

MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST 2025

Present:

In the Chair: John Poyner, Commodore
Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
Nick Bradley, Rear Commodore Sailing
Robert Quain, Hon Treasurer
Peter Crowhurst
Katie Davies
Richard Pierrepont
Leslie Tregear

Apologies:

Catherine Holmes
Mark Lacey
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas
Sarah Turvill
Hamish Fletcher, Guardian
Anne Kyle, Guardian

In Attendance:

Mark Hall, Guardian
Tony Walton, Guardian
Claire Hallett, Secretary

52/25 Apologies As listed above.

53/25 Approval of Minutes from 25th April Meeting The minutes were approved as a true record.

54/25 Matters Arising All covered by the agenda points.

55/25 Commodore's Update

South Sheds Working Group. The Hon. Treasurer provided an update as he is now leading the South Sheds refurbishment project, alongside Steve Carson. The Commodore has stepped back and Richard Pierrepont has stepped down. The Hon. Treasurer has met the builders a few times and observed the progress that they have made to date. Work commenced the week after the Taittinger RSYC Regatta, with the rear wall footings, wooden structure and panelling going in since then. Footings have also been created at the front of the sheds to a depth of almost 1m in order to support the steel structure. The easy part will be the single bay and two double bays, the old workshop structure will be more complicated. There has been expenditure of £6k inc vat on materials and skip hire to date, the invoices for labour will be submitted after the first phase (single & double bays). The cost for a double bay is approximately £11k. Funding of £25k has been received from the Y Class to date, which will cover 50% of the work.

150th Anniversary. The Club's 150th anniversary is in 2028. The Commodore attended the Royal Thames' 250th anniversary and the Fastnet anniversary at RORC. Anne Kyle advised that a working group should be formed, Rear Commodore House was asked to consider the matter with the House Committee.

Royal Patronage. The Commodore spoke with Major General Sir Martin White (former Lord Lieutenant) about Royal patronage for the Royal Solent and was advised that it's a long-winded process over 2-3 years and the Club would need to select a target and go for it. The Commodore will approach the current Lord Lieutenant Susie Sheldon about the matter.

Folkboat Week Anniversary Sail Past. There will be a sail past the end of the pier by the Folkboat Week fleet on Sunday morning, which the Lord Lieutenant Susie Sheldon will attend. The timing will need to take the ferry into account, and any fishermen should be moved on; whilst sailing George Alford was hit by a fisherman's weight cast from the pier in a recent incident.

56/25 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

May Results. At the beginning of the Club's busy season the results are way ahead of budget, which is excellent news, particularly as challenging targets were set for the bar and catering and these have been overachieved. Sailing turnover is at £9k due to the timing of the Contessa Regatta which was in May this year and June last year.

June Results. Subscriptions income is down £10k on what was an ambitious budget, due primarily to higher resignations and less sign-ups at the Spring Open Day. The year to date deficit is going in the right direction and the Club is in a good position financially, hopefully July and August will be really good months.

Taittinger RSYC Regatta 2025. The net contribution from this year's regatta is £35k compared to £33k last year, which is a good result. The Commodore recognized how hard the staff had worked over the three days of the regatta and will come back with a recommendation, once the results are in for July. The Commodore remarked that it is becoming a significant regatta, since Cowes Week this year only attracted 424 boats. Katie

Davies commented on the good atmosphere at the Champagne Reception and the Friday Supper. There was a lot of positive feedback for the race management team in difficult conditions. They did a good job getting two races in for the White Group in Bouldnor Bay and in cancelling the second race for Black Group but providing two races on the Sunday. It was noted that the internet connection was an issue in terms of the results and card machines.

Tony Walton expressed concern about poor member retention and feels more should be done to look after new members, past initiatives such as Flag Officer lunches targeted new members with personal invitations. What percentage of Open Day joiners do not last a year? What percentage of members live on the mainland compared to the Island? Should monthly and quarterly subscription direct debits be pushed more to new members? The latter will be discussed by the Vice Commodore's Committee.

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57/25 Vice Commodore's Report

New Recruit. Alan Roffey-Jones is willing to serve on the Vice Commodore's Committee, subject to ratification by the GC. All present were in favour.

