

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT
17:00 ON FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026**

Present:

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

Lesley Tregear

Sarah Turvill ✕

Apologies:

Susie Breare, RCH

Peter Crowhurst

Catherine Holmes

Caryl Terlezki-Thomas ✕

Tony Walton, Guardian

In Attendance:

Hamish Fletcher, Guardian

Mark Hall, Guardian ✕

Anne Kyle, 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 member Kenneth McKenzie-Walker, who had sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

12/26 Apologies As listed above.

13/26 Approval of Minutes from 30th January 2026 Meeting The minutes were approved as a true record.

14/26 Matters Arising All covered by the agenda points.

15/26 Commodore's Update

Honorary Membership. Duncan Willard, of longstanding Wednesday Evening Racing sponsors Spence Willard, has approached the Club regarding honorary membership. Spence Willard provides £1,100 ex vat, plus £300 - £500 for prizes for WER and in return we display their branding on a banner on the clubhouse and on the relevant sailing documentation and website pages. The Officers recommended Duncan for honorary membership and all present agreed with this recommendation.

Maintenance Work. There are three key maintenance projects this year:

- South façade & woodwork – Duncan Waite £7.5k
- Repairs to west end stonework – Duncan Waite £4.5k (at end of summer stonework has dried out)
- Repoint & replace broken paving slabs – Steve Carson £665

All those present agreed that the maintenance work described should go ahead. Mark Lacey enquired as to whether any of the maintenance work would be covered by insurance, but this was felt unlikely as it's wear and tear. [Post meeting: the Club Secretary emailed the GC to confirm that the insurance policy covers damage as a direct result of a sudden and identifiable insured peril, i.e. flood or storm, but does not cover deterioration/wear and tear].

GC Nomination. The Commodore advised that John Veal intends to stand for nomination to the GC at the upcoming AGM. If his nomination form is submitted prior to the deadline of 6th March, this would mean that there are five candidates for four spaces so it will come down to a vote. The other candidates are confirmed as Steve Carson, David Fox, David Porter and Jules Wood. [Post meeting: correction – there are actually five spaces for the five candidates.]

16/26 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

January Results. The turnovers for both bar and catering are well ahead of budget and last year, which is a positive start. The Club re-opened on 20th January but also catered for a Wake on 8th January. The Hon. Treasurer will confirm, after the results are in for February and March, whether the budget needs adjusting. The cash position is a lot weaker than at the same point last year, and it is important to be aware there is not as much ready cash available. The South Sheds roof is leaking in places, but the Commodore and Hon. Treasurer feel that it can be patched up for the time being, which should save around £13k. The second payment of £25k in respect of the South Sheds refurbishment is also still due from the Y Class. It was noted that a generous donation of £500 had been received from overseas member Alan Roffey to go towards a Club project of our choosing. £70k of the Club's reserves have been invested in a six-month bond at just under 3.5%. Sarah asked how much cash ought to be maintained as an emergency fund that we don't drop below? The Hon. Treasurer responded that he had produced a Reserves Policy, which specifies £100k in the cash reserves at year end, in the event that the Club has to close and there is no government support. Katie highlighted the fact that the Club was better off financially in the years after Covid due to the Government

grants and business relief received, but this is not something we can rely on moving forwards, and the Club needs to have the funds to do what needs doing. The Hon. Treasurer said that there was more cash in the bank now as membership subscriptions have come in. Anne stressed that it would be helpful for the GC to see the capital cash side and to understand what needs to be spent this year. [Anne also advised that 25% corporation tax on the interest from the bond would need to be added to the budget.](#)

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The Hon. Treasurer highlighted that the monthly cash flow report is available from the Accounts Administrator so those with concerns can request it to view the trend month by month.

17/26 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. Five applications have been received for six prospective members this month, and all are recommended for approval by the Vice Commodore's Committee:

Applicant	Proposer	Secunder	Comments/Interests
Mrs Joy Walker	Jan Hingston	John Veal	DOB 1958. Re-joiner who is also a member of the ISC and Yarmouth SC. Mrs Walker is interested in cruising and onshore activities.
Mrs Margaret Whitehead	Jonathan Whitehead (son – different address)	Paul Peplow	DOB 1943. Relocating from Rhode Island to the Isle of Wight.
Mr Kevin Norton	Mark Lacey	David Valley Porter	DOB 1957. An XOD owner-sailor, Mr Norton is interested in racing, RSYC moorings, and onshore activities.
Mr & Mrs Ian Looseley	Mal Butler	Ken Grist	DOB 1950 (both). Re-joiners. Hoping their membership will be approved in time to come into the Club on 1 st March to celebrate Mrs Looseley's Happy Birthday.
Mrs Edwina Hermann	Susie Breare	Stephen Carson	DOB 1968. Mrs Hermann's Quarken 27 <i>Queen Ween</i> is berthed at Port Hamble. She's interested in onshore activities.

The GC approved all applications for membership.

Reciprocal Arrangements. On 11th February, the VC circulated the VCC's proposal for reciprocal arrangements. No comments were received from the GC by the deadline, so the VCC has now finalised the document and recommends it to the GC. There were no objections to the proposal. [The VC will therefore now continue negotiations with the RCNB, who have confirmed they are still keen to reach a reciprocal agreement \(hopefully via a Memorandum of Understanding\). It is hoped to finalise this by next week in time for inclusion in the 2026 magazine.](#)

VC

Open Day. Lesley reminded everyone that the Spring Open Day is on Easter Saturday, 4th April. Jules Wood will be assisting Lesley on the day, with a view to taking over helping to run future Open Days. A crew match has been suggested by the Membership Secretary, to be run by Class Captains. The boat jumble will also take place that morning. [Those present were reminded to please respond to Lesley's email request for volunteers if they haven't yet done so.](#)

All

18/26 Update from Rear Commodore House (From the Club Secretary)

Summer Party. [Suggestions are welcome from GC members with regards to prospective raffle prize donors to ensure that the Summer Party raffle is another successful fundraiser for HIOWAA this year.](#)

All

Happy Hour. [The House Committee is discussing how to retain members in the Club after happy hour, if anyone has any ideas?](#) Most seem to go home for supper and because of their dogs, although Friday suppers haven't been too badly attended to date – 19, 31, 7, 13, 12.

