

AGM Minutes of Meeting

Subject: Ashford Rugby Club AGM – Members Copy

Date (Time): 30-Jun-2026

Minutes: Charlie Vavasour

Meeting Attendees - See Last Page	
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Apologies For Absence	30-Jun-2026	Roger Spicer
Apologies received from Nigel Champion, Tony Wood, Charlie Norman, Ian Nelson, Lloyd Stokes, Jamie Booth-Wilde.		
Minutes From Previous Meeting	30-Jun-2026	Roger Spicer
At last year's AGM it was agreed to change Rule 8.4 regarding "<i>removing the election of committee members and allowing committee members to be appointed by the elected officers</i>". This Rule change was not accepted by the Mutuels Society, so there was a proposal from the committee to reinstate rule 8.4 - passed unanimously. The minutes from the AGM held on 12 June 2025 were agreed – no further matters arising.		
President's Address	12-Jun-2025	Mick Stanley
It is hard to believe we have reached the end of another season — my first as President, which has been a great honour. It has been another very busy year for the club, both on and off the field, with changes in key personnel across the committee, coaching teams and administrative set-up. Everyone who volunteers their time, energy and dedication to help Ashford Rugby Club continue to develop and grow deserves our sincere thanks. Without them, the club would very quickly struggle. Our role is to keep as many people as possible — young and old — involved in playing this great game, while encouraging new players of every level and ability to join us and enjoy their rugby journey at ARFC. We can only achieve this through the continued strength of our coaching teams and support volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone who helps out: every contribution matters, and many hands really do make light work.		

On-field progress

Overall, it has been an excellent season on the pitch across all age groups. Numbers have been strong and a huge number of games have been played. There is nothing better than looking out on a Sunday morning and seeing every inch of grass being used for matches or training, whatever the weather, with smiling faces, happy coaches and Ashford kit everywhere.

Likewise, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, our senior squads have been out doing their part and getting results. The first team finished a respectable fifth in Counties 1 Kent, despite a couple of close results going against them, an enforced coaching change mid-season and a long injury list. With a little more luck, that finish could have been even higher.

We have big expectations for next season as we look to build on this year's progress. With Jon Foster, MJ and Paul Knighton all staying involved in the coaching team, and with the squad growing in both size and experience, it promises to be a very exciting season ahead. I am sure there will be reports from other sections of the club as the evening progresses, so I will let them tell their own stories.

Tournaments, events and fundraising

The club has hosted several very successful tournaments this season. These events have been well run and well received by all the guests who attended. We can only continue to build on these successes with the help of volunteers.

When there are not enough volunteers, events become stressful for the organisers and very hard work for the small number of people who do step forward. It does not take much time or effort from each individual to make a huge difference to the success of tournaments and other fundraising events held at the club.

I urge everyone to spread the word and encourage parents and carers to get involved and help share the load. Ultimately, that support helps the club provide better experiences for all players.

Adapting to the future of rugby

The game, and the wider world of rugby, is changing rapidly. Senior sides across the country are struggling for numbers and the number of teams is reducing. At the same time, junior and mini numbers are growing quickly across both the girls' and boys' sections, and women's rugby is continuing to grow and strengthen nationwide.

This is fantastic to see, but it also means that Ashford must keep up and adapt to the new challenges facing rugby. These include:

- Changing rooms
- Pitches and training facilities
- Coaching capacity
- Player welfare

- Kit and equipment
- Space and time for a growing number of teams

All of this can be achieved, but it becomes much easier when we pull together in the same direction. With so many teams now needing space, support and organisation, it is vital that we help each other, bring solutions rather than problems, and offer ideas rather than gripes.

Respecting our volunteers

Every volunteer at the club has other responsibilities outside rugby — family, work, social commitments and everything else life brings. They cannot always be expected to respond instantly to every club issue or situation.

I ask everyone to respect that and show a little patience before calling someone out in a chat or demanding immediate answers. We all do our best, but we are not experts in every area and sometimes checks or advice are needed before a proper response can be given. And yes — we are all human, so mistakes will happen from time to time.

