

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT  
17:00 ON FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**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  
Katie Davies  
Richard Pierrepont

Caryl Terlezki-Thomas

Sarah Turvill

**Apologies:**

Peter Crowhurst  
Catherine Holmes  
Mark Lacey  
Lesley Tregear  
Mark Hall, Guardian

**In Attendance:**

Hamish Fletcher, 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 member Elizabeth Watson, who had sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

**1/26 Apologies** As listed above.

**2/26 Approval of Minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Meeting** The minutes were approved as a true record.

**3/26 Matters Arising** All covered by the agenda points.

**4/26 Commodore's Update**

HIOWAA Cheque. The Commodore and RCH will be presenting a cheque for £9,205 to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight air ambulance tomorrow in respect of the funds raised through various Club events and member donations last year.

Solent Lottery Promoter. Richard Pierrepont has kindly offered to step in as the promoter of the Solent Lottery from April, rather than Anne Kyle. Anne has accepted this offer and will assist Richard as required.

GC Vacancies. Four members of the GC (Peter Crowhurst, Katie Davies, Catherine Holmes and Lesley Tregear) are standing down at the AGM and were thanked by the Commodore for their four years of service. Both Richard Pierrepont and Caryl Terlezki-Thomas will be standing for re-election to the GC for a fourth and final year. To date, three nomination forms have been received from Steve Carson, David Fox and Jules Wood.

**5/26 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer**

December & Year End Results. The December figures also include the unaudited final figure for the year to date. The 2025 budget aimed to achieve an operational surplus of £2,446. Last year, there was an operational deficit due in part to late invoices for the south sheds project. The December results show that it has been a really positive year, with Bar and Catering giving a stella performance in 2025. The Bar gross profit is up £8k on budget and Catering has an even greater increase on budget of £25k. The margins have held up well and are better than last year. The budget was fair and subscriptions were maintained at a lower level than we might otherwise have done. Overall, it's a good result. The deficit of (£16k) has crept up to (£20k) due to late invoices. The operational surplus of around £20k is a good improvement on the previous year. This year's budget is based on the outlook from last year so is in line with what was delivered. In terms of cash flow, more money was spent year on year due to capital reserves used for the south sheds project, resulting in a balance of £104k against £151k at the end of 2024. The second payment of £25k from the YOD Class in respect of the south sheds refurbishment is due at some point this year. Seasonal staff costs were over budget at one point, but this can be attributed to increased trading and cover for annual leave. The revised demands for business rates have been received from the IW Council and represent an estimated £5k saving due to the reduction in rateable value from £42.7k to £30.7k following the successful challenge by Vaill Williams. The final accounts will be published after the full audit and prior to the AGM, but little change is anticipated. In conclusion, everything is holding up well and the Hon. Treasurer is optimistic for the year ahead.

AGM Date. To provide more time for the full audit and preparation of the accounts for distribution 21 days before the AGM, as per the Rules and Articles of Association, the Club Secretary proposed that the AGM

should be held on the last Saturday in April from 2027 onwards. All present agreed with this proposal.

## 6/26 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. An application has been received for one prospective member in December, and is recommended for approval by the Vice Commodore's Committee:

	Applicant	Proposer	Secunder	Comments/Interests
1	Mr David Acklam	Alan Roffey-Jones	David Valley-Porter	David has recently sold his company and retired. He owns a Hanse 370, which is berthed in Yarmouth. He is interested in racing, cruising and social activities.

The GC approved this application for membership.

