 2026, from 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

MINUTES – AGENDA

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

No **Item** **Lead/Action**

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]	Apol	Alan Ottaway [AO]	
John Constable [JC]	Atte	Michael Bamsey [MB]	Atte	Nicola Vaughan [NV]	Atte
Elena Notarbartolo [EN]	Apol	Ed Taylor [ET]	Atte	David Wookey [DW]	Atte
Duncan Souster [DS]	Apol	Chris Taylor [CT]	Apol	Sean Macey [SM]	Atte
Jane Hart [JH]	Apol	Jason Yarwood [JY]	Atte		

Julie Fisher attended on behalf of Jane Hart

2. Minutes:

To note the of the Council meeting held on the 11th of November 2025. To view Please [Click Here](#)
Noted

3. Reports

➤ Action List for Council Members

➤ Administration

✚ Can you all review and update your section of the D&W Website, info to admin@dwrugby.co.uk.

✚ Updates wanted for the pages below

[Page of Remembrance](#)

[Honours](#)

✚ Budget – the next quarterly review will be on the 24th of March 2026

✚ For Information Only.

We received an email from a member of Swanage & Wareham RFC regarding a request for a Subject Access Request under UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 for all personal data relating to them.

Following a detailed review of all data available, the individual was informed by letter (dated 10th of February 2026), that we did not hold any personal data on them for the period requested.

➤ CB Engagement Team

✚ VP Membership – No Report Filed

✚ Sponsorship – No Report Filed. A new volunteer has offer to help.

➤ **Area Representatives**

Dates

South Wiltshire – Monday 30th March 2025 at 6.30pm

Previous period activity:

East Dorset – Meeting to be held 23 Feb.,

West Dorset – Awaiting Meeting Date, most activity on WhatsApp group, no activity reported

North Wiltshire- WhatsApp active, No activity reported, just concerns over waterlogged pitches in general across the area. Melksham AG Festival has had to be cancelled

South Wiltshire –Nothing to report to council. Next meeting due 30 March, Zoom requested

Requested leads for WD, NW and SW to add me to WA groups. Still awaiting that to happen

Clubs at risk:

None known

Club development requirements:

Overall, obviously My concern is state of pitches considering the amount of rain we have had and whether clubs will be able to manage their survival to complete the season on the grass that is still alive. Obviously, some are Council owned so clubs have little or no say in their maintenance, but others can ask for help and advice from RFU

I've had no other concerns reported to me

Problem issues:

(Ongoing standing identified concern) Player registration data (senior and AG) still needs attention – see Governance report again, area reps are requested to ensure this is part of Meeting agendas as it is a regulatory requirement.

One club in S Wilts reported to me direct that a player who had not been removed from previous club (but had not returned to play) was prevented from registering to restart play with another club as the transfer deadline had passed. This is even though the renewal required had been removed by RFU as we were passed that date

Still a reluctance from some clubs to engage with leads for their area

Other items for discussion – Nothing for this period

➤ **Governance**

I believe you have had reports from Safeguarding, anti-doping, GMS data operator and registration, and of course Disciplinary.

Thank you all for taking the time to send these.

🚩 Discipline – to view the Case List – Please [Click here](#)

🚩 Data – GMS & Registrations

I was approached by the Team Managers for the U20 - who the Hon Sec wasn't aware had been appointed – to be given full access to D&W GMS to manage the group. I regret I am not intending to do that as I can't allow someone untrained to have full access to all D&W and affiliated clubs to untrained individuals I don't know – One TM was not even with a D&W club. I have given both TMs the TM role for the U20 and

Level 2 together with Match Card Admin so they can manage that this season – which is a new requirement that was not communicated with me. I have registered the players as representative rugby following a conversation with RFU as the instructions were not clear and indeed contradictory. This was a tad of a nuisance as it came up while I was in Hospital!

I am still seeing clubs carrying exp players, who are sitting as renewal required. Clubs need to be reminded to cleanse this and remove those who have left – This cross with GDPR rep activity as clubs are retaining access to people who are no longer attached to the clubs.

GMS training remains available via the RFU. I am still surprised at questions I receive or problems I find that can easily be sorted with an hour's training.

My recent illness has prevented me being able to undertake a great deal of activity with clubs but hopefully this will return to normal shortly.

🚩 Safeguarding – No Report Filed

🚩 GPDR – No Report Filed

🚩 Anti-Doping & Illicit Drugs – Nothing to Report

🚩 Inclusion & Diversity – No Report Filed

🚩 RugbySafe

I would like to report on Rugbysafe.