Several of our members received volunteer awards this season which is a huge achievement for them and a great honour for this club to have them on board

From Kent

Aaron sage (salad)

Issey

Tony wood

And Vicky Norman won the volunteer of the year from the loose heads charity.

Finance	30-Jun-2026	Roger Spicer
As the membership has been informed, unfortunately our Treasurer has been unexpectedly out of the country for the last few weeks, working in Australia. As such, he has been unable to dedicate the time required to work with our accountants to finalise last year's accounts. What is outstanding is fairly fine detail regarding transactions, but it means we are unable to produce a final set of accounts for this meeting. It was decided to go ahead with the AGM to discuss and resolve other matters, and to then call a Special General Meeting to specifically present the accounts later in the summer/start of next season.		

Chair's Report	30-Jun-2026	Roger Spicer
The Chair thanked the other members of the committee for their work during the past 12 months as well as Simon Hall for his contribution to the club. The Chair explained the various discussions that had been taking place over the 3G pitch and that whole of Ashford RFC sat on a flood zone so made any planning decision very difficult. He explained that discussions were still ongoing with the football foundation and Ashford Borough Council and we were hoping for a meeting with all parties at some point in July. The estimated cost was around £1.1m but if the club wanted a full-size pitch this would be £ 1.4m, although football foundation would not fund this additional cost. The Chair explained that there had been a large amount of expense in the current year on likes of electrics in club, which had been condemned and included a rewire of all the flood lights. There had also been unexpected cost on the shutters which had fallen off the wall as well as ongoing issues with the water supply to the showers. At the start of the year the club had to purchase all the kitchen equipment, although we were now taking 15% of all sales through the kitchen which is increasing to 17.5% from September. The kitchen will also be starting a café on 1st September from which we would also take 17.5%. Whilst the committee had chosen not to increase membership fees for the coming season the Chair pointed out that membership across the club is not enough to finance the club for a season and so it was key that we continue to find sponsorship and other donations to operate. Grant Wilson: Happy to report that this has been the best season regarding discipline for many years, with no senior red cards across the club. Ells Cole: Why have the VP lunches been set before we know ladies fixtures? RS – VP lunch dates have been set, but other pre-match lunches will be organised for the season. From floor: There are lots of grants available that the club could apply for – should there not be a team set up to look at these and apply? RS – Lara is taking this role on, but the more people involved the better. Rob Miller: Has the area for a potential 3g pitch been assigned? RS – not yet. Ollie Jones: Could the 3g go on the carpark? RS – all options are possible, but obviously were w to do that we would need to find parking elsewhere on the site. Jack Burdon: Could the 1st XV play matches on the 3g? RS – No, but it would be used for training. Dan Brown: How much would the club have to raise for the 3g? RS – Roughly a third of the cost.		

From floor: The calendar is not accessible from a phone. RS – We'll look into that.

From floor: Should we set up a volunteer committee? RS – Yes, great idea.

From floor: Should we go to a charity-based status? RS – The club is already a CASC. We could potentially look at setting up a foundation.

Games

30-Jun-2026

Chris Dengage

Thank everyone for coming.

I clearly recognise that community rugby is only possible because of volunteers. Tonight isn't simply a review of last season—it is about the direction of the club.

“Success isn't measured by one season. It's measured by the foundations we leave for the next generation.”

Reflecting on the season there has been progress across the whole club. As ever, difficult decisions need to be made which is never easy, but overall, I believe the governance is better, the communication is better and we have a stronger coaching structure.

Generally as a club we need to look beyond individual teams and have the clear message that we're building a rugby club, not just rugby teams. We need to behave as one club, including mini rugby, junior rugby, girls, colts, women, men, walking rugby, touch rugby, masters – everyone belongs to one rugby family.

We now have a number of clear player pathways, with girls and boys academies into senior rugby, as a strategy for retaining teenagers. Next season the focus will be on coach development and CPD, and importantly sharing of ideas, and using a consistent game model. We will also introduce a women's report to give that section more representation.

