

MINUTES OF A ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1130 HOURS

Present:

Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
Helen Le Gassicke
Jules Wood

Apologies:

Catherine Holmes
Caroline Norris

In Attendance:

Lucy Case, Events Manager
Claire Hallett, Secretary

65/25 Apologies As listed above.

66/25 Approval of 17th July 2025 Minutes The Minutes were approved as a true record.

67/25 Matter Arising from Minutes None.

68/25 Points from Rear Commodore House

Winter Programme Events.

- The Events Manager advised that the Winter programme (October to April) is complete up to December with the usual member activities. However, it would be good to schedule some different member events.
- The Events Manager has planned a Commodore's Supper in early February with a talk about the first ever "America's Cup" around the Isle of Wight. The speaker lives in Cowes and won't charge for the event as he'll use it to promote his book at a discounted rate.
- The Club re-opens on 20th January and Burns Night will be held on 24th January as it was popular last year, and a film night is planned for 22nd January.
- From the end of October this year, the Events Manager is planning to show classic films on Tuesday afternoons, which will be good for those members who don't like coming out after dark in the Winter. It was agreed that we could promote any winter warmer deal on Tuesday lunchtime, followed by the film with tea/coffee and cake in the interval at a charge of £5 a head.
- A final fundraising event for the HIOWAA was proposed in the form on a Bingo Night on Friday 5th December – the viability of this date will be discussed at the staff meeting tomorrow. [Post meeting, this date was confirmed as viable with the staff.]
- A Spring Ladies' Lunch will be added to the programme; RCH advised that Madeleine Green has a friend who's a dietician who could give a talk. **RCH**
- Saturday 7th March is free for a Club event – possibly another bingo night or a casino night? Costing of Casino Night to be looked into. **EM**
- It was agreed that a Murder Mystery Night should be booked in now for Spring 2027. **EM**
- RCH requested that the Dash in the Dark in aid of the HIOWAA on 4th October be promoted to members. **EM**

New Year's Eve Party. The Wight Hot Pipes are booked at a cost of £1k, set times are tbc but suggested as 21:30 – 22:30 and 23:00 – 00:00, with welcome drinks at 20:00 and the finger buffet from 20:30. The finger buffet would have a first stage of savouries and a second stage of desserts and cheese. It was proposed by RCH that the band play in the members' lounge and dining room, which would require a limit on numbers of 100. Round tables would be provided for attendees to sit at whilst eating, but it was felt that with a finger buffet all 100 attendees would not need to be seated at the same time and that no seating plan was required. The Events Manager suggested a Hogmanay theme as the band involves bagpipes and kilts, so a "touch of tartan" dress code was suggested, along with tartan serviettes, thistles in the flowers and a whiskey based welcome drink in addition to a Prosecco based alternative. **Ticket price tbc. EM**

Summer Party 2026. Jules suggested Country & Western theme and recommended an Island band called **Honky-Tonk Highway** which plays modern country music – availability and price tbc. **EM**
Everyone agreed that this would be a good theme.

150th Anniversary. The Club's 150th anniversary is in 2028. The Events Manager suggested an RSYC Proms with the IW Symphony Orchestra, Zita Symes and others playing music composed around 1878, with a formal dinner before the music – potentially in the Towers garden if that can be agreed with John Caulcutt. The Secretary added that it would be fantastic to have a fly past by Spitfires or Red Arrows with as many members as possible standing on the balconies and colonnade, all filmed by a drone. It was noted that it's also the 20th anniversary of the Taittinger RSYC Regatta in 2028.
RCH proposes to ask Miles Peckham if he will be involved in the planning as he has helped organised many large and prestigious events. RCH

Halloween 2026. The Events Manager suggested that a party is held on Halloween next year as the 31st October is a Saturday. RCH suggested local music duo Hodge & Allen who are her neighbours.

