

# MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

## Present:

In the Chair: John Poyner, Commodore  
Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore (Zoom)  
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House  
Nick Bradley, Rear Commodore Sailing  
Robert Quain, Hon Treasurer  
Mark Lacey  
Richard Pierrepont

Caryl Terlezki-Thomas  
Leslie Tregear  
Sarah Turvill (Zoom)  
**Apologies:**  
Peter Crowhurst  
Katie Davies  
Catherine Holmes

## In Attendance:

Hamish Fletcher, Guardian  
Mark Hall, Guardian  
Anne Kyle, Guardian  
Tony Walton, Guardian  
Claire Hallett, Club Secretary

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Commodore asked GC members to stand to observe a minute's silence for members Ian Carruthers, Rod Hockin, Denis Cross and John Crowhurst, who had all sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

**82/25 Apologies** As listed above.

**83/25 Approval of Minutes from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 Meeting** The minutes were approved as a true record.

**84/25 Matters Arising** All covered by the agenda points.

**85/25 Commodore's Update**

Members' Drinks Discount. The Commodore advised that a policy decision regarding the members' discount on drink was needed in order to hit the proposed budget next year. It is proposed by the Officers to reduce the discount from 17.5% to 15%, which should generate additional annual income of £5-6k for the Club. The drinks discount was increased from 15% to 17.5% in July 2019. **All present agreed with this proposal and the Commodore advised that it would come into effect and be announced to the membership in January, with an emphasis on other costs having been kept down.**

Club Secretary's Hours. The Club Secretary wishes to reduce her hours from 5 days a week to 4 days on a trial basis from April, after the new website has gone live. All present were ok with this.

Charles Stanley Event. Having been based on the Island previously, investment management and financial planning firm, Charles Stanley, has sponsored a racing mark for some time. **To incentivise them to continue to do so, it has been suggested to invite them to run a one-off seminar at the Club for members.** All present supported this.

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**86/25 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer**

October Results. Catering turnover in October was very strong – way ahead of budget and last year. In spite of a weak September, the year-to-date figures are really impressive at a profit of £7.5k compared to a deficit of (£12k) last year and a budget of (£11k). Seasonal staff costs continued to be high in October, most likely due to continued holiday cover, and are way over budget for the year-to-date. The overall result for the year-to-date of £7.5k in the black is a really good result so bodes well for the end of year. In terms of cash, more has been spent this year than last, so it is lower but we are still in a strong position, plus the Y Class still owe the Club £25k for the South Sheds which we should receive next year.

2026 Budget. Two budget meetings have been held to attain the proposed Budget v2 for 2026, which has been circulated via email. The aim, as usual, is to break even operationally. The year end target income has grown by £30k year on year through the modest increase in subscription fees, plus increased bar targets and entry fees. The Hon. Treasurer considers the budgeted income not to be too bullish. In terms of expenditure, there is a bit more control. The salary total under 'Admin' takes into account the Club Secretary's reduced hours from April. The overall salary bill will increase next year due to the Government's increases in the minimum and living wages. The rateable value of the clubhouse has dropped from £42k to £30k following our challenge and, whilst the relief scheme is ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March, the multiplier is decreasing from 49 to 38.2. In terms of sailing, there is a chunk set aside for moorings maintenance, including merging A trot into B trot and the new Crown Estate mooring charge of £100 per mooring. Hopefully, there are sufficient funds allocated to cover standard boat maintenance and there won't be any exceptional work required. If expenditure is in line with the proposed budget, this will achieve an operational surplus of £2.5k, which is essentially similar to this year. The Hon. Treasurer believes it to be a sound and fair budget. The staff are getting a fairly generous pay rise as they deserve it

(Addendum: 3% average pay rise in January against a current inflation rate of 3.5%). The Commodore commented that the big unknown is the subscription renewals in January, given the amount of doom and despondency in the news. There has been some degree of ball juggling to ensure that subscriptions do not increase too much and staff wages are in line with the increasing cost of living. Anne Kyle suggested that the budget could be finalised and approved in January once the renewals position is better known. As the proposed staff pay rises are from 1<sup>st</sup> January, the quarterly budget reviews will suffice. All present were happy with the proposed budget for 2026. The Hon. Treasurer advised that he didn't foresee any major project work in 2026, with the exception of the South Sheds roof at approximately £13k. It will be decided in the new year whether to proceed with this or not.

