

MINUTES OF A ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 2024 AT 1600 HOURS

Present:

Chair: John Poyner, Rear Commodore House
Susie Breare
Sarah Davey
Catherine Holmes
Helen Le Gassicke
Caroline Norris

Apologies: None

In Attendance:

Claire Hallett, Secretary
Lucy Case, Events Manager

01/24 Apologies As listed above.

02/24 Approval of 20th November 2023 Minutes The minutes were approved as a true record.

03/24 Matter Arising from Minutes

Programme Date Changes. Further to the Events Manager's earlier email to the House Committee, all agreed with the recommendations to delay events in the Winter Programme until there are more people around. The S Party has been postponed from 10th February to 6th March, the silent disco hire cost for the S Party is £120 for 30 headsets, though more can be added as necessary. Beijing Bingo will now be on 10th February instead (with a Chinese menu as it's Chinese New Year) and Karaoke will be postponed to the Summer and held as an event for children in the school holidays. In addition, Burns Night has been moved to the day before due to a wake now taking place on Friday 26th January.

May Ladies' Lunch. Catherine has spoken with Miles Peckham regarding a talk and he is going to think about it. [The Secretary suggested approaching Kate Taylor, an Island author and empowerment coach, who is hosting a book talk in Cowes this weekend about her new book "Big Bold Beautiful", which all agreed could be a good talk in May or October depending on her fee.](#)

RCH also suggested Charlotte Rayner, who is the boss of the NCI coastguard watch at The Needles and Caroline Blest may also be a potential speaker when she is less busy.

James Ketchell Talk. The Events Manager explained that James is circumnavigating the globe from September this year and could be a good option for a talk on his return.

RCH added that Dominic Fontana is an expert on the Mary Rose at the Classic Boat Museum and another potential speaker for a Club talk.

Junior Members' Event. It was felt that it would be fun to hold a family oriented event in the Summer holidays, with karaoke, mocktails, a magician (Susie will speak with Andy Hobbs), table tennis & table football tournaments and potentially pizza and ice cream vans. This requires further discussion as to whether it would be open to non-members, such as YSC members, costs and whether there would be any sailing involvement to encourage juniors to join Dinghy Week and Laser Training.

New Members' Evening in June. The Events Manager had suggested a second evening for new members in June as well as November, which all felt to be a good idea. Friday 7th June was pencilled in as a potential date.

Summer Party. As previously agreed, the Events Manager had booked the Wight Hot Pipes for the Summer Party and it was felt there should be no dress theme.

Commodore's Party. This event is scheduled for the last bank holiday in May. After some discussion regarding a barn dance, buffet or BBQ, Susie suggested an Italian theme as the Commodore and his wife love Italy, which everyone agreed with. A dress code with a touch of red, white and green was proposed, with an Italian menu and drinks such as Limoncello, Aperol Spritz, Prosecco, plus checked table cloths and Chianti bottles and candles to create a bistro feel.

Opera Evening. The last Opera evening with Stephen and Zita was held in November 2018 and the Dawsons would like to hold another this year. They are also re-forming the RSYC Choir.

04/24 Past Events

23 rd Nov, Wine Society – 44 attendees	13 th Dec, Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch - 51
24 th Nov, Silent Auction – very successful	15 th Dec, Wine Soc Xmas Party – 31
2 nd Dec, Helpers' Drinks – 60	17 th Dec, Commodore's Xmas Lunch - 84
6 th Dec, First Weds Talk – 49	21 st Dec, Carols at the Club - 70
7 th Dec, RNLI Christmas Bazaar	22 nd Dec, Camembert Share - 28

8 th Dec, Gents Christmas Lunch – only 24	24 th Dec, Xmas Eve Brunch – 80
9 th Dec, Needles Relief – 110	31 st Dec, NYE Party - 74

- Wine Society – it was remarked that the staff pouring should limit the amount to a tasting portion and that it would be useful to always have a list of the wines being tasted.
- Camembert Share will be trialled in the Summer as it's not well attended in the Winter, but is enjoyed by those who do attend.
- NYE Party – competed with a number of members' parties at the end of December so seemed to be an older crowd and was impacted by cancellations. As the Christmas Eve Brunch is always so successful, it was suggested that perhaps a New Year's Eve Brunch could be held this year instead of a party for a change. It could feature a different brunch menu to Christmas Eve, with live mellow music and Bucks Fizz. [RCH will discuss with the GC.](#)

Ev Man

RCH

05/24 Upcoming Events

20 th Jan, Quiz & Curry Night – 28 booked so far	8 th Feb, Film Night – 'Our Souls at Night' – Robert Redford & Jane Fonda
25 th Jan, Burns Night Dinner – 29	10 th Feb, Beijing Bingo
7 th Feb, First Weds Talk – Giorgia Bertolino on Art Restoration	16 th Feb, Gents Lunch

- Now promoting members' 10% discount on food on all posters.
- Mid-week Winter Warmer Offer - the Staff have come up with a winter warmer offer, which will give members a choice of two starters and two mains for £12 (including member discount) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays every week until the end of March. This is on top of the daily and specials menus. This was felt necessary following out of season offers from other local eateries and feedback that members can't afford to eat at the Club as much.

06/24 Catering Points

- Sarah had heard that the lamb portion at the NYE dinner was too large, however Susie had attended and said that it was a delicious menu and that the ratatouille complemented the lamb perfectly.
- RCH fed back that the portion of toast served with a pâté needs to be proportionately sized as at his lunch on Tuesday it was far too small.
- The addition of a garnish, such as parsley, was suggested to add colour to dishes that are more beige.
- A cheaper alternative to fillet steak was requested now and again, e.g. minute or sirloin.
- Easy to eat food was requested on Fridays after happy hour e.g. chicken wings, Tom's sausage rolls, onion rings, cheesy chips. A separate Bar Snacks menu was suggested with everything at the same price. Is it feasible to offer 3 for £10?
- Food for sailors this season – on Wednesday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes the sailors need snacks when they come off the water as an alternative to a big meal – a Bar Snacks menu as mentioned above. It was suggested that we could book the pizza van for one Wednesday every month and provide accompaniments such as chips and salad, which would encourage the sailors to stay and spend more at the bar.

[The Secretary will relay this feedback to the Chefs.](#)

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07/24 Bar Points

- RCH commented that Stuart was promoting the wine of the month well and encouraging members and visitors to try it as an alternative to their usual.

08/24 Any Additional Points None

09/24 Date of Next Meeting: Friday 16th February at 1600 hours (apologies from Caroline).