

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT
YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 2025**

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
Peter Crowhurst
Katie Davies
Mark Lacey

Richard Pierrepont
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas
Sarah Turvill
Leslie Tregear

In Attendance:
Hamish Fletcher, Guardian
Tony Walton, Guardian
Claire Hallett, Secretary

Apologies:

Catherine Holmes
Mark Hall, Guardian

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Commodore asked GC members to stand to observe a minute's silence for current member Charlie Marlow and former members Caroline Spragge & Maureen Halton, who had sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

1/25 Apologies As listed above.

2/25 Approval of Minutes from 29th November Meeting The minutes were approved as a true record.

3/25 Matters Arising Covered by agenda points.

St James Church: Any fund-raising events for the Church are currently on hold until further information is forthcoming.

Friday Racing at Taittinger: Generally most sailors think this is good idea from 2026 onwards, though it has not yet been raised with the Regatta Committee. It is proposed to hold a survey with this year's competitors.

4/25 Commodore's Update

Bank House. A circular regarding Bank House has already been shared with the GC. A lot of time has been spent on this by Rudi & Tom, Graham & the Commodore. RCH & the Commodore are meeting up with the new owners (Andrew and Jacqueline Greening) on the 22nd February. They will be in Yarmouth getting someone to repair their fence and quote for putting the new one in to the South of our drive as per plan. RCS commented that he had seen the vast amount of work that had been put into this issue and wished to record a vote of thanks to all involved as this needed specialist knowledge and was a big win for the Club.

Guardian: Dick has come to the end of his 8 year term and we say a big thank-you to him for all the time and dedication he gave during this period. He will be missed. The Guardians & Flag Officers would like to propose Anne Kyle to become the fourth Guardian. She will be a great asset to the Club with her past experience as a Commodore and Treasurer. The Commodore proposed and RCH seconded. All approved.

Club Name on North Side: The RSYC used to have its name on the North side of the building to advertise the Club to passing yachts. This was removed during the rebuild of the first floor bar and the donor requested it not to be replaced. [The Commodore agreed to email him to see if this was still his view.](#)

Finances: In October 2024 the GC understood it had little choice but to carry out the outstanding maintenance on the Club before the costs increased and this was agreed at the GC meeting. What was not emphasized at the time was that this would impact our P & L rather than our capital, putting us into a loss for the year. The Commodore is holding a "brainstorming" session on 7th February with the current and future (proposed) Flag Officers and Secretary to discuss the Club's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats. While not wishing to be pessimistic, the current economic situation is challenging and we have to look at all possible ways of meeting this.

Sheds: Phase 1 (Workshop) was completed last year, Phase 2 (Corner Store) is nearing completion, and our thanks go to RCH for the hours he has put into this. The funding for Phase 3 is now an issue as paying for this phase would put the Club's cash reserves under strain. The Guardians have stated they do not think we should spend our cash on this at the moment and the Commodore agrees. The YOD Class has made a conditional offer to raise £50K over the next 3 years and donate this to the Club for the completion of the sheds. [The Commodore will circulate details of this early next week for further discussion at the February GC meeting.](#) RCH stated that the objective was to create a multi-purpose space available for the YODs in Winter and cars and events in the summer. He stated that to provide several open bays was structurally more challenging and quotes were being obtained for a steel structure. One of the key issues is that we have no other current option for funding.

5/25 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

November & December Results. The December figures YTD are the final number, unaudited at this point. £59,717 overall loss with depreciation included. Without depreciation we sustained, pre-audit, a £20,535 operational loss. We traded slightly under budget in November & December, but £23K was the additional cost of the Clubhouse maintenance work, without which we would have broken even. However, this work was urgent to avoid being in a worse position in the future. Bar & catering turnover came in lower than budget on tough targets, and we didn't trade as well as the previous year. The permanent staff costs were much lower than budget, which helped the overall result. The sailing maintenance costs were over budget, and significantly more than last year, with a much lower income. The membership subscriptions were on budget. The £20K loss is not a good result, however we do know why we are in this position. Katie Davies commented that we have to be able to do maintenance work, so should have the money to deal with it. The Building Maintenance Fund, which is revenue from new members' registration fees, has put £7K from the balance sheet into P&L. It is estimated to do about the same this year. Putting General Reserve money into the P&L is not yet agreed by our Auditors, however ongoing discussions on this point are taking place. We will know at the audit meeting how much if any of the general reserve we can put against the building maintenance costs. Richard Pierrepont stated that we should be putting more into the building maintenance fund as £7K p.a. is not realistic. Point to note that the 2025 does have a provision for clubhouse maintenance of £3,000 and £2,500 for ground maintenance. (The building maintenance fund is for capital project works).

