

MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER 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

Richard Pierrepont
Sarah Turvill

Apologies:
Peter Crowhurst
Mark Lacey
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas
Lesley Tregear

In Attendance:

Dick Dawson, Guardian
Hamish Fletcher, Guardian
Mark Hall, Guardian
Tony Walton, Guardian
Claire Hallett, Secretary

88/24 Apologies As listed above.

89/24 Approval of Minutes from 26th September 2024 Meeting The minutes were approved as a true record.

90/24 Matters Arising Covered by agenda points.

91/24 Commodore's Update

Changes to the GC. The Commodore welcomed Sarah to the General Committee and Tony as a Guardian. Sarah has been co-opted on to the GC and will stand for election at the AGM in April. [The Commodore asked those who have served for 3 years to consider and confirm whether they would like to serve a 4th year from next April. This applies to Peter Crowhurst, Katie Davies, Catherine Holmes and Lesley Tregear.](#)

Hon. Membership for Local MP. In the GC meeting on 2nd August the GC agreed that honorary membership should no longer be offered to the local MP as it's a practice that is out of date and could be construed as patronage. The Guardians subsequently felt that this decision should be reviewed and expressed their reasoning in a note circulated to the GC in advance of this meeting. The key reasons being the help that the local MP might provide in lobbying on the Club's behalf in matters such as the MCZs and also the unfortunate timing; it could be viewed as political bias towards the new Labour MP. The VC stressed that there had been no negative comments about the MP as a person or his politics during the discussions by the Vice Commodore's Committee and General Committee. Historically, the Club has awarded honorary membership to the local MP for 50 years whatever their politics. It's not illegal for the Club to offer Honorary Membership nor for the MP to accept such, however, the MP would have to declare it the MP's Register of Interests. There has been some recent bad press regarding IOW yacht Clubs offering Honorary Membership to the previous IOW MP, and MPs' receipt of gifts generally. [The Commodore asked those present if the Club should continue to offer honorary membership to the local MP and the resulting show of hands was in favour of doing so.](#) The Vice Commodore thanked the Guardians for raising the matter.

Bank House. The last email from the Club to the Mandevilles acknowledged that they are entitled to apply the property for any use that is permitted by law, but highlighted that it's not legal to use the right of way excessively. [A further meeting with the Mandevilles is planned in November to hopefully thrash out an agreement.](#) The Commodore sincerely thanked Rudi Fortson and Tom Symes who have been hugely helpful with their brilliant expertise.

South Sheds. RCH advised that the builders have now completed phase 1a of the south sheds, which was to rebuild the gable end, which has shown how the sheds have tilted sideways to the north. This has come in at £3.1k, so well within the budget. The builders will be available to return from mid January to lay the footings for the whole wall and install a ridge beam with support columns, which should still come in on budget. The subsequent bays will require structural engineering input as they only have one back wall. A steel, rather than wood, frame may be required to increase the width of each bay to just over 5m. A bigger cross beam may also be needed. There are 3 layers of felt of the current roof which is creating too much weight, so the sheds will need to be reroofed at some point. Once the corner shed is completed it will hopefully prove that the old workshop is no longer needed for storage. The objective for the bays is to create an open space for any usage. [All present agreed that the work on the corner shed should continue.](#)

Events. [All present were encouraged to attend the Laying Up Dinner and New Members' Evening.](#)

92/24 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

Com,
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Com,
VC,
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RCH

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September Results. The cash flow at the end of September is strong at £262k compared to £228k last year. The net profit for September is £578 against a budget of £774 and is therefore getting back on track. The year to date net loss hasn't changed much from last month, so we are within the bounds of achieving the budget or getting close to it. However, we need to be aware of costs as some are loaded towards the end of the year though they may not get called in. The outlook is still optimistic with regards to being on budget by the end of the year with an operational surplus. The monthly Bar turnover is lower than budget, whilst Catering is on budget and year to date margins are holding up well. The subscriptions income is where you'd expect it to be at this time of year. [Planning for the 2025 budget will start after the Government's Autumn Budget on 31st October, with a view to sharing it with the GC at the November meeting.](#)

HonT,
FOs,
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93/24 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. There are 4 applications for 4 prospective members this month:

Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1. Mrs Janine Dyer	Wybogina Dyer	Shaun Smith	Janine is Mrs Gina Dyer's daughter and married to Shaun Smith. She lives in Yarmouth. Joining primarily to assist her mother in the Club and a keen sailor.
2. Mr Rupert Raymond	Susie Breare	Christina Raymond	Rupert's main address is Hindhead. He is a naval architect. Has a motorboat 'Maverick' moored at Swanwick. Interested in racing, crewing, motorboat training, boat shed/mooring and onshore activities. A <u>former member</u> from 01/01/1989 – 01/01/2011. Son of Tina Raymond.
3. Mr Stephen Tovey	Peter Jennings	Adrian Bolton	Steve lives in Freshwater. He is an archivist for a housing corporation. Active member of Probus at RSYC. Keen sportsman, Capt. of the Seniors at Freshwater Bay Golf Club.
4. Mrs Savannah Hughes (Davies)	Katie Davies	Patrick Sellers	Savannah is married to Charlie Davies. Savannah & Charlie will join Katie & Gareth Davies account (parents of Charlie). Savannah lives in Chiswick and is a Strategy Consultant. She is interested in onshore activities.

[All the applicants are recommended to the GC by the VCC and there were no objections from the GC.](#)

The VC advised that he had created an Aide-mémoire to assist those interviewing prospective members, particularly on Open Days.

Maintenance Projects. Duncan Waite has now started work on the Members' Balcony/Hudleston Bar drainage issues. He has removed the old drainage channels and grating and cut out the surrounding slabs. Next week, extra outlet holes will be drilled and they will be sealing between the wall and the slabs and treating the brickwork. The timeline for the works, including the east staircase and woodwork repairs is estimated at 8 weeks.

Green Agenda. [Quotes for solar panels have now been received from three companies, and will be reviewed before coming back to the GC with a proposal.](#) These include installations on the roof of the workshop and clubhouse, for which the aesthetics will be considered, plus on the shed roofs in the future.

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Reciprocal Clubs. Reciprocity with the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club is now confirmed and [RCS will be visiting in December so will exchange burgees and take a photo for the Club magazine.](#) San Diego Yacht Club is yet to come back to us as the relevant employee has been away on leave.

VC,
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RCS

Rules Review. Rule 23 was invoked to deal with a member conduct issue earlier this year and was found not to flow as well as it could. [The VCC will review this rule, along with rule 20.7 regarding extended temporary membership for non-member volunteers, and rule 20.6 regarding honorary membership and its withdrawal by the GC.](#)

VC,
Sec

94/24 Update from Rear Commodore House

Past Events. Events at the Club in October have included the following:

- RAF YC Dinner – 27
- First Wednesday Talk & Lunch – 41 lunches
- RNLI Curry Night – 56
- Christchurch SC Dinner – 77
- Gent's Lunch – 26, which Jules Wood did a great job of chairing for the first time
- Film Night – 31
- Keyhaven & Lymington Town SC Dinner – 36
- Wildlife Talk & Walk by Hamish Fletcher – 33 lunches, very successful
- Paul Nicholson's Wake – 50
- Jazz Night – 36, very good
- Wine Society – 51, raised £576 for the air ambulance, always a popular event

Upcoming Events.

- 5th November – Fireworks Night Supper
- 6th November – First Wednesday Talk, Martin Woodward
- 9th September – Laying Up Dinner
- 13th September – Ladies' Lunch & Talk
- 14th November – Film Night: Wicked Little Letters
- 15th November – Gallagher Insurance Talk & Lunch
- 15th November – Recently Joined Members' Evening
- 21st November – Wine Society Tapas Night

RCH highlighted that moules and a club sandwich will now feature on the specials menu. Champagne by the glass is coming soon thanks to Mark Hall persuading Hatch Mansfield to lend us a Champagne Tower. The high end wines have been reduced in price to encourage sales, but how this has worked. The financial figures reflect the fact that we are still doing a huge amount of events with a minimal staffing, so thanks go to all the team. It's a challenging time for clubs at the moment – RORC recently cancelled a big event as they did not get enough interest. The Secretary added that she'd recently been contacted by the Hon. Treasurer of Chichester YC who were struggling to attract their members to eat and drink at the Club and whose members had cited the Royal Solent as the club to emulate. A recent IWCP article on the importance of sailing and sailing/yacht clubs to the Island socially and economically quoted the RYA as stating that less than 10% of clubs have over 1000 members now, so the RSYC is in that 10%. Mark Hall stressed that the Club's staff are key to the whole operation and need to be looked after.

95/24 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing Update. Since the last meeting, the Club held the Turkey Cup which was won by Harry Hall, with Claire Locke second. The Winter Series has started with 2 out of 3 races being run so far and 9 boats turning out which isn't bad. Last week's race was cancelled as it was too windy. The Isle of Wight Youth Championships were also held in conjunction with YSC. This involved 18 young sailors sailing 10 Lasers and 4 Fevas. It's good profile for us to be seen to be part of this as all the Island clubs are involved.

