

MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

In the Chair:
Martyn Collinson, Commodore
Graham Fell, Vice Commodore
John Poyner, Rear Commodore House
Nick Bradley, Rear Commodore Sailing
Robert Quain, Hon Treasurer
Susie Breare
Katie Davies
Catherine Holmes

Tom Symes (Zoom)
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas
Mark Lacey (Zoom)
Richard Pierrepont
Apologies:
Peter Crowhurst
Lesley Tregear
Hamish Fletcher, Guardian

In Attendance:
Claire Hallett, Secretary
Dick Dawson, Guardian
Mark Hall, Guardian

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Commodore asked GC members to stand to observe a minute's silence for member Major John Burgess who had sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

12/24 Apologies As listed above.

13/24 Approval of Minutes from 25th January 2024 Meeting The minutes were approved as a true record.

14/24 Matters Arising

Club Patron. The Commodore stated that given the current situation with the Royal family, this will be re-visited in 2 or 3 months time.

15/24 Commodore's Update

South Sheds Project. This is going well, members have until the end of the month to come back with their ideas and thoughts on the proposal document and any alternative suggestions. Ideas received to date include a gym and accommodation. It's hard to compete with the brand new hi-tech gym at nearby Norton Grange, so they are being approached regarding a discount for RSYC members instead. The Commodore spoke to the Secretary at Island Sailing Club about accommodation. They have a different situation in that they are making use of existing buildings. Initially it was used as crew accommodation, then for members and non-members (mostly non members), now it's on Air B&B. There are two teams to do the cleaning and administration. It was advised that any accommodation would need a separate entrance from the street otherwise there will be non members walking around the Club's premises. The Commodore felt that the advice given indicated that accommodation would not be viable. Katie Davies questioned why a separate entrance would be needed and suggested that guests could pay to park in the car park in the winter when it was quiet. Susie Breare stated that there are a lot of Air B&Bs in Yarmouth already which caused her to stop doing it as she wasn't making any money. The Commodore added that this option would have a very long return on capital and that a full update will be in the report. Different quotations were being obtained for options.

Directorships. The Commodore asked the GC whether they felt that all members of the GC should be directors, or whether it should only be the Flag Officers as it had been suggested to him that it might put off members joining the GC? The general response was that only having the flag Officers would narrow down the decision making too much. Katie Davies added that she had not initially been aware that she would become a director when she joined the GC. The Commodore responded that it was very clear in the GC Terms of Reference. RCS advised that it was necessary to ensure that director obligations are shared in advance with potential GC members as they are quite extensive. [The Commodore said that he would draw up a list and circulate it.](#)

Succession Planning. The Commodore reminded all present about the importance of succession planning, which should be a key objective for this year – [everyone should be thinking now about who could take over from them. Input from everyone in relation to all key positions would be very useful.](#)

Richard Pierrepont asked whether succession planning was a function of the VC's Committee? The VC responded that it wasn't in the VCC Terms of Reference, but could be added. The Commodore responded that it was everyone's responsibility to provide input, even if it ends up with the VCC to document.

16/24 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

January Results. The Club was open for 2 weeks in January as usual and results are well ahead of budget, although it wasn't a challenging budget. The Bar's turnover is up by £393, but catering has come in very strongly £4k over budget. The GPM has dropped slightly. This was anticipated as a result of the winter warmer offer which

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was introduced due to the sensitivity about pricing. The Hon. Treasurer will monitor the situation as the continuation of a strong Catering turnover means that a reduction in the GPM isn't an issue, what's important is getting people to come and eat at the Club. January and February are traditionally months where the Club loses money, but this year less has been lost than was budgeted. There is a big intake of funds in January due to the income from subscription renewals. The total funds in the bank at the end of January are at £360k. [Permanent staff costs are much lower than budget and the Hon. Treasurer is looking into the reasons behind this.](#) In summary, results are currently on track and February is already looking ahead of budget.

Mark Hall queried the subscription income for January and the Hon. Treasurer explained that total income is spread across 12 months, in the way that the Club's costs are. Additionally, some members pay on a quarterly or monthly basis rather than annually.

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17/24 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. There are 3 applications for 3 prospective members this month:

Applicant	Proposer	Seconder
1. Jonny Geikie-Cobb	Andrew Clarke	Nicola Dyson
2. Lucinda Geikie-Cobb	Andrew Clarke	Nicola Dyson
3. Ian Rylatt	Philip Keen	John Gallimore

The Vice Commodore's Committee recommends all for approval to the GC, all present approved all the membership applications.

