

MINUTES OF A ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22ND APRIL 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

28/24 Apologies As listed above.

29/24 Approval of 22nd March 2024 Minutes The minutes were approved as a true record.

30/24 Matter Arising from Minutes

Family oriented email. Planned to go out in May before bank holidays.

Future Talks. Motivational speaker, Kate Taylor, still a potential option. [The Secretary suggested a talk by the crew of Maiden following their successful world race and will liaise with the Sailing Secretary on this.](#)

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31/24 Past Events

- 29th March, Good Friday Fish & Chip Supper – 38 attendees. SW Shingles Yacht Club had a lunch for 47 that day (and will be returning next year) so ideal for staffing that it was a good balance of numbers at both events. All felt it should be repeated again next year.
- 30th March, Boat Jumble – seemed a worthwhile event as little impact on Club staffing and members paid £10 to hire 5 tables in total and many seemed to do well in terms of sales, to be repeated again next year at the same time (Easter Saturday) with as much promotion as possible to the sailing club and local community as more footfall would have been good. The £60 was recorded under miscellaneous sailing income.
- 31st March, Easter Sunday Lunch – Fully booked with 72 attendees for Roast Lamb, plus 3 for snack lunches.
- 5th April, Ladies' Lunch – 49 attendees to the talk by Charlotte Rayner who is Station Manager at Needles NCI (National Coastwatch Institution) and was sourced by RCH. The talk was very good and Charlotte recruited a few members for the NCI.
- 6th April, Club Clay Shoot – 19 attended the shoot and 22 attended the lunch, which are good numbers.
- 11th April, Film Night – 17 attendees for a showing of 'Sunshine on Leith' as requested by Anne Vernon and added as an extra for April.
- 13th April, Fitting Out Dinner – 73 in attendance, an excellent dinner with good feedback received.
- 17th April, Not Quite the First Wednesday Talk – 'Remembering Mallory: 100 Years On' by Kevin Shaw. Reported to be a good talk.
- 19th April, Gents' Lunch – very successful with 34 in attendance.

32/24 Upcoming Events

Fewer social events as now moving into the sailing season.

- Wednesday Evening Series – the Club opens for food on Wednesday evenings from 24th April to coincide with the start of Wednesday evening racing. It is proposed to trial the light bites on Wednesday evenings for sailors after racing. [The Secretary will talk to the Head Chef about swapping out chicken wings for chicken bites \(smaller snacks in greater quantity are better value\) and changing the offering more regularly.](#)
- Mid-week Spring Special – the Club is now open Tuesday lunchtimes as the new Second Chef, Jon, is covering these. The mid-week special offer menu is now moving to Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes, rather than Thursdays which are usually busier.
- Open Day, 4th May.
- RNLI Ball, 11th May – hosting dinner for up to 160 so all staff are stepping up to work it, tickets are almost sold out.

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- Commodore's Party, 25th May – Italian theme, to be promoted later this week once the Head Chef has finalised the menu.
- Gin Tasting Night now scheduled for Saturday 8th June.

33/24 Any Additional Points

Staffing. The Secretary reported that the Club's Service Manager, Brooke, has given notice and her last day will be Saturday 18th May so it is planned to have a leaving event for her then. The Secretary highlighted a very successful and lucrative dinner party for 99 guests from the Needles Masonic Lodge with a live band and casino that the staff had done a brilliant job of hosting on Saturday evening. RCH suggested that the Secretary to report on external events at the GC meeting as they are such an important source of income for the Club.

New Year's Eve. RCH explained that he had received one or two complaints about the lack of a party this year on New Year's Eve and had prepared the following statement for the AGM in case it was raised, which it wasn't:

"There are several reasons we are planning another way of celebrating the upcoming new year and these range from timing to finance and the need to recognise the level of support the previous events have had. The task for our House Committee, working with Claire, Lucy and Chef Tom, is to bring our members interesting and fun events that are well attended and cost effective. The accounts you have reviewed in the AGM Calling Notice show clearly that our bar and dining income is profitable with good margins and turnover - more members are using the Club. The New Year's Eve event has diminished over the last 5 years from a high of 116 attendees to 73 last year. Even if we had more attendees it can be an expensive event to produce. Bands are difficult to book, staff have to work till way after 1.00am clearing up for the next day. A previous Brunch event held on Christmas Eve was well attended and very successful so we are going try it out this year on New Year's Eve. We may well revert to the traditional event next year, but really want to try something different this year."

Caroline Norris shared that on reflection she felt it was a mistake not to hold a NYE party as our members will go elsewhere instead this year, such as to the Island Sailing Club. RCH responded that the matter was discussed by the House Committee due to the lower attendance and flat atmosphere at the last party, and was subsequently recommended to and approved by the GC, so it's too late to change this now. There was a suggestion that the brunch might be better on New Year's Day rather than New Year's Eve – to be raised with the staff by the Secretary and discussed in the next meeting.

Potential Future Events. The Secretary proposed a Taittinger Champagne Summer Ball in 2025, at which the Club could introduce Taittinger Nocturne Champagne which is a sweet 'Sec' Champagne perfect for late evening indulgence and not yet on the Club's wine list. This was felt to be a possibility, especially if it is felt that a more relaxed NYE party would be more popular next year, attracting a younger crowd and generating a more lively atmosphere.

27/24 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20th May 2024 at 1600 hours (change of date)

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