

**MINUTES OF A ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 1400 HOURS**

**Present:**

Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House  
Sarah Davey  
Catherine Holmes  
Helen Le Gassicke  
Caroline Norris  
Jules Wood

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:**

Lucy Case, Events Manager  
Claire Hallett, Secretary

**30/25 Apologies** As listed above.

**31/25 Approval of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Minutes** The minutes were approved as a true record.

**32/25 Matter Arising from Minutes** (All on agenda)

**33/25 Points from Rear Commodore House**

Susie Breare was congratulated on her appointment as Rear Commodore House and RCH welcomed Jules Wood to the House Committee. Jules has been around Yarmouth most of his life and has 35 years of experience as a corporate consultant. Jules now organises the Gentlemen's Lunches at the Club and has arranged for the first talk at this month's St George's Day Gentlemen's Lunch, which will be given by Dan Russell, Assistant Harbour Master.

Ladies Lunch Speaker. Catherine Holmes reported that Rosemary Luck is only available in November. Sarah Davey will check with Caroline Blest (Book Publisher) if she has any availability for a September talk.  
Summer Charity Party & Fundraising Raffle. The Hampshire IOW Air Ambulance are the Club's chosen charity this year and are keen to be involved in the Summer Party and on the Sunday of Taittinger. They would be happy to give a presentation, Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July was suggested as a potential date for a talk and supper.

Raffle Prizes. A separate email should go to members asking them to donate raffle prizes. HIOWAA had already confirmed they could offer a visit to their Thruxton base. The Secretary will approach Hatch Mansfield about a Taittinger donation. Members Patrick & Jacky Sellers have offered a £5k donation if the Club can fundraise £5k for the HIOWAA. Jules Wood will enquire about a PB2 course via a friend. The Events Manager suggested that the colour scheme for decorations could be the green and yellow of the HIOWAA and that crepe paper streamers could be used as these are very cheap.

VE Day Anniversary. Following the last meeting, the Secretary had suggested a cake sale and afternoon tea on 8<sup>th</sup> May to raise funds for the Royal British Legion, which was now being advertised.

Film Ideas. Conclave, The Notebook, the latest Bridget Jones film, Letters to Juliet.

**34/25 Past Events**

- 20<sup>th</sup> March, Wine Society – 46, very popular Call My Bluff event with an 'Allo 'Allo theme.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Wake for 300 attendees, went very well
- 28<sup>th</sup> March, Opera Night – 57 attendees, 22 for supper
- 29<sup>th</sup> March, Clay Shoot & Lunch – 33 for lunch
- 30<sup>th</sup> March, Mothering Sunday Lunch – fully booked at 70
- 1<sup>st</sup> April, Dunlin Boys Talk & Lunch – 31
- 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Scrabble & Backgammon – 12
- 4<sup>th</sup> April, John Doerr Protest Talk – 25/30
- 5<sup>th</sup> April, Totland Bowling Club Dinner – 26, re-booked for next year
- 7<sup>th</sup> April, re-opening Monday lunchtimes – very quiet to date
- 9<sup>th</sup> April, private lunch for 26
- 12<sup>th</sup> April, Fitting Out Dinner – 74. Feedback that starter too big & goats' cheese is a "marmite" choice, pork main delicious and pudding great. Catherine added that the staff were fantastic, and the evening was seamless. Helen suggested an earlier start at 7pm for 7:30pm, which all agreed with, and which would be fed back to the staff.
- 16<sup>th</sup> April, Scottish Country Dancing & Ceilidh – 20

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### 35/25 Upcoming Events

- 18<sup>th</sup> April, Good Friday Moules Night – fully booked at 53 with 5 on waiting list
- 19<sup>th</sup> April, Boat Jumble & Lifejacket Clinic – 5 tables booked
- 20<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Sunday Lunch – fully booked at 83
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Gents' Lunch
- 1<sup>st</sup> May, Scrabble
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Open Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> May VE Day Cake Sale & Afternoon Tea
- 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June, Contessa Regatta

### 36/25 Catering & Bar Points

- The Secretary suggested a high value seafood platter & Taittinger offer, which the Head Chef had thought to be a good idea so this would hopefully be added to the Summer menu to boost revenue.
- Chicken Supreme had been requested for a Sunday Roast, but the Head Chef explained that it works as a main if everyone is eating at the same time, but it's not feasible to cook up to 90 to be served at different times as they have to be served immediately after being rested for 5 minutes. However, if an individual wants chicken rather than beef or lamb, then this is possible and has been done several times recently.
- Jules suggested adding a Ploughman's to the menu. The Secretary responded that the Head Chef was planning to introduce a number of summer salads to the menu.
- Jules had heard a member comment on some of the waitresses' skirts being very short. [The Secretary would follow up on this.](#)
- Caroline had heard lots of positive feedback about Champagne being available by the glass.
- RCH had heard positive feedback regarding the wine bin ends.
- The Secretary mentioned the new bar mats (sponsored by John Veal and Miles Peckham) and the new T Bar in the Hudleston Bar (free from the supplier) which facilitated serving drinks, both of which were good initiatives by the Club Steward.
- [Jules asked that staff be reminded to dim the lights in the dining rooms during the evening.](#)
- Jules requested linen napkins all the time rather than paper serviettes, but it was explained that it would generate too much additional washing, drying and ironing, which is all done in house.
- Jules requested an outside BBQ event open to all harbour visitors as well as members. The response was that as the Royal Solent is a private club members should come first when it comes to Club events, although they are welcome to bring guests. Our current policy of welcoming affiliated members, RYA members and visiting yachtsmen is already fairly generous.
- Jules commented that the Club should never be closed to members. It was advised that this was a one-off event for the recent large Wake which took place on a Saturday evening, the previous Saturday having been so quiet that the Club closed. Ordinarily, there is one bar kept open for members.

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### 37/25 Any additional points

Sarah advised that she would be stepping down from the House Committee and was thanked for her longevity and contribution.

**38/25 Date of Next Meeting:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 at 1600 hours.

*20/05/25*