Our facilities are clearly an issue during sustained periods of wet weather, and one of our key challenges as a growing club with growing demand. We need to aim to have facilities to match the club's ambition and considerable work is going on behind the scenes to see how we can achieve this.

I'd also like to thank all of the volunteers at the club, and to especially point out George Shepherd, Martin Worthington, Aran Sage, Elle Cole, Tim Scrivens, the men's coaches, Women's coaches, Mini &

Junior coaches, the Committee, parents, sponsors, grounds team, bar staff, kitchen volunteers and everyone else who gives up their time.

Looking forward, our ambition is to become one of Kent's leading community rugby clubs, not through money or luck, but through culture, coaching, volunteers and through player experience.

I will finish off by leaving everyone with a challenge. Tonight, I'm asking every member to leave with one question in their mind...

What can I do this year to make Ashford Rugby Club even better?

Because if every one of us answers that question with action rather than words, there is no limit to what this club can achieve. The future of Ashford Rugby Club isn't built by one committee, one coach or one Director of Rugby. It is built by all of us. Let's build it together.

Thank you.

100 Club	30-Jun-2026	Mark Bowes
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The 100 club currently has 71 active members, which is a little down on last year. Over the past year it has paid out £1,100 in hardship funds, £5,500 to upgrade the showers, £5,000 for the electrics, as well as purchasing the junior trophies, which comes to a total of £13,000. At the end of May the balance in the fund stood at £12,292.

From the floor: Can someone send out a link to sign up to the 100 club? MB – Chris Logan can make the form digital and send out.

Sponsorship	30-Jun-2026	Ben Fewsdale
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No report.

Election of Committee	30-Jun-2026	Roger Spicer
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The following people were appointed to committee posts, having been nominated, proposed and seconded and no other nominations being received.

President (2 year term) - John Norman

Honorary Secretary – Charlie Vavasour

Honorary Treasurer – Jamie Booth-Wilde

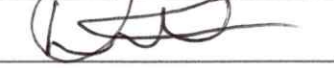
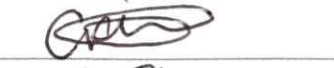
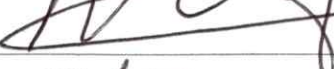
Vice Chair – Ollie Jones

Commercial Director – Ben Fewsdale

Discipline Manager – Grant Wilson

Clubhouse Manager - Vacant		
Awards	30-Jun-2026	John Norman
Jim White cup for the player who has contributed most on and off the field this year. Nominations from the floor wer Aran Sage and Tony Wood. Tony Wood was awarded the Jim White Cup. Arthur Munday bowl – John Heaver, Chris Logan and Kelly were nominated. The Arthur Munday bowl was awarded to John Heaver.		
AoB	30-Jun-2026	Roger Spicer
Mark Bowes – the communication around the AGM was not good enough. RS – the Notice went out on social channels, through Teamo and on the website. Dan Brown – did the figures provided include 100 club spending? - RS – Yes. Aran Sage – where are we with holding a club day to improve things ? RS – we will pick a date to do that. We can also put a form out on WhatsApp to identify skills within members. George Shepherd – Can we also put a whiteboard up for jobs that need doing? RS – yes. Rob Miller – can we draw water out of the river for the pitches? CD – yes, but there is a large cost associated. With no further business, the AGM closed at 8.10pm.		

ARFC AGM 2025/2026

Sign	Print
	JOHN NORMAN
	Sealed
	C. VASSOUR
	Elly Cole
	Rob Jones
	LARA OLDFIELD
	MICHAEL JAMES
	Emma Partington
	CHRIS LOGAN
	Claire Elly
	DARREN RANSLEY
	J. HOWES
	S. HALL
	MIKE JUDEEN
	Rob Miller
	PAUL BARR
	MARC MAXFIELD
	EMMA FUNNELL
	GRANT WILSON
	Minky Meade
	Tareja
	Leon Le Roux

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