

# MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

## Present:

In the Chair:

Martyn Collinson, Commodore

John Poyner, Rear Commodore House

Nick Bradley, Rear Commodore Sailing

Robert Quain, Hon Treasurer (Zoom)

Susie Breare

Peter Crowhurst

Catherine Holmes

Tom Symes (Zoom)

Mark Lacey

Richard Pierrepont

Caryl Terlezki-Thomas

Lesley Tregear

## Apologies:

Graham Fell, Vice Commodore

Katie Davies

Mark Hall, Guardian

## In Attendance:

Claire Hallett, Secretary

Dick Dawson, Guardian

Hamish Fletcher, Guardian

**34/24 Apologies** As listed above.

**35/24 Approval of Minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Meeting** The minutes were approved as a true record.

## 36/24 Matters Arising

Equality Act 2010. The Commodore had received a query regarding cloakroom usage by persons with a gender identity that differs from their assigned sex, [a policy regarding this is in hand](#). The Commodore re-iterated that the Equality Act 2010 is the law and the Club has to abide by it.

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## 37/24 Commodore's Update

Draft Minutes 2024 AGM. The Secretary had distributed the draft minutes of the AGM in advance of the meeting. These had been reviewed by the GC and there were no amendments required. [The Secretary would upload the draft minutes to the secure Member Area on the Club's website](#).

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Director Obligations. Rudi Fortson had kindly prepared a document in relation to the duties of a director, which had been shared with the GC in advance of the meeting and which all present were happy with. Mark Lacey responded that he may not have received it and enquired whether directors have any financial obligations and whether insurance covered that? The Commodore passed him a hard copy of the document and advised him to come back with any enduring queries.

South Sheds. Quotes are still awaited from a number of builders; with the current lack of funding the work isn't urgent and will start with the Club store in the south east corner adjacent to the new workshop. The YOD Class has said that it will raise funds if it can be guaranteed usage of the refurbished sheds in the winter.

Member Complaint. The Commodore is awaiting a further response from the complaine, Ian Hornblow, regarding the Commodore's suggestion of more a generic apology. It was re-iterated to Mr Hornblow that the subject of the conversation was not relevant, the complaint focused on his aggressiveness and use of the F word. If Mr Hornblow is not willing to submit a generic apology, the Commodore will confer with appropriately qualified people to avoid escalating the matter and to ensure the next step is based on what is best for the Club.

Nigel Hawkes' Bar Suggestion. Following the suggestion by Nigel Hawkes at the AGM to reduce the space behind the bar in order to increase the space in front of the bar at the pinch point, it was generally agreed that the space behind the bar is needed to accommodate staff using the glass washer and sink which are situated there, plus there are no funds to re-design the bar at this time. It was suggested that the binoculars could be moved out of the way more during busy times such as happy hour. Plus, there are no funds available as maintenance issues must take priority. [The Commodore would respond to Mr Hawkes accordingly](#).

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George Hill. The Commodore had been approached before the AGM by George Hill who wished to buy Life Membership. It was agreed to decline the request on the basis that Honorary Life Membership is only granted to members who do something extraordinary for the Club or for services to charity and paid Life Membership isn't on offer at all so to allow it for one member would set a precedent. [The Commodore would advise Mr Hill accordingly](#).

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## 38/24 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

March Results. At the end of the first quarter the figures are looking rather good. The year-to-date deficit of (£54.6k) is worse than last year, however last year the Club RIB was sold for £9.5k so without this additional income the figures are comparable year on year. Bar and catering are the star performers, the bar margin is at 69% and has recovered well since February when it was at 63%. Year to date it is 65.5% which is up on last year's margin of 62.7% and up on the budget of 62%. Catering is also at 69% for March and 65.5% for the year

to date, which is up on last year, though slightly down on the budgeted 67%. The Hon. Treasurer is closely monitoring margins and is happy with their progress. The position at the end of the first quarter forms a good platform as we head into the busier months. The Hon. Treasurer will review the budget but doesn't anticipate making any changes. The cash flow position is still in good shape.

