

# MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

## Present:

In the Chair: John Poyner, Commodore  
Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore  
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House  
Nick Bradley, Rear Commodore Sailing  
Robert Quain, Hon Treasurer  
Peter Crowhurst  
Katie Davies  
Catherine Holmes

Richard Pierrepont  
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas  
Sarah Turvill  
Leslie Tregear  
**Apologies:**  
Mark Lacey

**In Attendance:**  
Hamish Fletcher, Guardian  
Mark Hall, Guardian  
Anne Kyle, Guardian  
Tony Walton, Guardian  
Claire Hallett, Secretary

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

**42/25 Apologies** As listed above.

**43/25 Approval of Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> April Meeting** The minutes were approved as a true record.

**44/25 Matters Arising** All covered by the agenda points.

## 45/25 Commodore's Update

South Sheds Working Group. Steve Carson (Y Class & builder) will be joining the South Sheds Working Group alongside the Hon. Treasurer, Richard Pierrepont and to a lesser extent, the Commodore. They will meet next week to discuss the plan of action when the builders start working, a double bay at a time, after the Taittinger Regatta. The dimensions have all been checked and agreed. The aim is to finish just before the end of the season so the boats can go straight in the sheds. The Y Class's fundraising Towers Rock Concert will be promoted by the Club to regatta competitors and members as soon as the promotional material is received from the Y Class.

International Council of Yacht Clubs (ICOYC). The Commodore will be representing the Club next week at a forum at the Royal Southern YC which is part of the International Council of Yacht Clubs (ICOYC).

## 46/25 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

April Results. The Club made a surplus in April which was not expected when the budget was set, so we are trading well. Year to date figures are ahead of the budget and similar to last year, which is a good position to be in. We are ahead in terms of staff costs; it's difficult to predict accurate figures on a year by year basis as we don't know in advance what hours the part-time staff will do. It generally balances itself out provided we don't lose or employ too many staff. The year to date deficit of (£68.6k) is better than the budget of (£72.9k) and subscriptions are holding up well. The sailing income is higher than budgeted, helped by the PB2 courses that the Head Boatman has re-introduced this year. The bar turnover for April is on target and up on last year by £3.2k and the catering turnover is up on budget by £2.8k and up on last year by £3.7k. The budget becomes more challenging in the summer months, but it is planned to keep trading in line with the budget and if we deliver the same result as last year we will be in a good position as the budget mirrors last year's actuals. Version 2.2.1 of the 2025 budget was circulated via email yesterday following the quarterly budget review. As we are trading on or better than budget the targets haven't been changed. May's trading is good so far, which is a good omen as we are heading into the Club's busiest time. The reduction in business rates relief from 75% to 40% has been factored into the revised budget. The salary plan for May to December is based on actuals and factors in the living wage and national insurance increases. The registration fee has moved from the budget to the balance sheet. Additional identified expenditure has been highlighted in red and any known savings made to date have been taken into account. The Summer Boatman resigned a few days in, but a new arrangement is now in place for more temporary cover so the budget for this is a lot lower than it was initially. The interest rate on the deposit account has reduced from last year and is now set to a 90 day period. Overall, the latest budget shows an operational surplus of £2.5k. This is a healthy position to be in given that there are probably quite a few clubs struggling with turnover in the current economic climate. The following points were raised after the summary of the budget review:

- Anne Kyle advised that the new ice machine could be capitalised.
- Katie Davies asked about the staff shortages and the Secretary advised that Martha & Monty are remaining on the waiting team until December, which takes the pressure off Danielle, plus other casual staff will be working more after their exams. The potential requirement for a Head Waitress will be reviewed at a later date.
- It was re-iterated that the £12.5k Boat Fund is for capital projects – such as the purchase of a new boat – not for maintenance. There is £20k in the budget for boat maintenance.
- It was agreed that the Seesaw Fund could be wound up as it only stands at £1500.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the Millennium Fund. It was noted that the purpose of this Fund was to support junior/youth sailing, which RCS and Anne Kyle felt that it was important to retain.
- All present were happy to approve the revised budget at the end of quarter one.

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#### 47/25 Vice Commodore's Report

Equality Act. Further guidance was due from the Government by June, but this probably won't be forthcoming until August or September.

Terrorism Act. This issue is to be parked for the time being as there is a 2027 implementation date.

Boatshed Byelaws. The review of the boatshed byelaws arises from the Memorandum of Understanding with the Y Class and insurance issues. A copy of the proposed revisions was circulated via email prior to the meeting and **GC members are requested to feed back any further suggestions to the VC**.