All

Casino Night. Casino Night has been postponed from 7th March until May as only 31 booked and 75 needed to make it worthwhile.

Classic Car Group. The Events Manager will liaise with Richard regarding his proposal for his suggested classic car group and will then email the membership to gauge interest. Richard advised that he will also email wording to the Club Secretary for the 2026 magazine.

NYE Party 2027. The House Committee agreed to book the Wight Hot Pipes again for the New Year's Eve Party in 2027.

Past Events.

The Club re-opened on 20th January:

- 24th January – Burns Night – 38 attendees (feedback that more drama is needed)
- 25th January – Sunday Roast – 68, 38, 56, 67, 68 attendees of roast lunches to date
- 28th January – Start of Season Cruising Lunch – 39
- 30th January – YOD Dinner – 20
- 31st January – Private Afternoon Tea – 32
- 4th February – First Weds Talk 'My Gardening Year' – 40 lunches
- 6th February – WI Anniversary Afternoon Tea – 45 (excellent feedback)
- 7th February – Commodore's Supper & Talk on America's Cup – 67 (good evening, talk went down well)
- 11th February – Bird Walk & Talk – 15 for the talk, 10 on the walk, 18 lunches
- 12th February – Film Night 'Ballad of Wallis Island' – 24
- 14th February – Valentine's Dinner – 14 (great special touches i.e. petit fours)
- 18th February – Cruisers to Lymington Town SC - 8
- 20th February – Rod Angel talk – 34
- 27th February – Gents' Lunch – 37

16/26 Upcoming Events to date

- 28th February – HIOWAA Training – 39 between 2 sessions
- 3rd March – Robert Hooke Society Talk & Lunch – 25
- 4th March – First Wednesday Talk by Hamish on Butterflies – 23 talk, 13 lunch too
- 6th March – Cruisers to Gins Farm
- 12th March – Film Night 'The Salt Path' – 13
- 15th March – Mothering Sunday Lunch – 28
- 25th March – Ladies' Lunch - 28

19/26 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing. The Spring Series starts on 8th March. There are a number of sailing related talks being held on Fridays in the coming weeks. Rod Angel's VHF talk last week was very interesting. The postponed John Doerr quiz on 20th March is pending as numbers are still low, possibly due to the charge which is required to cover John's expenses. [Lesley suggested that Wightlink could be approached to cover his ferry costs?](#)

The Spring Series is early this year, and the racing marks aren't ready to go back in the water yet, so inflatable marks will be laid in the interim. A second, very positive, Contessa Regatta meeting was held last week with Jeremy Rogers Ltd. They hope to attract more boats this year as it's the 60th anniversary of the Contessa 26. Fiona Rogers attended a Contessa regatta in Belgium last Summer and the Belgium boats expressed an interest in coming here. The Rogers have offered to add to their sponsorship by providing each boat entered with a bottle of gin – provided this is acceptable to the other sponsor Louis Jadot/Hatch Mansfield. It has been proposed by Rod Angel to use lights on the balcony start line and he is currently testing this. The XOD Class will have one or two extra boats on the water this year, which will take them up to 14 boats. It's the 200th anniversary of Cowes Week this year so more boats from the RSYC are likely to take part, including Folkboats. Class 1 & 2 handicaps are back to base, Bob Lombardelli is standing down as Class Captain at their AGM next week. Class 1 & 2 gave a donation of £200 towards an iPad for the MarkSetBots, which is greatly appreciated.

Cruising. Brian and Maxine Crawford have taken over managing the cruising group from David Porter for the time being. Brian attended the Sailing Committee meeting last week and there is now a full programme of cruising for the year ahead.

RCS

Sailing Secretary. Jojo is stepping down at the end of March. RCS had a conversation with Jojo's husband, and it has been arranged that the Commodore will invite Jojo to attend happy hour at the Club on her last day, 27th March. Peter Le Masurier has been appointed as the new Sailing Secretary and starts on Monday for a handover from Jojo. Peter came for a trial day last Tuesday which went well and he is well qualified for the job.

Hamish enquired how Grants will be used in future? The RCS responded that the balcony line will be used for the spring and autumn series, and some Race Officers prefer to start from the balcony line rather than go to Grants, plus it ensures that members get to see a finish off the clubhouse. In addition, the committee boat is being used more than it used to be. Hamish underlined the importance of continuing to use and maintain Grant. It was noted that Grants is regularly used for Saturday and Sunday racing. RCS anticipates that the MarkSetBots should be arriving soon, along with a new launching trolley that has been ordered from Germany. Mark Lacey enquired as to when the Club's moorings will be laid, it is expected that they will be laid at the end of March as usual.

20/26 Club Secretary's Points

2026 Magazine. The final magazine meeting is scheduled for next Thursday and the magazine is currently scheduled to go to print early the following week. There are a number of pages still outstanding, so the print run date may slip by a week, but this is not critical as it is no longer included in the postal mailing.

All

21/26 AOB

May GC Meeting. As the Club Secretary is on annual leave at the end of May, it is proposed to move the May GC meeting to Friday 12th June.

22/26 Next Meeting: Friday 27th March 2026 at 1700 hours

Jojo 22/3/26