Meal Statistics. RCH advised that the Events Manager had provided some interesting statistics for the GC meeting last month, showing that the Club had produced 3,836 meals in 6 weeks during the period 19th June to 8th August, which is an incredible achievement. Jules congratulated all the staff for their efforts in what has been a very busy year, and RCH commented that other Clubs are always so complimentary of our staff, food and event organisation.

69/25 Past Events – 17th July to 17th September

- Thursday 17th July – Wine Society, 60 in attendance
- Friday 18th July – Gentlemen's Lunch, 29 in attendance
- Saturday 19th July – Targa Owners Dinner, 73 in attendance
- Thursday 24th July – HIOWAA Talk, 40 in attendance
- Saturday 26th July – Red Fox Owners' Association Dinner, 15 in attendance
- Saturday 2nd August – RSYC Summer Party,
- Thursday 7th August – Supper with Derek Sandy, 119 in attendance
- Saturday 9th August – Richard Pierrepont Party, 67 in attendance
- Wednesday 13th August – HIOWAA Sim Van & Sausage Sizzle, 103 in attendance
- Thursday 14th August – Royal Southern YC Brunch, 53 in attendance
- Saturday 16th August – Folkboat Week Welcome Dinner, 110 in attendance
- Sunday 17th August – Folkboat Week Hog Roast Dinner, 80 in attendance
- Monday 18th August – Bundy Golf Lunch, 14 in attendance
- Wednesday 20th August – Royal Southern YC joined Sailing Supper, 29 in attendance
- Thursday 21st August – Folkboat Week Curry Night, 71 in attendance
- Friday 22nd August – Folkboat Week Prize Giving Dinner, 131 in attendance
- Tuesday 26th August – Parkstone YC Dinner, 22 in attendance
- Friday 29th August – LYC BBQ, 18 in attendance AND Mr Asker-Browne Wake, 50 in attendance
- Tuesday 2nd, Thursday 4th & Friday 5th September – American Club Lunch, 11, 17, 18 in attendance
- Thursday 4th September – Scrabble & Backgammon, 12 in attendance
- Saturday 6th September – RAYC regatta Dinner, 49 in attendance
- Tuesday 9th September – George Alford Rotary Lunch, 16 in attendance AND LV Yachting Lunch, 12 in attendance
- Thursday 11th September – Film Night, Bridget Jones Mad About the Boy, 35 in attendance
- Saturday 13th September – Christchurch Sailing Club Dinner, 81 booked, cancelled due to weather
- Wednesday 17th September – Catenian Lunch, 52 in attendance

70/25 Upcoming Events

- 20th September – Red Squirrel Ball – 161

- 24th September – WER Prizegiving Dinner
- 27th September – RSYC Clay Shoot Lunch
- 28th September – Turkey Cup
- 1st October – First Wednesday Talk on rowing the Atlantic. RCH to introduce the speaker who is known to her. **N.B. Suggestions for future speakers would be welcome. ALL**
- 2nd October – Scrabble & Backgammon – numbers have increased.
- 3rd October – Gents' Lunch with talk on the similarities between microsurgery and sailing!
- 5th October – Winter Series starts.
- 9th October – Film Night – The Good Liar
- 10th October – Cruisers to Gins Farm
- 10th October RNLI Fundraising Supper, Quiz & Raffle

71/25 Catering & Bar Points

- Catering brilliant – the Royal Artillery were very impressed – the arancini starter was amazing.
- RCH suggested offering a special on fish & chips on Friday evenings as many members go to the Blue Crab.

72/25 AOB

- Helen commented that the Summer Party was really fantastic – wonderful food and the way it was laid out on the tables was excellent. There was an issue selling raffle tickets as demand on the night was so high – next time more volunteers are needed to go round every table at the start of the evening and to fold the tickets.
- The Secretary also added that the sound quality of the raffle draw was not good, so a headset has been purchased to replace the mic as this will be more user friendly and provide a better quality of sound.
- **Should Christmas Draw Squares be re-instated? Helen will look into this as prizes will be needed. HLG**

73/25 Date of Next Meeting: 11:30am on Monday 27th October.

John HLG