All

Open Day. The footfall for the Spring Open day on 3<sup>rd</sup> May was lower than expected. Six prospective members have applied as a result. [Addendum: VC pays tribute to Lesley and Don Tregear for all their help organising Open Day]. The Summer Open Day will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Membership Applications. There are eight applications for eleven prospective members this month, all are recommended to the GC by the VCC:

Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1. Mr Dougie Watmore <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	John Poyner	Ingrid Watmough	Dougie is the father of existing Member, Simon Watmough, and has recently moved to the Island.  Interests: Onshore activities.
2. Mr David Tucker <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	John Poyner	David Fox	Has owned a cottage at West Bay Club, Halletts Shute since 2020 and plans to spend more time here (primary residence is in Cardiff).  Interests: cruising, crewing, and onshore activities.
3. Miss Jane Roberts <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	Susie Breare	John Poyner	Ex employee (Membership Secretary until April 2025).  Jane is interested in cruising, crewing, Dinghy Week, laser training and onshore activities.
4. Mr Tony Lester 5. Mrs Barbara Lester <i>Open Day Recruits + 10% discount on subs.</i>	Catherine Holmes	Susie Breare	Mr & Mrs Lester were Members of the RSYC from 1995 – 2015; they are both retired and living in Norton Green and would like to re-join now they have time to enjoy what the Club has to offer.  Interests: cruising and onshore activities.
6. Mr Mike Gunn <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	Rudi Fortson	David Porter	Owes and lives aboard a Starlight 39 called Zest which is berthed in Yarmouth Harbour.

			Interests: racing, cruising, crewing, onshore activities and race management.
7. Dr Richard Palmer	Stephen Willy	James Meaning	Owes XOD 135 "Mollymawk" and motorboat "Orion Star" which is berthed in Yarmouth Harbour.  Interests: racing, cruising, and onshore activities.
8. Mr Lee Whittington 9. Mrs Mair Whittington	George Cawood	Peter Voysey	Mr & Mrs Whittington are interested in cruising, crewing, and onshore activities.
10. Mr Hugo Lindsay 11. Miss Artemis Lindsay	Rosemary Luck	Jamie Clarke	Mr & Miss Lindsay own an Axopar which is berthed on the River Yar.  Interests: racing, cruising, crewing, motorboat training and onshore activities.

The GC approved all the membership applications.

Clubhouse Maintenance. Duncan Waite has completed the repair to the leaking roof joint between the main bar and Members' Dining Room under budget and the VC has written him a letter of thanks.

Registration Fee Review. The Vice Commodore's Committee proposes that the registration fee for new members should be increased from £150 to £175 and is split so that two thirds goes to the refurbishment fund and the rest to their payment card account. The registration fee for re-instated members and account additions will be increased proportionately from £50 to £60. This was agreed and will be rolled out in January 2026.

[*Addendum: post meeting the VC identified that Rule 21.2 restricts the amount by which the Registration Fee may be increased. The matter will therefore be further reviewed.*]

The VC added that a review of membership categories is underway with a view to merging some of the D categories to simplify the fee structure and administration, whilst ensuring that we attract and retain younger members. It was remarked that the Royal Thames and Royal London have excellent provision for young sailors, but have invested heavily in J70s and Etchells and also have good social programmes in London. RCS highlighted that the Sailing Secretary is liaising with Yarmouth SC more and they are helping us coach again. It's a slow process but it's improving. We need to have a stepping stone to keelboats as there are none at YSC.

Lunch Feedback. The VC was introduced to a group of visiting sailors who were at the Club for lunch last Sunday. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and said that the service and catering was of an excellent quality.

VC

#### 48/25 Update from Rear Commodore House

This month has been really good with many repeat bookings made for next year and sailing supper well supported.

##### Past Events.

- 18<sup>th</sup> April, SW Shingles YC Lunch – 89 attendees
- 18<sup>th</sup> April, Good Friday Moules Night – 55, great feedback
- 19<sup>th</sup> April, Boat Jumble & Lifejacket Clinic – quite a few tables, clinic worked well, David Temple raised a lot for Parkinsons UK.
- 20<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sunday Lunch – 76
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Gents' Lunch – 40
- 26<sup>th</sup> April, Hallberg-Rassy Dinner – 65
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Wedding – 74, very successful. Good happy hour on the lawn and in the Hudleston Bar which will be replicated when the weather is good and there are sufficient bar staff.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Open Day – six prospective members as a result, although more membership enquiries have been received since. Lower footfall than last year, probably due to the financial climate.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Port Solent Dinner – 38
- 8<sup>th</sup> May, Probus Lunch – 33 in total for lunch

- 8<sup>th</sup> May, VE Day Cake Sale & Afternoon Tea – successful event, raised £460, with the leftover cake sold at happy hour the next evening.
- 9<sup>th</sup> May, Shustoke SC Dinner – 31
- 10<sup>th</sup> May, Royal Motor YC Dinner – 84, thoroughly enjoyed it & rebooked for next year
- 14<sup>th</sup> May, BCM Talk & Lunch – 10
- 14<sup>th</sup> May, Solent Shrimpers joined sailing supper – 18
- 15<sup>th</sup> May, Royal Southern YC Dinner – 22
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June, Contessa Regatta – 50 for the Friday supper, 92 for Saturday supper, pizza van on Sunday worked well and the Club had 44 bookings for roast lunch.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May, BBQ – 25
- 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Ferry Captains' Race & Dinner – 26, very successful and a good means to maintain and strengthen good relations with Wightlink.