With regards to catering and bar income, Peter Crowhurst commented that we should have a record on the till system of the average number of covers and the average spend per cover so it can be seen if these numbers are increasing or not. (Post meeting this information was provided by the Secretary).

2025 Budget. This year could be a difficult trading year. The budget is signed off at this point. From April the GC will have a review paper for the budget at the end of first quarter together with proposals for any adjustments required.

6/25 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. There were 3 applications approved by the GC in December 2024 via email:

	Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1	1. Mr Samuel Griffiths	Julian Wood	Susie Breare	Samuel is a berthing dockmaster and based in Lymington. He is a member of the Royal Lym and interested in motorboat training, onshore activities, and race management. Aged 19, Sammy is a RYA instructor for sailing and powerboat, running PB2 courses at the Royal Lym. Often brings the Proposer over to Yarmouth on his rib.
2	2. Mr Bernie Wilkins	Susie Breare	Stephen Carson	Bernie is based in Lyndhurst; he is a carpenter/roofer and runs a 'boatel' Air BnB on his Princess 46 moored in Lymington. Also does charter work on Lucky Ash moored in Yarmouth. Interests are racing, cruising, crewing, and onshore activities.
3	3. Mr Ben Tindell	Susie Breare	Andrew Clarke	Ben is based in Lymington; he is a freelance sailor/power boat captain. Regular visitor to Yarmouth on his Bavaria 30 Cruiser with many years of boating and sailing experience. Interests are cruising, crewing, and boat shed/mooring.

There was one application for membership in January, the applicant was recommended to the GC by the VCC and approved by the GC:

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1	1. Mr Samuel Griffiths	Julian Wood	Susie Breare	Samuel is a berthing dockmaster and based in Lymington. He is a member of the Royal Lym. and interested in motorboat training, onshore activities, and race management. Aged 19, Sammy is a RYA instructor for sailing and powerboat, running PB2 courses at the Royal Lym. Often brings the Proposer over to Yarmouth on his rib.

In December 2024, the VC proposed to the GC via email that several non-members be allowed access to the Club for Choir Practice – this was approved by the GC.

In December 2024, the VC proposed to the GC via email a number of Rules Changes to be proposed to the membership at to the AGM – these were approved by the GC.

A letter had been received recently from George Hill asking if the Secretary could email the proposed rule changes to his Solicitor, this was done and no further response has been received to date.

Maintenance Projects. The approved maintenance projects have now been completed. Duncan Waite has identified some additional work that is required and will be providing estimates for these jobs, which include sealing the stonework on the members' balcony and repairing the leak in the roof join between the first floor bar and Members Dining Room.

Green Agenda. It was agreed by the GC to look at installing solar panels on both sides of the workshop roof and a proposal totaling £13.7K was distributed accordingly by the VC. The energy produced would be 14% of total consumption, no surplus can go back into the grid. A 5 year payback is anticipated. Solar panels may also be an option for the south sheds roof when it is sound. This project would come out of capital so would not need to be included in the budget. We would need to consult with our neighbours on this and also on the scaffold needed in the lane. It was agreed to leave it for now and review the financial situation at the end of Q1 due to the current financial constraints. Katie Davies commented that the Club should consider green projects as we have a position in the community and need to lead the way.

Corporate Membership: Peter Crowhurst had produced a paper outlining the positives & negatives of corporate membership. This was discussed at the January VCC meeting, resulting in the decision that it was not in keeping with the ethos of the RSYC. Peter's paper will remain on record for future reference and he was thanked for his contribution.

7/25 Update from Rear Commodore House

Past Events. Events at the Club in November & December have included the following:

NOVEMBER

- Thursday 21st – Wine Society, Wine Therapy, Tapas Evening - 43 in attendance
- Saturday 23rd – XOD Dinner, 46 in attendance
- Thursday 28th – Dabchicks Dinner, 17 in attendance
- Friday 29th – Sunday 1st – Robin McInnes Picture Sale
- Saturday 30th – Après Ski, CANCELLED due to low numbers

DECEMBER

- Tuesday 3rd, Dunlin Boys Christmas Lunch, 37 in attendance
- Wednesday 4th – First Wednesday, CANCELLED due to Members wake
- Thursday 5th – RNLI Christmas Fair
- Thursday 5th – Scrabble, 8 in attendance
- Friday 6th – West Wight Floral Arts Society Dinner, 36 in attendance
- Saturday 7th – Helpers Drinks, 70
- Sunday 8th – Waterfront Christmas Party, 31 in attendance

- Tuesday 10th – Needles Relief Anniversary Lunch, 55 in attendance
- Wednesday 11th – Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch, 48 in attendance
- Saturday 21st – Lusted Christening Lunch, 21 in attendance
- Saturday 21st – RNLI Christmas Dinner, 31 in attendance
- Tuesday 24th – Christmas Eve Brunch, 75 in attendance
- Tuesday 31st – New Year's Eve Brunch, 55 in attendance

JANUARY

- Thursday 23rd – Film Night “The Miracle Club”, 13 in attendance
- Saturday 25th – Burns Night Dinner, 28 in attendance. 6/25

Upcoming Events.

