



Sittingbourne RUFC

Est 1976

*Gore Court Cricket Club, The Grove, Key Street,
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1YT*

SRUFC COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 24 August 2026 on Teams

Attending:

Steve Jeffery (Chair), Dave Hicks (President), Natasha Jeffery (Secretary), Chloe Tyler, Deane Gaunt, James Fassensfelt, Al Sharman, Kelly Miller, Martin Clark, Chris Nutley, David Hall, Simon Fudge, Gary Miller,

Apologies:

Luc Jeffery, Lucy Davies

Recruitment & Membership

Recruitment activity continues to be positive, with the T1 sessions attracting a number of new youth and adult players, including potential female recruits through school links. The committee agreed that recruitment remains a priority heading into the new season. The Bring-a-Buddy initiative remains a key focus. Rather than producing printed leaflets, the preferred approach will be targeted social media promotion and QR-code registration to maximise reach and engagement.

The committee also agreed in principle to introduce a dedicated women's membership option at approximately half the standard senior membership rate to support continued growth of the women's section.

Coaching & RFU Compliance

A significant concern was raised regarding coach compliance.

Currently, only 2 of 29 coaches have achieved the RFU minimum coaching standards required for the season. A dedicated Teams session will be arranged to help coaches complete the required learning and accreditation modules.

The committee supported linking coaching allocations to completion of minimum standards to ensure compliance and player safety.

In addition, concerns were raised regarding the level of coach attendance at committee meetings, with limited representation from age-grade coaching groups across recent meetings.

Schools, Festivals & Community Development

Planning continues for the Year 5/6 Festival and Year 3/4 Development Festival. School engagement has been positive, although additional volunteers will be required to support the events effectively.

The club is also exploring opportunities around a Year 7/8 girls' rugby tournament as a potential recruitment pathway for girls' rugby. Discussions highlighted the need to identify additional volunteers and coaches to support future growth in this area.

Women's & Girls' Rugby

The women's section continues to make encouraging progress.

Key updates include:



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Increasing playing numbers and improved player commitment.
Progress on sponsorship discussions for women's kit.
Planning for upcoming development events and fixtures.
Ongoing work to establish sustainable membership and funding arrangements.
The committee remains committed to supporting further growth within both the women's and girls' game.

Equipment & Operations

Updates included:

New rugby balls issued to age groups.

First aid kits being replenished.

Storage and container improvements underway.

Existing stock of club shirts and kit available for resale, with a pop-up sales approach being considered.

A further review of club equipment, including gazebos and storage assets, will be completed before the start of the season.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding structure is now in place with safeguarding officers confirmed and training completed. A dedicated safeguarding contact number and updated promotional material are being prepared.

Safeguarding remains a key priority for the club and all relevant compliance activities continue to be monitored.

Club Development & New Clubhouse

The committee discussed the ongoing new clubhouse project and expressed concern regarding the lack of recent progress updates.

While the project remains strategically important to the club's future growth, there are increasing concerns around timelines and communication from developers. Further engagement will take place to obtain greater clarity on delivery dates and next steps.

Volunteer Recruitment

Several important volunteer positions still require support, including:

First Aid Lead

Equipment Manager

Sponsorship Coordinator

Girls Rugby Coordinator

Additional event and festival volunteers

If you, or someone you know, can assist in any of these areas, please get in touch.

Key Priorities Before Season Start

- Increase coach compliance with RFU learning requirements.
- Deliver successful Bring-a-Buddy recruitment activities.



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- Secure additional volunteers for club operations and events.
- Continue growth of the women's and girls' sections.
- Obtain greater clarity on new clubhouse delivery timelines.
- Ensure all safeguarding, first aid and operational requirements are fully in place.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support and commitment to the club. We look forward to an exciting and successful season ahead.

Next Meeting

Monday 21 September 2026 8pm at Club.