I have tried to contact Megan from East Dorset Dockers who said she wanted to give the RugbySafe role a try. I sent her the paperwork you provided and have not been able to contact her since.

Has she sent the paperwork to you Gerald? **No contact with GB.**

The issue with D&W regulation 6 non-compliance has got a little better.

I have contacted all clubs again some still do not reply or complete what i am asking. I have contacted the teams that do not seem to exist anymore.

AECC have complied.

Frome Valley Lions have made contact, they folded some 4-5 years ago and have asked to be removed from D&W and RFU

Dorset Police, Guys Marsh, 14th Regiment, Royal School of Artillery, Sherborne Pilgrims, Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Fire, RAF Lyneham and RAF Boscombe Down all state they do not run teams any more.

Portland Pheonix, Nationwide, Green Gazelles, Compeed Marlborough, Aldbourne Dabchicks all emailed but all pinged back and there are no other contact details and no information of membership on GMS.

We need to progress the cancelation of these teams with the RFU as soon as possible to bring our percentage of compliancy up.

I have requested an up-to-date list from RFU but have not received one yet.

I have gone through all the clubs on GMS that where not compliant and the following remain outstanding even with some contact by email.

Bradford-on Avon

Colerne

Corsham
Devizes
Supermarine
Sutton Benger
Warminster
Weymouth & Portland
Wheatsheaf

The following clubs have part completed
Calne-MEAP is compliant Howdens is not.
Salisbury - Howdens compliant MEAP is not
Swindon College Old Boys – Howdens compliant MEAP is not
I do wonder if some clubs are still not pressing the save button.

I understand there is a U12s waterfall being held at Trowbridge with quite a few of these teams attending. I feel clubs should not be able to tour, take part in festival, waterfalls etc if they are not compliant with regulation 6. We do not have information of any of their age group 1st aid provision.

What is the sanction for non-compliance, perhaps the threat of sanctions might get people moving.

RugbySafe audit planned – online format due by the end of March

🚩 Festivals – No Report Filed

➤ Club Support

Facilities

Our review of the coming year's Facility Needs was undertaken with RFU Facilities Team members at the end of January. It was a very constructive meeting and helps the RFU in determining 'grass roots' club needs. We know it is essential to be honest with our assessments as this allows the RFU a clear picture about where our clubs are at. That then allows clubs the best chance to improve their own circumstances using their own endeavours, supported by the technical and financial help from professional personnel at the RFU.

One outcome of this was to try to make updating club requirements part of a routine process. Therefore recently we updated our website and circulated a request to clubs for them to regularly update the facilities information held by the RFU's Facilities Team. The link to the Facilities information is active and allows clubs to routinely advise on their latest facilities priorities. Click [HERE](#) to have a look at these details. This will mean that clubs can let us know their very latest news in real time.

Grants

We are always available to discuss projects. The application process is being/ has been streamlined and the applications can be made by clubs at any time via the D&W Website [HERE](#)

Volunteer of the Year nominations, supported by Switch

As Volunteer of the Year nominations have now closed, please see below for number of nominations received from Dorset & Wilts:

- 73 nominations
- 90 individuals (due to a mixture of individual and group nominations, with duplicate nominees removed)
- 26 Clubs/Organisations

The list of clubs represented is below

- Amesbury RFC

- Bournemouth RFC
- Bradford-on-Avon RFC
- Chippenham RFC
- Corsham RFC
- Cricklade RFC
- Devizes RFC
- Dorchester RFC
- Dorset & Wilts RFU (CB)
- Dorset & Wilts Referees Society
- Lytchett Minster RFC
- Melksham RFC
- Minety RFC
- North Dorset RFC
- Oakmeadians RFC
- Pewsey Vale RFC
- Salisbury RFC
- Sherborne RFC
- Supermarine RFC
- Swanage & Wareham RFC
- Swindon College Old Boys RFC
- Swindon RFC
- Trowbridge RFC
- Westbury RFC
- Weymouth & Portland RFC
- Wimborne RFC

The nomination packs will be received next week so we can review & provide a shortlist to the RFU by the 27th of March 2026.

We will also receive the contact list of nominees to enable us to check their details and then we will be able to invite the volunteers to the awards evening event.

➤ **Director of Rugby**

Representative Rugby
Senior Mens
Senior Women's

The Open training session was cancelled due to waterlogged pitches. The trials on the 28th of February at Oakmeadians RFC



Under 18's Boys – No Report Filed

Under 18's Girls

Training sessions have now been confirmed at Warminster RFC, which appears to be a fair compromise in terms of travel distance for the majority of players.