JANUARY

- Friday 31st – John Doerr Talk & Supper – 18:30 start

FEBRUARY

- Wednesday 5th – First Wednesday Talk. A talk by Alan Jenkins entitled “RADAR: Bats, Bulbs, Birds Nests and Lancaster Bombers”
- Thursday 6th – Scrabble & Backgammon
- Friday 8th – Murder Mystery Night, 50 signed up
- Thursday 13th – Film Night “Joy – The Birth of IVF”
- Friday 14th – Gentlemen’s Lunch
- Thursday 20th – Wine Society - A talk & tasting by Stuart Porter of Corney and Barrow. Traditional Wine Merchants with offices in London, Scotland, Hong Kong and Singapore entitled “Wines of the Americas”
- Wednesday 26th – Ladies’ Lunch. Caroline suggested Salmon en Croute as the main course as it was delicious at the RNLI Crew Dinner.

Dogs Bye-law. It was agreed by the House Committee that the trial of allowing dogs in the Hudleston Bar had gone well and it should be recommended to the GC that Bye-law B10 is updated accordingly, to include the restrictions that applied to the trial. All present agreed with this recommendation. It was also agreed that, whilst assistance and guide dogs are permitted anywhere in the Club, therapy dogs should still be restricted to the Hudleston Bar. The bye-law would be updated accordingly.

South Sheds Project. RCH confirmed that the building contractors started back on site on 27th January and expect to complete Phase 2 of the shed repairs by the end of next week. We still need to recover the shed roof as it is leaking badly so quotations are being sought. It is believed that, even with this unplanned work, we can still come in within the agreed budget. RCH repeated his concerns regarding the structural integrity of the remaining bays and confirmed the need for a qualified engineers to provide input as to how to proceed.

8/25 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing Programme & Talks. RCS reported on the sailing programme, which starts on 9th March, and the Winter series of talks on Friday evenings, including those from John Doerr on the new racing rules and others from the CRO. In addition, the Club has another full cruising programme this year organised by Captain of Cruising, David Porter.

Countdown. The Secretary circulated a note from RCS earlier in the day, setting out a summary of the position in respect of Countdown, and a proposal that was recommended to the GC. Tony Walton felt the note had been circulated at too short notice for proper consideration to be given and suggested postponing the discussion. Katie Davies advised that we could not postpone any decision, and it was noted that the GC had been considering the future of Countdown since the Summer. RCS explained that because of the nature of the proposal, he hoped TW would not object, as it effectively meant preserving the status quo. RCS then summarised the circulated note and put forward 2 proposals:

1. We seek to keep Countdown operational for the next 2/3 years at minimal cost and use that time to ensure the club has a properly prepared plan for the boat after that time, (replacement or full refurbishment), which will also allow us to budget to that end.
2. GC appoints a sub-committee to consider and make recommendations as to Countdown’s future during that period, comprising, RCS, John Poyner, Robert Quain, Mark Lacey, Richard Pierrepont (RP).

Both proposals were unanimously approved.

Marksman. RCS reported that we had now received a report from Dave Crawford Marine in Lymington regarding the work required on Marksman’s engine. The good news is that the pistons do not need replacing, however some work does need to be done. RP and the Head Boatman have discussed this with the engineers, and the estimated cost, if we carry out the essential work and cut out any “nice to haves” is in the region of £10K. We have little choice other than to proceed with that work. This was agreed by the GC.

Balcony Start Line. RCS put forward a proposal for the creation of a proper balcony start line which would involve painting a diamond on the roof and possibly adding a post on the balcony or balustrade. Class 1 and 2 have agreed to pay for it. There was some discussion about why Grants could not be used all the time, but it was explained that in inclement weather Grants was very unpleasant, particularly during the winter months. It was also agreed that when races are finished on the balcony there is much more member engagement which is a good thing, so starting races there should also engage more members. There was also discussion about how it would look from the water, and it was felt it would look very appropriate as we are a yacht club. **The GC was asked to vote on whether to create a balcony line and this was unanimous agreed.**

9/25 AOB

Club Insignia. RCH explained that the NEW website was being redesigned and as part of that process the company doing the work had produced a new insignia design. The Commodore commented that our existing logo incorporated Queen Elizabeth II's crown and we needed, at the very least, to update the logo to incorporate King Charles III's crown. There was some discussion, and the Vice Commodore proposed that we kept the existing logo with the new crown, which was seconded by RCH and the rest of the committee agreed.

10/25 Next Meeting Friday 28th February 2025 at 1700 hours

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Fellowes".