Membership Applications. There were 11 membership applications during June and July, which were approved by the GC via email:

June Applications			
Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1. Mrs Gabriele Davies	Tony Sceales	Mo Kearns	<p>DoB 20th February 1993</p> <p>Daughter-in-Law of Katie Davies, lives in Lausanne and will be helping out afloat at Taittinger Regatta.</p> <p>Interests: racing, crewing, onshore activities, and race management.</p>
2. Mrs Barbara Bryant	Catherine Holmes	Penny Woodbridge	<p>DoB 3rd August 1945</p> <p>Worked at the Chamber of Commerce (now retired) and has recently moved from Hulverstone to Yarmouth.</p> <p>Interests: onshore activities, WI and a very keen gardener who might be happy to help with flowers at the Club.</p>
3. Mr Jon Goddard	Davd Fentum	Anne Kyle	Born in 1964 (both).
4. Mrs Pam Goddard			Both work in the Construction industry; they have an 8.5m RIB which is at Yar Boatyard.
			Interests: motorboat training, boat shed/mooring, and onshore activities.
5. Mr Will Bradley	Susie Breare	Anne Kyle	Born in 1963 (W) and 1964 (A)
6. Mrs Adele Bradley			The Bradleys own/operate Yarmouth café "Word of Mouth" and were inspired to join RSYC by a visit to Happy Hour.
			Interests: cruising, motorboat training, and onshore activities.

7. Mr Andrew Poyner	Rudi Fortson	Madeleine Green	Son of Commodore John Poyner, Andrew owns a Wylie yacht which is moored in Oakland, CA where Andrew lives. He will be in the UK for Taittinger Regatta. Interests: racing.
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July Applications			
Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1. Mr Graeme Shove, DOB 1940 2. Mrs Marguerite Shove, DOB 1947	Rudi Fortson	David Valley Porter	Both are Members of the RLymYC and Salcombe YC. They are purchasing a house in Yarmouth, hence the application for membership here. Mr & Mrs Shove have sailed Luggers in the past but their main interest in the Club would be Onshore Activities.
3. Mr Gordon Munro-Ashman, DOB 1943 4. Mrs Sarah Munro-Ashman, DOB 1955	Rudi Fortson	Susie Breare	Mr & Mrs M-A are seeking reinstatement as Members of the RSYC. Today they own a motorboat which is berthed on the River Yar. They would be interested in cruising, motorboat training and onshore activities at the Club.

Notice Period for Applications. The Vice Commodore recommended that the notice period in Rule 20.9 for membership applications should be reduced from 14 days to 7 days in order to get members into the Club as soon as possible. All present were in favour of this recommendation.

Six Times Rule. The Vice Commodore has created a succinct list of those to whom the six times a year rule applies and suggests that this is displayed on the notice board, bar and website as a reminder. Strict policing isn't necessary as there are only a few offenders:

Persons permitted to visit the Royal Solent Yacht Club (up to SIX times in a calendar year)
i) Members of any RYA affiliated Club skippering yachts (and their crew). ii) Persons owning / skippering yachts (and their crew) competing in Club races and rallies. iii) Visiting yachtsmen and yachtswomen (including foreign yachtspersons). iv) Members of other (reciprocal) Clubs. v) A guest accompanying a Club Member. vi) Guests, as regular crew when racing with Members at open sailing events.*

* Guests who are regular crew, when racing with Members at open sailing events may, at the discretion of the Rear Commodore Sailing, exceed the six-day limit [rule 25.2].

Summer Open Day. Duties for the next Open Day on Saturday 23rd August have been sent to the volunteers this week. Lesley has secured sponsorship from the harbour for the purchase of two Open Day banners and for the cost to change the dates each year. Yarmouth SC are lending us their display boards and posts and the Membership Secretary has distributed posters in Lymington.

Registration Fee. As per Rule 21.2, the registration fee can't be increased beyond 10% of the retail price index. We are close to reaching a target figure for approval but need to wait for the RPI figure to come out in August.

Boat Shed Bye-laws. The VCC proposed revisions to the boat shed bye-laws in May and received no comments from the GC. They will be reviewed in the next meeting of the VCC and then put live. They include amendments to align with the Club's insurance policy, such as paints and solvents not being left on site and non-members

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making themselves known.

58/25 Update from Rear Commodore House

Past Events. From 19th June to 8th August the Club served 4k meals and the staff should be congratulated and recognised for this. Events included:

Wine Society – 60 attendees

Gentlemen's Lunch – 29

Targa Owners' Dinner – 73

Summer Party – 190 + 40 after dinner tickets

Derek Sandy Supper – 119

Plus, 678 meals during the Taittinger RSYC Regatta and 300 meals to Lymington Yacht Charters over 5 events.