## 87/25 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. Applications were received for three prospective members in November, all recommended for approval at the Vice Commodore's Committee meeting and approved by the GC via email to start membership from 1<sup>st</sup> December:

Applicant (s)	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
Neils Wagner	Peter Crowhurst	Alan Roffey-Jones	Interested in racing, cruising, crewing, and Laser training. Wife hasn't made the move from Denmark yet.
Josh MacGregor & Chloe Ridgway	Jen Allen	Alan Pollitt	Josh & Chloe's Wedding Party is here at the Club in 2026.
John Gleeson	Robert Quain	John Poyner	Interested in crewing, motorboat training, socials, and race management.

Plus, a fourth application for Laurence Fumagalli, recommended by the VCC via email this week for approval by the GC today:

Laurence Fumagalli	Rudi Fortson	Barrie Poeton	Lives in Richmond, now retired (aged 53), has an Oyster 595 which he berths in Bucklers Hard. Interested in racing & cruising.
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The GC approved this application for membership.

Non-Members in Club Boats. The matter of non-members on Club boats arose as an insurance issue. Gallagher has confirmed that it's not essential for non-members who race to be made temporary members, but to do so widens the insurance cover to include a member-to-member extension on the policy. A clause will therefore be added to entry forms stating that non-members will be made temporary members for the duration of the race in which they are entered, which Gallagher has advised is sufficient.

Reciprocal Clubs. Guy Ashton visited [Real Club Maritim Barcelona](#) in August and subsequently emailed the Commodore to recommend it for reciprocity. The Vice Commodore's Committee looked at Reial Club Maritim Barcelona, but identified an older, more established and traditional club in Barcelona - [Real Club Náutico de Barcelona](#) (RCNB). The VC approached the latter regarding reciprocity and, following a meeting of their board of directors, they confirmed that they were keen to enter a reciprocal agreement. They have submitted an agreement, which is more formal than what we are used to, so the VC proposes to negotiate this into a less formal Memorandum of Understanding if possible. All present agreed in principle to a reciprocal agreement with Real Club Náutico de Barcelona but would also like to follow up on reciprocity with Reial Club Maritim Barcelona due to the invitation apparently made to Guy Ashton by its Commodore and its ties with the America's Cup, which it hosted last year.

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## 88/25 Update from Rear Commodore House

General Update. There has been very positive feedback during a busy November and December to date, so thanks are due to the Events Manager and catering and bar teams. Congratulations to the Head Chef Tom, Nadia and big sister Thea on the arrival of a new baby daughter, Noelle. The kitchen is closing on Tuesday lunchtimes (16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> December) while Alberto covers Tom's paternity leave. On Boxing Day and New Year's Day there will be bar nibbles only. The Club re-opens on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January with a film night on 22<sup>nd</sup> and Burns Night on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Past Events. Film nights, classic film afternoons and scrabble are proving popular with members, and it has been a busy time in the Club with events:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Royal Thames YC Dinner – 36 attendees

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – First Wednesday Talk by Kevin Shaw – 47 for lunch
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov – Fireworks Night Supper – fully booked at 108 (20 up on last year), excellent bar takings
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov – Laying Up Dinner – 67
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – End of Season Cruising Lunch – 45
- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – New Members’ Evening – excellent turnout & 38 suppers
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – YOD Dinner – 44
- 18<sup>th</sup> Nov – Ladies’ Lunch with talk by Sailing Secretary – 52
- 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Quay2Quay Lunch – decent amount spent on drinks & canapes, discount on ferries secured
- 20<sup>th</sup> Nov – Wine Society – 40
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov – XOD AGM & Dinner – 36
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – First Wednesday Talk – 39 for lunch
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dec – RNLI Christmas Fair – went well
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Bingo for HIOWAA – 28
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Helpers’ Drinks – approx. 70
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Senior Citizens’ Christmas Lunch – 55
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Wine Society Christmas Party – 50
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec – Gents’ Christmas Lunch – 42