#### Future Events.

- 30<sup>th</sup> May, Recently Joined Members' Evening
- 7<sup>th</sup> June, RTI Breakfast – 60+ already booked
- 17<sup>th</sup> June, Malcolm Harrison's Wake
- 24<sup>th</sup> July, Talk by Hampshire IW Air Ambulance & optional supper
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Summer Party & Raffle for HIOWAA – over 100 already booked. Raffle prizes are needed please! So far, we have a dinner at The Waterfront, trips to the old and new HIOWAA bases and a stay at a holiday home.
- 13<sup>th</sup> August, Sausage Sizzler & HIOWAA helicopter simulator

The HIOWAA is the Club's designated charity this year and there are a number of fundraising events planned. The Sellers have generously said that if these raise £5k they will match it.

#### Bar & Catering Points.

- The Head Chef is introducing salad bowls to eat in or takeaway during the summer.
- There was a requirement for a Provence Rosé to replace the Pellehaut Rosé as the alcohol level had been reduced in the latter and negatively impacted the quality, this is being actioned accordingly.

### **49/25 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing**

Sailing Update. The Ferry Captains' Race and supper went well; they are keen to repeat it next year and will hopefully bring more supporters next time. [Addendum: Wightlink issued a Press Release (with photographs) in the Island Echo and in the County Press, detailing the event.]

Club racing is going well, XOD *Myrtle* is dominating the results for a change. Folkboat numbers are down for club racing, it's the 60<sup>th</sup> year of Folkboat Week so they are hoping to attract 60 Folkboats. There is a strong fleet of dinghies racing at the moment, plus about 8 from Class 1&2 and YOD numbers are also good.

Diatom Incident. *Diatom* lost her mast recently as Alan Hans Hamilton took his boat to the bridge to adjust a fitting at the top of the mast, it got caught on the bridge and this pulled the mast over. Unfortunately, the Summer Boatman resigned as a result of the experience. The harbour is very concerned about this practice and have viewed the incident on their CCTV and advised that it's a dangerous manoeuvre that should not be repeated by any dayboats in future.

Cruising. The last cruising trip was to the Royal Victoria YC and was attended by 24 people. David Porter organises all the trip and reports on them to the Sailing Committee as Captain of Cruising. The next trip is to the Cowes Corinthian YC.

Summer Boatman. Andy resigned as Summer Boatman, but the Head Boatman has done a great job sourcing a replacement – Jed Frampton – to cover key events. The boatmen have taken on the added burden of working without a third boatman for four days a week, which is a big workload.

RSYC Contessa Regatta. This year's RSYC Contessa Regatta was very good, the sponsors and competitors were complimentary about everything – the race management, party and the Club in general. The MarkSetBots were also commented on favourably and it is planned to use them for the Taittinger RSYC Regatta. RCS gave a vote of thanks to Hall Hunter for sponsoring the two MarkSetBots this year as they have been very successful.

Taittinger RSYC Regatta. Entries and social bookings are looking very good.

Club Boats. A meeting about the Club boats was held this week and was very positive. The Head Boatman and the yard have a better anticipation of what work might be needed in the future.

Folkboat Winners Board. The Folkboat Association would like to put up a board in the Clubhouse detailing all the winners of Folkboat Week above the double doors in the west end of the main bar. It's proposed size is rather big, but in general it is felt we should agree to the notion as the Folkboat Class is part of the Club's ethos and they came to us to start Folkboat Week when they couldn't get a class in Cowes Week. It is Ed Donald's idea, and it would be good for the Club to support it. All present were in agreement.

## 50/25 Secretary's Points

Membership Statistics & Transaction KPI. The membership statistic and draft KPI were shared with the GC earlier today. The total membership at the end of May is 1,072, which is 1 down on last year. New members for the year to date are slightly lower than last year at 20 compared to 35. Member deaths are fortunately down year on year. The number of transactions in May to date is strong and comparable with last year, whilst the average transaction value for May and the year to date is up on last year. The KPI report will be re-run on 1<sup>st</sup> June to include the weekend.

Lift Autodialler. The analogue emergency phone in the lift has now been replaced with an autodialler and sim card and the last analogue line rental has now been cancelled.

Head Chef. Some good news on behalf of our Head Chef Tom - his partner Nadia is pregnant so they will be welcoming a new addition to their family in December.

**51/25 Next Meeting** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 1700 hours

*Jackie w 8/8/25*