Rules & Bye-law Review. In advance of the meeting, the VC had emailed out the amendments to the Club's Rules and Bye-laws proposed by the Vice Commodore's Committee, plus comments received from Hamish Fletcher who has given his apologies for the meeting. With regards to bye-law B 12.2, all present agreed that the entire list of characteristics cited from the Equality Act 2010 should be reduced to a few examples (age, race and sexual orientation) as they are liable to change in the future. With regards to B 12.4, it was agreed that, as with any establishment serving alcohol, the Club had no responsibility for any person who may drink and drive so the reference to drink driving should be removed accordingly and replaced with a reference to inappropriate conduct which is more general and takes the onus off the Club. Mark Hall referenced a past case where a member had tried to sue the Club when e was refused a drink. The VC responded that the Club now has a Premises Licence which means the bar staff have a duty not to serve anyone who is drunk. The VC added that the addition to the Car Park Bye-laws B 14 had come about following an incident that had occurred and was witnessed in the car park, but hadn't been reported.

The VC stated that the Club's byelaws may be amended at any time by the GC, [all present approved the proposed amendments detailed below:](#)

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B 12 CONDUCT

Previous:

B 12 Members are expected to behave correctly and courteously at all times, particularly towards members of staff. Rudeness or aggressive behaviour towards staff will not be tolerated.

Amended:

B 12.1 Members, visitors and guests are expected to behave correctly and courteously at all times.

B 12.2 The Royal Solent Yacht Club is committed to equal opportunities and diversity, as an employer and within its membership. Discrimination, harassment or rudeness towards Members, non-Members or staff based on (for example) age, race or sexual orientation will not be tolerated and constitutes a breach of B 12.1.

B 12.3 Members, visitors and guests must ensure that whilst on Club premises the drink responsibly and within the law.

B 12.4 The bartender on duty (or other member of the hospitality staff) may refuse to supply alcohol to any person who is believed to be drunk or whose conduct is otherwise inappropriate.

B 14 CAR PARK

Previous:

B 14.8 Vehicles are parked entirely at owner's risk.

Amended:

B 14.8a Vehicles are parked entirely at owner's risk.

B 14.8b Anyone using the Club's car park must report any damage that is caused by them to another vehicle or other property whilst using the Club car park to a member of staff as soon as is practicable.

The VCC had also proposed a number of rule changes. Rule 20.11 states that there must be 2 clear days between an application and approval for membership, which was relevant when the Club held a Club Premises Certificate but is no longer relevant under the Club's current Premises Licence. Plus, the Club has separate rules which cover the membership applications process.

Rule 26.2 is also no longer relevant as the Club's current Premises Licence doesn't restrict the number of functions that can be held per year.

Rule 20.1, Note 6 requires updating to clarify club administration and the new application of a lesser registration fee to new members joining an existing membership account.

The following rule changes were approved by those present and will therefore be proposed to the membership at the AGM:

RULE 20 CLASSES AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Rule 20.1, Note 6 – Current wording:

A Registration Fee is additionally payable in respect of each new Member. In the case of a couple or family joining, only one Registration Fee is payable. A Registration Fee will not normally be required for ex-members seeking reinstatement. Each new membership account will be issued with a Club Payment Card. Normally the full amount of the Registration Fee will be credited to this Club Payment Card but this arrangement may be altered by the General Committee.

Rule 20.1, Note 6 – Proposed wording:

As defined on the Membership Application Form, a Registration Fee is additionally payable in respect of each new Member **aged 18 or over**. In the case of a couple or family joining **at the same time**, only one Registration Fee is payable. A **lesser** Registration Fee **may** be required for ex-Members seeking re-instatement **or for new or ex-Members joining an existing membership account**. Each new membership account will be issued with a Club Payment Card. Normally the full amount of the Registration Fee will be credited to this Club Payment Card, but this arrangement may be altered by the General Committee.

Rationale: The proposed changes aim to encourage junior membership, clarify that couples and families joining at the same time will pay only one registration fee, clarify that a lesser registration fee may be required for ex-Members seeking reinstatement and for new or ex-Members joining an existing membership account.

RULE 20 CLASSES AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Rule 20.11 – Current wording:

Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in these Rules, persons may not be elected to membership, or be admitted as candidates for any class of membership or to any privileges of membership, without an interval of at least two clear days between their nomination or application for membership and their election to membership.

Rule 20.11 – Proposal:

It is proposed by the General Committee that this rule is removed.

Rationale: This rule was a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 when the Club held a Club Premises Certificate, but as this has now been replaced by a Premises Licence it is no longer applicable. Rule 20.9 deals with the term required between the nomination/application and election of a member.

RULE 26 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Rule 26.2 – Current wording:

The number of social functions to which such persons are admitted, and at which intoxicating liquor is sold to such persons, shall not exceed twelve or such higher number as may be permitted by licensing laws and the terms of the Club's liquor licences from time to time.

Rule 26.2 – Proposal:

It is proposed by the General Committee that this rule is removed.

Rationale: This rule was a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 when the Club held a Club Premises Certificate, but as this has now been replaced by a Premises Licence it is no longer applicable.

Achelous Trial. Peter Crowhurst is still in discussions with Achelous regarding a trial, which is expected to happen by the end of March.