#### Upcoming Events.

- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec – Needles Relief
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Carols & Mummers’ Play
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – Commodore’s Christmas Drinks & Lunch
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Eve Brunch
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec – New Year’s Eve Party – fully booked at 100 (£50 for members & £60 for non-members)

Christmas Squares Draw tickets are available from the Bar and there are over 20 prizes to be won, kindly donated by the House Committee. RCH gave a big thank you to all the staff who have worked very hard.

Richard Pierrepont suggested that the Club could start a Classic Car section with bi-monthly meetings, which was felt to be a sound suggestion.

#### **89/25 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing**

Sailing Update. There’s not a lot to report on save the continuing Winter Series. There have been three races in the second series to date as last weekend’s race was cancelled. Thirteen boats took part in the first series and ten are competing in the second series. Sadly, no boats from the Club are taking part in the Needles Relief Race; there is now wind forecast so they will be motoring. The Club’s Boxing Day Race is well supported.

The Sailing Secretary emailed the membership regarding the Etchells academy, which is a first-class programme provided by the Royal London for sailors under the age of 28. Member James Willy may be interested. It was highlighted that if any potential candidates needed financial support this could be provided by the Millennium Fund.

MarkSetBots. Some good news in that the Club will be using MarkSetBots again next year, thanks to Hall Hunter’s continued sponsorship.

Cruising. Brian and Maxine Crawford are covering the organisation of cruising for the first three months of 2026, potentially with support from Catherine Holmes.

Talks. There will be four talks on Fridays in the Winter by John Doerr and Rod Angel.

Dinghy Park. The Boatmen are maintaining the dinghy park at the end of January so all dinghy owners have been advised that they need to remove their dinghies or they will be charged for storage.

#### **90/25 Club Secretary’s Points**

Membership Statistics. The Club Secretary circulated the year-to-date membership statistics at the end of November, which showed they remain on a par with last year, although resignations effective during 2025 are well up on the previous year:

YEAR-TO-DATE STATS	END NOV 2025	END NOV 2024	END NOV 2023	END NOV 2022	END NOV 2021	END NOV 2020
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	1,114	1,134	1,096	1,068	1,021	998

NEW MEMBERS	80	82	104	116	93	38
DEATHS	10	7	9	8	12	13
RESIGNATIONS FOR CURRENT YEAR	95	48	71	75	63	55
RESIGNATIONS AS OF 1ST JAN FOLLOWING YEAR	33	50	25	21	26	12

All

2026 Magazine Submissions. The Club Secretary reminded those still due to provide submissions for the magazine that the deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> December. Anne Kyle enquired about the advertising income and was advised that there's only one page left to fill so the magazine should make a small profit again next year.

Subs Direct Debits. The promotion of quarterly direct debits in November's subscription invoice only resulted in a few members changing from annual to quarterly.

Thanks. Richard Pierrpont has kindly made and fitted two new tampions for the cannons flanking the front door. Hall Hunter generously donated £500 to the funds raised for the Hampshire IOW Air Ambulance on Bingo Night.

## 91/25 AOB

Close Down Work. The Club Secretary confirmed there was a long list of jobs for the two weeks in January when the Club is closed. John Crowhurst's Wake is due to take place at some point during closedown so the staff will have to work around this. Tony Walton suggested that members would gladly volunteer to help as they always used to. The Club Secretary advised that help would be appreciated with the refurbishment of the garden furniture in the Spring and she will email the membership accordingly.

Bar Stools. John Veal and Mark Hall have requested two additional bar stools similar to the round stools.

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**92/25 Next Meeting:** Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 1700 hours

*Janey 22/126.*