Clarification was required regarding the eligibility of PDG U18 girls for County rugby. Unfortunately, PDG U18 players are not permitted to play for the County.

Fixtures:

- 7 December – Oxfordshire (Away), Oxford Quins

This was an outstanding game of rugby from both teams, resulting in an impressive 33–24 win for Dorset & Wiltshire. The weather conditions were extremely challenging, with floodlights required during the match.

- 18 January – Berkshire (Home), North Dorset, KO 2:00pm
- The game was played in the true spirit of the game with Berks gaining a win.
- 15 February – Buckinghamshire (Away), Aylesbury
- Yet again, travel proved challenging. The game was challenging with D&W digging deep and pushing their opposition hard. The game was won by Bucks 29-19. Bucks have been unbeaten this year.

Women's Rugby World Cup Tour to visit the Twin Counties, please circulate the poster below.



World Cup Tour - Media to go live from 17/02/26

The cup will be in our CB as follows:

Friday 27th March- Sherborne RFC

- 5pm Cup arrives with RFU Staff
- 5pm-7pm training/Love Rugby festival U14 and U16 Girls
- 7.30pm Women's Game (under floodlights)
- Photo opportunities ongoing throughout the evening
- RFU Requests
- First Aid Point
- Club to do risk assessment
- RFU Suggestions
- Dignitary e.g. Mayor, Councillor
- Local press
- Local radio/news
- Open to:-

- Invites to local clubs and schools and promote on social media for U12s & U14s
- U16s & U18s to help out on the day

Saturday 28th March -Oakmeadians

- Timing Activity Remarks
- 09.30 am Trophy arrives
- 10-11am Pre trg pictures
- 11-13.00pm Training
- 13.00-14.00pm Post Trg Pictures
- 14.00pm Ladies Game
- Other activities whilst ladies game going on
- RFU Requests
- Trophy to be between pitches as per previous visit.
- First Aid Point
- Club to do risk assessment
- RFU Suggestions
- Dignitary eg Mayor, councillor
- Local press
- Local radio/news
- Bouncy castle etc maybe for extra entertainment
- Open to:-
- Invites to local clubs and schools and promote on social media for U12s & U14s
- U16s & U18s to help out on the day

Community

PDG FP U16 Girls

Current numbers within the programme are as follows:

North Centre (Warminster RFC): 30 players

South Centre (Dorchester RFC): 26 players, plus a further 8 players to be recalled in January. We now have 31 players as one club missed their opportunity in the Autumn, and their players were assessed in January.

The South Centre has now moved to Puddletown as Dorchester have been struggling with pitch availability due to the weather.

The weather paid a major part in the cancellation of the Somerset game at Bradford on Avon. This was very unfortunate and the decision was not made until all parties had arrived. We are currently trying to reschedule the game.

General: The weather is impacting playing and training across the board at the moment.

Love Rugby

The Bournemouth RFC Love Rugby was a great success with over 60 players present in the U12 and U14 age groups from 6 clubs. The U12 session was led by Danny Jones (Oakmeadians RFC) and the U14 Jamie Shanks (Bournemouth RFC). There was an incident in the U14 game which was dealt with by Caz and Jamie Shanks. I have also followed up with both clubs involved.

Girls' Facebook Page

The traffic has been low due to less posts, but the number of followers is rising.

Walking Rugby

Please see email attached

Successes - all still pending as events coming up

Opps/info -

1) comms with Warminster and Wimborne, clubs established (who are trying to get WR going).

2) comms with Mandown Charity who want to host a WR fest to raise awareness of charity, Rugby supporting mental health and wellbeing and recruit new WR players. Hosting at Salisbury as only city/town in Wilts without a Mandown charity base. Sept 2026

3) Forthcoming events

Sat 21st Feb - WR ref's course. (11 attending) @Sal RFC 9.30-12.30pm

Sat May 30th - D&W WR Fest (7 clubs confirmed currently) @ Devizes RFC 11-3pm

Sat Sept 5th - WR Charity Event - Mandown Charity @ Sal RFC times tbc

4) Threats: water logged pitch space currently / slow or lack of comms from reps in clubs /lack of support & responses from Refs society!!

Women's Rugby – No Report Filed

Age Grade

Wimborne RRU Academy – Please see email attached

RFU Age Grade Playing Calendar 2026/27 – Please see email attached.

This needs to be approved by CB Executives (under Regulation 15.9) and published/promoted on the CB website well in advance of the season – this is in regulation, so needs to be in place.