Upcoming Events.

Wednesday 13th August – Sausage Sizzler & HIOWAA Flight Simulator

Saturday 16th – Friday 22nd August - Folkboat Week

Saturday 20th September – Red Squirrel Charity Ball for 160 people.

HIOWAA Fundraising.

Prince Consort Race Entries: £305

Taittinger RSYC Regatta cap sales: £1040

Member/visitor donations*: £150

Raffle ticket sales: £4030

Party ticket sales: £1980

Total to date: £7505

Mr & Mrs Sellers contribution: £5000

Grand total to date: £12,605

It was noted that the sound quality during the raffle announcements was very poor, and the Club needs a better sound system.

59/25 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing Update. The Taittinger RSYC Regatta 2025 was a great success with 200 boats entered, which was up on last year and Matt Sheahan also covered the event in Planet Sail will help increase our profile. The quality of boats entering is also up and attendees were notably more civilised this year. Taittinger has confirmed that their sponsorship will continue.

Laser Training. A week of Laser Training by Claudia and Henry Olmi took place from 28th July to 1st August for 16 young sailors.

Dinghy Week. This year's Dinghy Week attracted 30 sailors, all but two of whom were youth sailors. We are trying to rebuild our fleet of junior sailors, and the Sailing Secretary has worked very hard to get Yarmouth SC working with us again. Nine of the thirty were members but we should look at it as a way to promote our sailing abilities to new members. There are already six potential members so getting YSC over here to race is working, it's just key to ensure Dinghy Week dates don't clash with the YSC dates.

Sunset Series. Sunset Series starts next week, and it is hoped that YSC sailors who are instructors there will be able to take part, some are already involved in the YOD's Junior Helm race on Sunday. Lesley spent a lot of time talking to parents during Dinghy Week and encouraged them to come to the Summer Open Day. Many of the YSC parents don't sail but may be persuaded to do race Officering. The Commodore stressed that the committee boat should not be used as a viewing platform by non-members as they are not covered by the Club's insurance.

Isle of Wight Youth Championships for Island youth sailors will come to the Club on 27th September, we are hosting this leg in conjunction with the YSC.

The Fandango Charity Race and Derek Sandy Supper were moved from Wednesday to Thursday this year at the request of the XOD Class. Next year it will go back to Wednesday evening as the race was poorly attended. Cowes Week is ending today and there have been 5 XODs and others from the Club taking part, plus RCS and members Max Bradley and Max Newman took part in the Fastnet this year.

Folkboat Week is from 16th to 22nd August and there has been a big effort to attract 50 Folkboats for the 50th anniversary, which should be achievable as there are 47 entries to date. A new Folkboat Week winners' plaque is going up above the double doors on the west side of the main bar.

Cruising Group BBQ. On 17th August the cruising group has its Summer BBQ in Newtown.

MarkSetBots. The remote-controlled racing marks have been incredibly successful this season.

Crown Estate Moorings. We are now in possession of the final lease document to sign, the terms of which were circulated to the GC in August 2024 and were successfully negotiated within the agreed remit. All present agreed for the Commodore to be the signatory on behalf of the Club.

60/25 Secretary's Points

New Website. On 5th August, the Club Secretary and Events Manager had received several hours of training on WordPress platform on which the new website is built. A lot of work has been done by Peripatus adding content from the old site to the new website, but this is a few months out of date so further work updating the new website needs to be done in house. Peripatus are still working on the booking system for events.

Life Saving Incident. This week, one of the parents whose sons are members and were taking part in Dinghy Week, suffered from anaphylactic shock as a result of a bee sting and stopped breathing. Our Boatmen and Sailing Secretary provided first aid, called the ambulance and our Head Boatman administered two EpiPens and then performed CPR to resuscitate the casualty. It was suggested that the Head Boatman should perhaps receive a special award at the Laying Up Dinner.

61/25 Next Meeting Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 1700 hours

All

Prior to closing the meeting, the Commodore asked GC members to stand to observe a minute's silence for members Sydney Attrill and Adrian Hartley, who had sadly died since the last GC meeting.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Parker', is followed by the date '28/09/25' written in a similar style.