Boat Fund. The Club's auditors, Harrison Black, have confirmed that money can be moved into the boat fund based on depreciation, though there is some feeling that fundraising would be preferable to using our capital. The Hon. Treasurer will present a proposal regarding the boat fund at the next meeting.

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### 39/24 Vice Commodore's Report (given by the Commodore)

Membership Applications. There are 8 applications for 12 prospective members this month:

Form	Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1	1. Mrs Heather (Yolande) Chandler	Charles Cooper	David Porter	Residential Property Consultant and Magistrate.  Enthusiastic about sailing and motor yachting. Would like to participate Interested in Motorboat Training and Onshore activities.  She feels that her present club (Royal Lymington) is not providing what she is looking for from a yacht club. She is very much aware of the RSYC, its reputation and facilities, and would like to join us
2	2. Mr Ross Glanfield 3. Dr Jean Glanfield-Owen	Kevin Shaw	Denise Cronin	Ross is Chartered Financial Planner. Jean is a publisher and writer.  They moved permanently to Yarmouth about 3 years ago. They have integrated in Yarmouth community and Jean is a volunteer and Trustee of the Yarmouth Community Hall.
3	4. Mr Tristan Baker-Beall 5. Mrs Sinead Baker-Beall 6. Master Zac Baker-Beall	Dudley Baker-Beall	Jen Allen	Tristan is the son of his proposer, Dudley Baker-Beall. Both Tristan and Sinead are keen boaters and have a boat, "Julia Dream," in Yarmouth,  Their interest included racing, cruising and onshore activities.
4	7. Mr Gavin Graham 8. Mrs Brigid (Biddy) Graham	John Dexter	Annie Beavis	Biddy is Sue Dexter's daughter.  Gavin is a member of the Hurlingham Club, the Denham Golf Club and Freshwater Bay Golf Club. He is also a supporter of a number of charities, and both worked as custodians at Osborne House. They would like to participate in the Club's onshore activities.
5	9. Ms Jennifer (Jenny) Fenton	Mal Butler	Denise Cronin	Jenny was a UK Diplomat and worked in a number of Embassies in the Middle East. She is currently living in Malta but is considering a return to the Island. Her

				daughter, Debbie McCleary, is Mayor of Yarmouth.
6	10. Mr William Case	Jamie Allen	John Poyner	William is a young man with a passion for boating. He is heavily involved with the Freshwater Independent Lifeboat and a recently qualified power boat instructor. He has been sailing with one of the RSYC's Contessa Fleet, Cloudy Bay, interested in racing.
7	11. Mr Carl Whitewood	John Caulcutt	Graeme Dillon	Carl owns his own business, the Metre Yard, a boat builder and broker. He is a Member of the Royal Thames Yacht Club. Over many years he has been a regular sailor on YODs Puffin and Genista with John Caulcutt, Graeme Dillon and James Huddleston. He also owns a Dragon which he races in Cowes. Carl is interested in racing and in boat shed / mooring activities. JC has referenced "one or two incidents in his much younger days" but now has no hesitation on proposing Carl. This would be a reinstatement.
8	12. Mrs Carol Churchill	Graham Fell	Steve Carson	Caro is the wife of Guy Churchill who joined us last year. Mrs Churchill would now also like to us.

The Vice Commodore's Committee recommends all for approval to the GC. All present approved the applications which were proposed by the Commodore and seconded by RCH.

Talan Skeels-Piggins. Talan thanks GC for how award of Honorary Life Membership. He has said that he will display the RSYC burgee and Blue Ensign as he sails around Britain and Ireland. He has also said that he would be delighted to give a talk to RSYC Members on his adventures when he has completed his trip. The Secretary added that she will suggest to Hatch Mansfield that the Taittinger regatta charity prize draw could support the charities that Talan's round Britain trip is fundraising for (Disabled Sailors Association, Hilary's Dream Trust and BLESMA), if they be happy with this. (Post meeting – Hatch Mansfield agreed to this proposal).