Cruising Update. The Cruising Group had a trip to the Master Builder's in Bucklers Hard on 22nd October.

Needles Relief. This year's Needles Relief Race takes place on Saturday 14th December. However, the Club is also be organising a separate event on Tuesday 10th December in conjunction with Lymington to commemorate the 30th anniversary since the lighthouse was automated. A flotilla of boats will voyage to the lighthouse in the morning accompanied by the Yarmouth RNLI lifeboat which will throw a Breeches Buoy across to the lighthouse (weather permitting). A lunch will then follow back at the Club.

John Doerr Talks. John Doerr is giving three talks on racing rules in January, February and April.

Harry's Rock. The location of Harry's Rock is once again marked by a buoy.

Countdown. The results of the independent survey approved by the GC have now been received, though more time is required to assess the report. In summary, Countdown is in a generally serviceable condition though immediate repairs are required this winter. A lot more money will need to be spent if we want her to continue for another 20 years. RCS recommends that the minimum is done at this stage. RCS and Richard Pierrepont are meeting Jamie Allen next week as it's getting late for the yard to schedule in any work this winter. It is estimated that the cost to get her in a seaworthy for the immediate future will be £8.5 to £10k. the cost for another 20 years

service is approximately £40k+. Another option is to sell Countdown and buy another boat, or a boat like 3Cs could be chartered in an emergency. The Club would need to find £16k for the works to replace the engine, even with the donation of a new engine. RCS stressed that it would be dangerous to rush into a decision and make the wrong one at this stage and recommends to the GC that we explore getting Countdown through the next season with the minimum spend possible, which is also the view of the Flag Officers. [All present approved this recommendation.](#)

Crown Estate Moorings. We have confirmed to Crown estate that we are willing to accept their best offer f a £100 fixed rate mooring fee, 5 yearly rental reviews and fees backdated to April 2024. It wasn't possible to negotiate this down any further. It has also been agreed that the next review of the moorings fee will be in 2030, not next year.

96/24 Secretary's Points

Membership Statistics. Total membership, not including those approved today, stands at 1,129 compared to 1,092 at the same point last year, which is an increase year on year of 37 members. New & re-instated members this year are 100 compared to 99 last year. There have been 61 resignations for the current year compared to 70 last year. Those resigning at the end of the year number 22, compared to 16 at the same point last year. The main reasons for resignations are low usage, sold boat or moved away, the feedback about the Club has always been positive to date. At the end of last year the membership was 1,098, which is the highest it has been since records began in 2005. After todays approvals the membership is 1,133 so already up 35 on the end of last year, which is very encouraging.

The average age of the membership is 61, compared to 60 in 2022, 58 in 2018 and 56 in 2015, so it is going up. The number of members with a main address on the Island is 63%, with 37% with a main address on the mainland or overseas.

New Website. The proposal to move the website to new provider Peripatus was agreed by the GC via email earlier this month. The final quote being £13k:

All costs ex vat	Est. Timescale	Payment Schedule	Build	Design	Booking System	Total One- off Costs	Annual Hosting	Plug-ins annual subscription	Annual Security update	Annual ongoing costs	Support rate hr
Peekaboo	12 weeks	40% deposit 30% on design sign-off 30% on build completion	£9,100		£13,950	£20,000 (reduction from £23,050)	£1,800	-	-	£1,800	£55
Peripatus	By April 2025	50% deposit for each phase 50% on completion	£8,215	£4,900	-	£13,115	£300	£180	£810	£1,290	£68

Full Fibre. Installation of full fibre now complete. The download speed is now 300mb at a cost of £49 ex vat per month, so the monthly bill is £5 less for a download speed of 300mb as opposed to 70mb. Approximately £1k spend on new equipment to split the fibre into office & members. One analogue line has been retained for the lift emergency phone at £24 month, tbc by Onyx how to replace this before analogue is phased out.

97/24 AOB

- Richard asked whether the racing rules could be on display in the cloakrooms as they are at ISC? RCS advised that it would be better to promote John Doerr's talks on the new rule changes.
- Mark requested training on how to run a protest committee, RCS responded that this had been offered last year and could be offered again to anyone seriously wanting to be on the protest committee. It was emphasised that members should be advised that they need to raise a protest as it causes issues if they don't.
- Tony enquired about the number of resignations of members who joined in the same year? [The Secretary will follow up on this.](#)

98/24 Next Meeting Friday 29th November 2024 at 1700 hours

RCS,
RP

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