Waterfalls

U12 will be at Trowbridge RFC on 01st March - 16 Teams Participating

U13 will be at Dorchester RFC on 22nd March - 16 Teams Participating

U14's Finals (4) will be at Sherborne RFC on 22nd March. I need to know who is attending to present the trophies and medals.....

Div 1 U15-U16-Colts League Finals will be played at North Dorset RFC on 08th March - I need to know who's attending to present the trophies and medals.....

Div 2 U15-U16-Colts League Semi Finals yet to be played these are planned to be completed no later than 01st March, as dates for the finals is planned for 08th March at the moment!

PDGFP Girls U16's

The planned playing opportunity vs Somerset didn't happen, both CBs turned up at Bradford on Avon RFC on 08th February on the understanding the pitches were playable following a club pitch inspection at 10:00hrs. However at 13:00hrs the rugby was cancelled due to water ponding on all three pitches.

There are two more PDGFP Girls U16 playing opportunities planned.

Home to Gloucester on March 15th venue TBC

Home to Devon on April 12th at Sherborne RFC

➤ RFU Council Representative

- Attended various RFU Sub-committee meetings, National Calls, CB Drop-ins.

- Main meetings Adult competition Management and Club & CB development sub-committee.
- Attended the Local Engagement session recently held at Royal Wootton Bassett- see separate note below on content.
- As part of ACMSC been helping with input to try to get the structured season finalised as early as possible- the Regional leagues are now sorted, work on the Counties level down still to conclude.
- From the Club & CB development sub- committee I understand a questionnaire has been sent out to CB's asking some questions around communication with clubs etc. Has this been received and dealt with?

ENGAGEMENT SESSION AT ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

Presentation on Annual First Aid Risk assessment

CLUBS MUST HAVE A FIRST AID SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT AS SET OUT IN REG 9 (Player Safety)

Must be completed between July & September.

The Rugby Safe & Player Welfare section of the club's GMS profile should be kept up to date.

The Howden risk assessment tool provides a simple first aid risk assessment template.

Pitch side Care Standards

PSCS are the minimum levels of cover that must be provided (unless identified in a club's 1st Aid risk assessment.)

Clubs should aim for best practice- this will provide a safer experience for players and reduce the risk of disruptions and stoppages in play.

Whilst the HOME club is responsible for organising first aid cover when the provision is one first aider per match, a pitch side first aid plan should be agreed by both teams as part of their pre-match communications.

REGENCY PURCHASING GROUP --- ONE BUY GROUP

They work with many sports clubs from Rugby, Cricket, football and so on.

They partner with many food & soft drinks brands

Also linked with most Drink suppliers.

They do all the hard work to try to reduce volunteer burden

As an example of the savings they have achieved annual savings above the average of 6.1% and for some have had annual savings of between £5.5k and £13.5k.

Immediate Discounts are available linked to Booker, Nisbets and Screwfix.

The initial visit is cost free and could result in savings.

Looking ahead -

- plans include Continued attendance at meetings where possible.
- Continued club visits- if anyone wants to suggest clubs to visit let me know.
- RFU Council Friday 27th Feb- Will be looking to send around notes post meeting.
- Attend future National Engagement sessions- mainly online on 18th Feb (7-9pm), 23rd Feb (1130-1300) & 16th April. (7-8.30pm) (Note there is a Face-to-Face session at Wimborne RFC on 22nd April 1-3pm however this clash with the next Adult competitions meeting at Twickenham the same day).

Following on from the engagement session at RWB one of the areas presented was around the launch of the 'One Buy' group offer to rugby clubs. This enables clubs, free of charge, to engage with the group and they can advise on possible savings that could be made across many areas like drinks, food, cleaning, waste disposal etc. It is suggested that the CB runs an online session for clubs where the group can present what they can offer. Suggestion is to run this via Zoom and invite club Chairs, Treasurers to attend.

Also normally around this time of the season we ask clubs for input around the leagues – teams to enter/withdraw etc. It is suggested that this is done on a face-to-face basis at 2 venues – one in Dorset & one in Wiltshire. Small cost, hope this is ok and can come out of the £2000 league sponsorship from Tribute (when its paid).

The next report on CB funding is due in March - can we make sure this is done on time, so we get our funds released.

➤ **Invited Attendees**

✚ **Referees** – No Report Filed

✚ **Schools** – See attached Email

✚ **CBRM** – Email to follow

4. **AOB:**

Gerald Burden - Gen Sec