Green Working Group - Achelous Hydrokinetic Trials. Achelous have presented their initial report on their trial during recent Spring tides which has been provided to GC. The maximum flow recorded over 24 hours was 1.15m/s (2.23 knots) with an average flow of 0.27m/s (0.52 knots). A flow of over 0.3ms is the minimum required to drive the turbine and the water flow speed at the jetty was above 0.3m/s for around 40% of the time. Achelous said the power that would be generated would drive the jetty lights but no more than that.

The VCC held a conference call with Achelous on 24th April to discuss the initial report and proposed next steps. Outputs of meeting of 24th April & Next Steps:

- Discussed with Achelous the possibility of trialling the unit at the farthest outhaul post. They said that the tide was visibly stronger there.
- Discussed the possibility of trialling using a swing mooring.

We are now in the main sailing season, so we need to give careful thought to both these options.

- Achelous to test their rig at their lab using batteries rather than mains power to assess the life. If this works suitably well then there is no need to run power cables to the unit for the purposes of a trial.
- In the longer term, we would need to consider implications for permissions should we install a permanent unit.
- Once the battery tests have concluded, Achelous to write to RSYC with their proposals for the next set of tests – Outhaul Post and possibly using a Swing Mooring.

Open Day, Saturday 4th May. Lesley Tregear and Jane Roberts have the Preparations are in hand. A sufficient number of volunteers had made themselves available. Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist. In order to follow sufficiently robust due diligence on membership applications, the VCC agreed, as was the case last year, that prospective members without a proposer or seconder when they attend Open Day must be interviewed by a Flag Officer, or a member of GC or VCC who should in-turn be the proposer or seconder.

Towers Party 2024. This year's Towers Party will support Cure Parkinson's and Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Monaco Yacht Club Reciprocity. A Member will soon be visiting the Yacht Club Monaco and has asked us to consider reciprocity. The VCC has considered the matter and recommend that we approach Yacht Club Monaco to request reciprocity. *All present would be happy for us to approach them.*

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## **40/24 Update from Rear Commodore House**

### Past Events.

- 29<sup>th</sup> March, Good Friday Fish & Chip Supper – 38 attendees.
- 30<sup>th</sup> March, Boat Jumble - reasonable success, will be repeated next year.
- 31<sup>st</sup> March, Easter Sunday Lunch – Fully booked with 72 attendees.
- 5<sup>th</sup> April, Ladies' Lunch – 49 attendees to the excellent talk by Charlotte Rayner who is Station Manager at Needles NCI (National Coastwatch Institution).
- 6<sup>th</sup> April, Club Clay Shoot – 19 attended the shoot and 22 attended the lunch.
- 11<sup>th</sup> April, Film Night – 17 attendees for a showing of 'Sunshine on Leith' as requested by Anne Vernon and added as an extra for April.
- 13<sup>th</sup> April, Fitting Out Dinner – 73 in attendance to an excellent dinner.
- 17<sup>th</sup> April, Not Quite the First Wednesday Talk – 'Remembering Mallory: 100 Years On' by Kevin Shaw. Reported to be a good talk.
- 19<sup>th</sup> April, Gents' Lunch – very successful with 34 in attendance.

### Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday evening sailing started this week with 4-5 classes taking part, so bar takings should improve now! Richard Pierrepont enquired whether anything had been done to get crews into the Club more after racing? RCH confirmed that the Hudleston Bar would be open on Wednesday evenings and light bites would be available as well as supper.
- Open Day, 4<sup>th</sup> May.
- RNLI Ball, 11<sup>th</sup> May – hosting dinner for up to 160 so all staff are stepping up to work it, tickets are almost sold out.
- Commodore's Party, 25<sup>th</sup> May – Italian theme.
- Gin Tasting Night on 8<sup>th</sup> June by The Isle of Wight Gin Company.

Outside Events. As the Secretary will expand on shortly, there have been a number of large outside events, all of which have a positive impact on profit and turnover. The first quarter is always the quietest, so we are right on target.