Reciprocal Clubs. The VCC is recommending that the GC approves the Little Ship Club's request for full reciprocity, which will negate the need for a letter of introduction. It's a very nice club whose clubhouse is conveniently located in the middle of the City in Upper Thames Street and they have a limited number of 2 berth cabins at £80 per night. All present agreed with the recommendation. The Royal Solent is hosting a dinner for the Little Ship Club in March at which a burgee exchange will take place and to which our Commodore and Vice Commodore are invited.

18/24 Update from Rear Commodore House

As the turnover shows, the Club has been busy. A Quiz & Curry Night was held the first Saturday the Club opened in January and had 27 attendees and good feedback. The Burns Night Dinner had 31 attendees. The first John Doerr Talk & Supper on 2nd February had 17 attendees. Forty came to the First Wednesday Talk on art restoration and 50 stayed for lunch. The first film night 'Our Souls at Night' attracted 20 attendees though received mixed reviews. Beijing Bingo on 10th February was a real riot and Matt Whale was very good as the bingo caller. Numbers were down for the Gents' Lunch at 23, but the feedback was good – the lamb was superb. There was a very successful Louis Jadot Wine Society with 52 attendees, Mark Calver of Hatch Mansfield was very informative. Upcoming events include the next First Wednesday Talk by Talan Skeels-Piggins, who is a Double World Champion, European Champion and Winter Paralympian. The next Film Night will feature 'The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society', which is a great film. There's another Wine Society on 21st March and a Boat Jumble on 30th March, which is £10 a table. The House Committee had received a request from the XOD Class via Mark Lacey to hold a dog show at the Club, but it was suggested that The Towers would be a more appropriate location as there's sufficient enclosed space there.

19/24 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing Update. The Sailing Instructions for this year are being finalised, with only one substantial change planned. Next year will see more changes as the Racing Rules of Sailing will change in 2025. In our SIs, the exclusion zone of the last two years is being removed. It was put in place as a result of one member and following discussions with the XOD and YOD classes there is broad agreement that is wasn't working and needs to go. The Rules talk on 8th March will stress the risks of racing between moored boats.

The classes 1 & 2 AGM resulted in the addition of 3 long races to their programme. The YOD AGM didn't result in any massive changes.

David Porter's cruising programme gets underway with the Start of Season Cruising Lunch on 29th February. The RSYC Contessa Regatta takes place at the end of May, beginning of June and the Notice of Race is currently being finalised. A recent meeting was held with Jeremy Rogers Ltd and they have offered to fund a Rum Punch Party on the Saturday night.

The Commodore added that he is aiming to arrange for the whole weekend to be filmed.

Club Boats. The boatmen are working hard and are on track to launch on time, with the RIB going back in the water on 4th March and Marksman on 17th April. There have been unexpected but necessary costs for repairs to Marksman as the jet unit was found to be badly corroded, however it is repairable. Richard Pierrepont has been helpful in providing advice. In addition, the jet unit is susceptible to weed intake so a rake system has been purchased to prevent intake and means that the boatmen don't have to jump overboard to clear it any more.

Tetradocks. The proposal to install Tetradocks at the end of the jetty is on hold at the moment. The application for a lawful development certificate failed so the installation would need planning permission which the AONB has indicated it would oppose. There has been no detailed proposal put to the GC yet, but a lot of thought has gone into it, on which basis the lawful development certificate was sought. In the meantime there may be options to explore, such as installing one Tetradock, the donor may or may not still be willing to be involved.

Sponsorship. The Y Class has now agreed to sponsor racing mark 7 in memory of Adam Harding-Domeney.

20/24 Secretary's Points

Membership Statistics. The membership is currently at 1052 members, compared to 1029 at the end of February last year. There have been 8 new members to date, which is down on the 14 at the same point last year. Resignations are very similar in spite of the increase in subscription fees – 54 compared to 53 last year.

Staffing Update. A potential Second Chef, Jon, is coming for a trial on Thursday so fingers crossed as he's local and very experienced, having been a Chef since 2000. There have been 10 applications for the bartender role so the Club steward will be interviewing soon. Matt Whale will be leaving after Easter to pursue a teaching role but will be back to work here during the holidays.

Magazine. The new RSYC 2024 magazine is coming along very well and going to the printers on 4th March so copies will be available to collect from around the Clubhouse the following Wednesday.

21/24 AOB

Deposit Account. The £100k investment in a Lloyds deposit account with 4% interest has now matured and earned an interest of £3k. This has been rolled over for another 6 months with £1.7k interest in this time at 3.5%.

Audit. Harrison Black are currently carrying out the annual audit and the Hon. Treasurer, Accounts Administrator and Secretary will be meeting with them on 7th March. The audited accounts will be available soon after.

22/24 Next Meeting Thursday 28th March 2024 at 1700 hours