

MINUTES OF A FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING HELD AT THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 1500 HOURS ON TUESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025

In the Chair: Robert Quain, Hon Treasurer
& John Poyner, Commodore
Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
Nick Bradley, Rear Commodore Sailing

Apologies:
Janet Pitman, Accounts Administrator
In Attendance:
Claire Hallett, Secretary

55/25 Apologies As specified above.

56/25 Approval of the Minutes from 8th August 2025 Meeting. Approved.

57/25 Financial Matters Arising

South Sheds. The refurbishment of the south sheds is almost finished. The electrics will be connected by G Electrical on 8th October. The final delivery of concrete for the floor of the old workshop will be delivered in the next day or two so the builders (Ben Denyer & Michael Pope) will have completed their work at the end of this week. The projected overall build cost is approximately £55k. The specification had to change due to the additional concrete required, an additional channel being needed to be dug, plus the lighting and electrics. It was noted that commando power sockets have been installed so it would be advisable for the Y Class to purchase their own adaptors rather than have to borrow the Club's. All nine bays have now been taken up by the Y Class boats. The Vice Commodore's Committee will recommend to the GC that cars should only be permitted to park in the nine spaces in front of the south sheds all year round, rather than actually in the sheds, and that the three long term parking permits still in existence should be rescinded with six months' notice. These measures will ensure that all members have equal access to the same parking facilities. The [Hon. Treasurer advised that if occupancy of the south sheds is charged to include VAT then the Club should be able to claim back the VAT for the refurbishment in full, which he will be pushing Harrison Black to sign off on.](#)

Hon T

Eco Screw Moorings. Reliability is a big issue given the strength of our tides, plus the big upfront cost. Additionally, the eco argument is not as strong for the Club as the current moorings don't have individual chains that sweep the seabed damaging sea grass. It was agreed to revisit the matter in twelve months' time. [The Club Secretary advised that the Head Boatman has a proposal for the revision of the moorings layout, which should save the Club money, this proposal will be shared via email post meeting for the Officers' consideration.](#)

All

58/25 Report from the Hon Treasurer

July & August Results. July and August were both very good months and as a result the turnovers for the bar and catering are both well ahead of budget and last year. Seasonal staffing costs for the year to date are almost £9k over budget, although total house staff costs are £7k over budget and £3k up on last year. To finish on a net profit for the YTD of £17k at the end of August is a phenomenal result, against a budget of £2k and compared to a net loss of £3.5k at the same point last year. The cash flow is £276k compared to £299 last year. The Boat Fund is at £25k having been topped up with £12.5k from general funds.

Folkboat Week. The 60th Anniversary Folkboat Week was very successful and contributed more revenue than last year. Fifty-four boats entered and there were more attendees at the social events, due in part to the anniversary and also to the Walcon Cup. A Folkboat Week washup meeting will be held on 6th October, plus the Club Secretary and Sailing Secretary have a meeting with the Deputy Harbour Master regarding moorings in advance of this. RCH commented that 403 meals were served by the Club over 4 days. It was acknowledged that David and Teresa Fox were very enthusiastic, and their efforts are appreciated by the Folkboaters.

59/25 Financial Points for Discussion

Subscriptions 2026. Last year's subscription increase was 3.5%, based on the CPI being 3.8% at the end of August, it was suggested that the same increase be applied for 2026. There was some discussion about merging the ten 'D' category bands into two bands with lower subscriptions in order to incentivise the younger age groups. This would be analysed in more detail post meeting.

Registration Fee. Based on the recent RPI rates (July's having been released on 20th August), the VC has calculated the RPI rate to be about 4.7%, taking a mean average from Aug 24 to end of July 25. Therefore,

based on rule 21.2 (10% increase + RPI increase at 4.7% = 14.7%) and the current percentages split to the refurbishment fund and payment card account, the proposed increases to the registration fees which will be proposed to the GC by the VC are as follows:

MEMBER TYPE	CURRENT REG FEE	PROPOSED REG FEE	TO REFURB FUND	TO PAY. CARD ACCOUNT
SINGLE	£150	£170	£55 (33%)	£115 (67%)
COUPLE	£150	£170	£85 (50%)	£85 (50%)
RE-INSTATEMENT / ACCOUNT ADDITION	£50	£55	£55 (100%)	-

60/25 Administrative Matters Arising

New Website. The Club Secretary reported that progress with the new website is ongoing, with just the booking system to be tweaked.

Crown Estate Agreement. RCS advised that the Crown Estate Agreement has finally been signed, sealed and delivered.

61/25 Administrative Points for Discussion

Solent Lottery. The VC highlighted that the GC needed to nominate a Promoter for the Solent Lottery, ideally someone independent. *The matter is not immediately pressing so would be discussed at the next VCC meeting.*

Corral Roof. *Once the two bots have been taken away next week and Solent RIB is hauled out and in the corner store, the remaining space and the items that need stowing under cover will be assessed.*

Sailing Fee. The Club Secretary questioned whether members should pay a nominal fee to race in the WER Series and other free sailing events, as they do in other Clubs, to help cover the costs of providing sailing (Club boats, fuel, sailing staff, CRO, moorings etc). The general feeling is that this is not appropriate as the sailors spend a lot of money in the bar and at sailing related dinners. However, it was felt that there are too many sailing events in the sailing programme. *Further analysis is required.*

Club Name on North Side. A conversation with Ian Laing is still needed.

GC Vacancies. Four of the current eight GC members are stepping down in April having served the maximum four years (Peter Crowhurst, Katie Davies, Catherine Holmes and Lesley Tregear). This leaves a minimum of two places and maximum of five places. It was felt that six on the GC was sufficient in addition to the four Officers and four Guardians. The Hon. Treasurer suggested Phillip Instone, who is a director of a financial planning business. Steve Carson and David Fox were also suggested as enthusiastic and willing members. *The Commodore will follow up on the matter.*

Laying Up Awards. A number of potential candidates were put forward for awards:

- David & Teresa Fox - joint award for efforts with Folkboat Week.
- Rod Angel – volunteer boatman
- Tony Williams – volunteer boatman
- Mark Hall

62/25 AOB

2026 Budget Meetings. Confirmed at 1030 hours on Friday 14th November and, if a second meeting is required, 1600 hours on Thursday 20th November.

RYB & Wight Marine. The current three year agreement with River Yar Boatyard and Wight Marine is up for renewal in mid October, RCS, Richard Pierrepont, the Head Boatman and Club Secretary are meeting Jen Allen on 3rd October with the intention of negotiating a new agreement. Jen Allen shared the following news with the Club Secretary this morning:

“River Yar Boatyard Ltd is pleased to announce the acquisition of Wight Marine Ltd, effective immediately. This strategic move is designed to strengthen operational links between the two companies and enhance the overall level of service offered to customers.

Both companies share a long-standing commitment to providing quality marine products and services, and by bringing Wight Marine Ltd under the River Yar Boatyard umbrella, will allow greater collaboration, efficiency, and investment in the future.

VC


Sec,
Boatman

RCS,
Sail Sec

Com

In the short term, very little will change from a customer perspective. Day-to-day operations at Wight Marine will continue as usual, with the same trusted team and services in place. The acquisition ensures a seamless transition while laying the groundwork for service improvements over time.”

63/25 Date of Next F&A Meeting: 31st October 2025 at 1500 hours


31/10/25.