NYE Party. At a previous GC meeting the GC approved a recommendation by the House Committee that the Club should hold a three-course brunch on New Year's Eve this year instead of the usual party. This was proposed for one year only due to the success of the Christmas Eve brunch and the fact that the last NYE party, although contributing a profit, was not as well attended and the atmosphere was felt to be flat. Some negative feedback had been received from a few members and one House Committee member had since changed their mind, but RCH feels that the committees should stick to this decision and would appreciate everyone's support on this. All present were in agreement. Peter Crowhurst agreed that it was good to take the opportunity to offer something different for a change but stressed that advanced pre-marketing of any signature event is important.

## **41/24 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing**

Sailing. The Spring Series has now finished, 11 boats turned out and 5 races out of 7 were run, with 2 lost due to the weather, which is not a bad result. The Dayboats have now gone in the water and on the Club moorings and the Wednesday Evening Series started this week. Sadly, there wasn't enough wind and all the boats were DNF, but quite a few went out which bodes well for the season ahead. The Laser class is talking about racing on Sundays. The Contessa Regatta now has 21 entries, the 26s have their nationals but more need to be encouraged to enter and RCS is confident they will as they enjoyed it last year. Taittinger entries opened with a bang and there are already 82 entries, a quarter of the usual total were received in 2 days. Eight new VHF radios

have been ordered as it is a cost saving on hiring them every year for the Taittinger Regatta. The Cruiser Challenge takes place tomorrow, in which the racing cruisers go out and encourage others to join in a pursuit race.

Cruising. The Cruising Group's trip to Gins Farm was unfortunately cancelled as the premises was flooded earlier last month. The next trip is to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in Fishbourne in 2 weeks time, which is also accessible via car.

Club Boats. The Club boats are in the water and ready, though Countdown needs a lick of paint on her topsides. A new depth gauge has now been added to Solent RIB and Marksman's depth gauge has been tested. It is planned to hold monthly meetings about the Club boats with the Secretary, Head Boatman, Richard Pierrepont and RCS in order to get a clear structure and better communication in place for maintenance work out of season. This will ensure everyone knows what's coming in terms of work and maintenance and the yard knows what parts to order. Hamish Fletcher suggested looking at getting a temporary structure to enable work on the boats to continue in any weather.

Arthur Farley. Last Friday, Olympic hopeful Arthur Farley gave a talk with the aim of attracting support and funding for his Olympic bid, which requires £50k a year at least. Young sailors and their parents from YSC were invited to attend and around 14 came, plus the bar was full for happy hour so it turned out to be a great evening with the youngsters enjoying the Club and in awe of a young future Olympian. Stephen Hucklesby invited Arthur to race with him on Sundays, which he is now doing, and also kindly donated £1k to his Olympic campaign.

#### **42/24 Secretary's Points**

Outside Events. There are 61 outside events booked so far this year, with 10 in May and 13 in June. Many groups are repeat visitors and there are also several significant functions such as the Needles Masonic Lodge Dinner in April for 99 guests, the RNLI Gala Ball for 160 in May, IDOR Regatta Dinner for 100+ in June and a charity ball for 160 in September. (These are listed in pink font alongside member events (green font) in the Events Calendar within the Committee Area on the Club's website).

Membership Statistics. Total membership, not including those approved today, stands at 1062 compared to 1028 at the same point last year, which is an increase year on year of 34 members. New & re-instated members this year are 26 compared to 22 last year. Hamish Fletcher enquired as to how many members had yet to pay their subscriptions and the Secretary responded that there were no outstanding subscriptions due.

Staffing Update. Further to the email to the membership, Brooke's last day will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Danielle has been promoted to take over from Brooke under the title House Manager. Stuart has received a promotion to Bar Steward so that he can better support Matt in matters such as training and procedures. Will Marsh has started in the role of Assistant Boatman and recruitment is underway for a Summer Boatman.

Mark Lacey asked why so many staff seem to be leaving? The Secretary responded that Brooke has been at the Club 10 years and now feels it is time to move on to a role with a better work/life balance. Two other part time front of house staff left as they had received job offers in areas other than hospitality which suited them better. So, in short, recent resignations have been for personal reasons rather than any issues with the Club.

#### **43/24 Next Meeting** Friday 24th May 2024 at 1700 hours