

# MINUTES OF A ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 1100 HOURS

## Present:

John Poyner, Rear Commodore House  
Susie Breare  
Catherine Holmes  
Helen Le Gassicke  
Caroline Norris

## Apologies:

Sarah Davey

## In Attendance:

Lucy Case, Events Manager  
Claire Hallett, Secretary

**76/24 Apologies** As listed above.

**77/24 Approval of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Minutes** The minutes were approved as a true record.

## 78/24 Matter Arising from Minutes

Champagne by the glass. The new Champagne Tower, which can preserve the bubbles in an open bottle of Champagne, has now arrived. Champagne flutes with a 125ml measuring line are on order, as is required by law when selling by the glass, and the new offering of a glass of Champagne for £15 will be promoted when they arrive. (Post meeting: following a discussion with Taittinger distributors, Hatch Mansfield, the price will be lowered to a more tempting £12.95 a glass). The Membership Secretary had observed from the Royal Thames's website that they offer a free glass of Champagne to their members, plus guests, on their birthday. It was felt a nice idea, but not feasible additional expenditure for the Club in the current financial climate.

## 79/24 Points from Rear Commodore House

Fireworks Night. Eighty diners enjoyed bangers & mash and the feedback was very positive – great view, £8k worth of fantastic fireworks and good food by the Club. Due to its prime location and the amount of people, the Club's dinghy park and lawn was accessed by the general public, who consumed food and drink not purchased from the Club and left a lot of litter behind. The question was raised as to whether the Club should sell mulled wine from the dinghy park rather than the Hudleston Bar to try and capitalise more from the event? It was agreed that, as the event is popular with members and their guests and legitimate visitors, the focus should be on them so as not to detract from their experience on the evening. Next year, the Club's furniture should be removed from the lawn as members use the balconies, the gate to the beach should be locked and adequate signage on display at the end of the drive.

Gallagher Insurance Q&A. Nobody signed up the Gallagher Insurance talk earlier this month, so it was cancelled. It wasn't a selling event, more our insurers aiming to give back to our members. It was felt that most members will have their insurance already sorted and wouldn't be looking to change, so it's not worth re-scheduling this event at a different time next year.

Summer Champagne Ball. A more formal Ball is planned for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025. There will be no separate Ball Committee, but separate meetings will be held as and when required. A gold colour theme was suggested for decorations to compliment the Champagne aspect. Guests will be served a complimentary glass of Champagne on arrival – the Secretary will talk to Hatch Mansfield about Taittinger sponsorship. There were a number of suggestions for live music including the Blue Water Giants, an Abba cover band - which Catherine would follow up on - and Pinstripe. Plus, Helen would talk to Fiona Thorpe about the bands that they acquire at Bembridge Harbour events. Mellow music on arrival was also suggested and Janetta would be approached regarding her brother who is a talented saxophonist who has played at the Club in the past. The Events Manager also suggested an illusionist or a magician. It was felt £79 per head would be a reasonable ticket price.

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## 80/24 Past Events

- 19<sup>th</sup> October – Jazz Night – 36 attendees. Very successful & more relaxed than in the past. Provisionally re-booked for 15<sup>th</sup> February as an afternoon jazz session.
- 24<sup>th</sup> October – Wine Society. A fantastic talk and tasting by Laithwaites, who donated all the wine and goody bags, attended by 51 members and guests. The funds raised (£576) as a result were donated to HIOWAA.
- 26<sup>th</sup> October – Royal Thames Autumn Excuse & Dinner – 53 guests for dinner. Great feedback from Peter Jennings on the food and service.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November – All Saints Church Sunday lunch – 34 attendees joined 35 members for roast pork. Good feedback on the food and service.

- 5<sup>th</sup> November – Firework Night Dinner – 80 members & guests enjoyed a 2 course meal. £2 added to ticket price for Carnival Committee funds so £160 raised from ticket sales.
- 6<sup>th</sup> November – First Wednesday talk on the RNLI by Martin Woodward. 56 stayed for lunch so very popular.
- 7<sup>th</sup> November – Scrabble & Backgammon, 12 for supper.
- 7<sup>th</sup> November – Freshwater Central WI Lunch for 27.
- 9<sup>th</sup> November – Laying Up Dinner for 71, excellent feedback.
- 13<sup>th</sup> November – Ladies Lunch for 42, brilliant feedback on the food, except the risotto was agreed to be a little al dente.
- 14<sup>th</sup> November – Film Night, Wicked Little Letters, 30 attended. Lovely lasagna and ice creams went down well during the interval. Interesting film although the language was rather blue! The sound was fine. Recommended to show 'The Good Liar' in February.
- 15<sup>th</sup> November – Recently Joined Members Evening, 47 attended for drinks & 38 stayed for dinner. Issue with mic not working, plus noise from bar so doors need to be closed next year.
- 16<sup>th</sup> November – YOD Dinner, 63 attended. John Caulcutt and his bandmates played and it was reported to be an excellent evening.

### 81/24 Upcoming Events

- 21st November – Wine Society, 41 booked
- 30th November – Après Ski, only 21 signed up so agreed to cancel and get a refund on the headsets if possible. (Post meeting – refund of £60 of £80 obtained)
- 4th December – First Wednesday Talk – may be cancelled due to Wake for Mrs Hamilton-Fletcher.
- 5th December – RNLI Christmas Fair
- 7th December – Helpers Drinks
- 10th December – Needles Relief Lunch
- 11th December – Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch
- 12th December – Wine Society Christmas Party
- 13th December – Gent's Lunch
- 14th December – Needles Relief Lunch
- 15th December – Commodore's Xmas Party
- 20th December – Carols at the Club
- 24th December – Christmas Eve Brunch
- 31st December – New Year's Eve Brunch, Club open 11am-4pm. Email to promote will also reference next year's party with the Wight Hot Pipes.
- The Club will be closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> January until 20<sup>th</sup> January inclusive
- 23rd January – Film Night "The Miracle Club"
- 25th January – Burns Night
- 26<sup>th</sup> February – Ladies' Lunch with a talk on set design: 'Behind the Scenes' - with a Film and TV designer – [Caroline to approach Claire Spragge \(film costumier\) about doing a talk at the end of the year.](#)

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### 82/24 Catering & Bar Points

Only positive feedback regarding the quality and value food and service.

### 83/24 Any additional points

Cost Savings. Is live music necessary on the Saturday of Taittinger RSYC Regatta? The cost is £500 - £600 for 3 bands booked and no deposit has been paid yet. It was agreed that it should be scaled down to one band later in the day from 4pm – 6:30pm. Could the other bands be moved to the Contessa Regatta or Folkboat Week?

Bingo. More bingo nights were requested as they are popular.

### 84/24 Points for Next Meeting

- Summer Champagne Ball

**85/24 Date of Next Meeting:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 1600 hours.