Reciprocal Arrangements. The Vice Commodore's Committee has reviewed the procedure relating to reciprocal arrangements with other clubs. The key recommendations in the resulting proposal are that all reciprocal arrangements must be consistent with the Club's rules and byelaws (visitors from reciprocal club have no more rights than other visitors), proposals should be dealt with in a timely fashion and there should be a system and process by which the Club deals with proposals and applications for reciprocity. [The VCC's proposal will be distributed to the GC by the VC. Any comments should be submitted to the VC by 19<sup>th</sup> February, ahead of the next VCC meeting, to enable the final procedure document to be put to the GC in advance of the next GC meeting.](#)

[The VC will approach both clubs in Barcelona once the proposed procedure has been approved by the GC.](#)

VC

All

VC

## 7/26 Update from Rear Commodore House

General Update. The New Year's Eve Party was attended by over 100 people and was a great success, netting a contribution of £3.3k. A band has been booked for this year's NYE party, and a few tweaks will be made to the format of the evening. The staff did a great job on maintenance during the two-week January close-down and totally transformed the Members' Dining Room to give it more ambiance, which has received very positive feedback. The Club re-opened for one day on 8<sup>th</sup> January to host John Crowhurst's Wake for 100 attendees and thanks is due to the staff for getting the room ready and presentable in time during the refurbishment work.

### Past Events

- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec – Gentlemen's Lunch – 42 attendees
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec – Needles Relief Lunch – 93
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Classic Film Afternoon – 10
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec – Wight Boys Lunch – 14
- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – WI Christmas Dinner – 29
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Carols & Mummers' Play – 40
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec – Commodore's Christmas Drinks & Lunch- 86 (£784 raised for HIOWAA through Christmas Squares Draw – thanks to House Committee for donating prizes)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Eve Brunch - 69
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec – New Year's Eve Party – 101
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jan- Club re-opened
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Film Night – 23
- 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Burns Night – 39
- 28<sup>th</sup> Jan – Start of Season Cruising Lunch – 39

There were approximately 600 covers in the 3 weeks pre and post Christmas.

### Upcoming Events

- 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – First Wednesday Talk – Darren Everest 'My Gardening Year'
- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Scrabble & Backgammon

- 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – Commodore’s Supper – Magnus Wheatley ‘There is No Second: - The definitive account of the first race around the Isle of Wight in 1851 for what became ‘America’s Cup.’
- 11<sup>th</sup> Feb- Bird Talk & Walk – Hamish Fletcher
- 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Film Night ‘Ballad of Wallis Island’
- 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Valentine’s Night Dinner
- 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – Wine Society
- 7<sup>th</sup> March – Casino Night for HIOWAA

RCH encouraged GC members to attend the Commodore’s Supper if they are able to as it has been remarked to her by members that there is a lack of committee members at Club events.

### **8/26 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing**

Sailing Update. The 2026 Sailing Programme is now on the website. The Spring Series starts on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the one-minute engine rule has been removed. There are fewer Folkboats racing this year so it is proposed that the Folkboat Class will race with Class 1&2. The first Taittinger Regatta Afloat meeting was held last week and the Regatta Chair, Katie Davies, has it all under control.

Club Boats. Solent RIB has been returned to the manufacturers in Hull for repairs under warranty to repair 3 damaged seams on the tubes, which have come unstuck due to having been badly put together, and will hopefully be back in time for the Spring Series. The other two club boats are undergoing the usual work.

Moorings. The merging of A trot onto B trot was agreed by the Sailing Committee and GC. The XOD Class has subsequently come up with a number of objections which were discussed at the last Sailing and F&A Committee meetings. B W Moorings has lifted A trot so the merge will be going ahead as a trial this year, which can be reversed if necessary next year. A trot is being maintained with markers at either end so that it can be re-instated if required. RCS looked at the MCZ and there is no threat to the location of A trot, as formerly advised by Tom Symes and Anne Kyle.

Talks. John Doerr’s quiz on 13<sup>th</sup> February didn’t receive sufficient interest so has been deferred to 20<sup>th</sup> March, we need 20 to sign up to make it worth while. Rod Angel is giving a VHF talk on 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Cro is giving a pre-season briefing on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Dinghy Park. Dinghy owners were asked to remove their dinghies mid January to enable maintenance work where the racks were located. Thanks should go to those who took the time and effort to move their dinghies off site, which was the majority of members as only 7 or 8 dinghies remain.

Cruising Group. The start of season lunch on 28<sup>th</sup> January was attended by 39 cruisers. Dates have been set for the first three events, starting on 18<sup>th</sup> February. The Crawfords are managing the cruising programme for the first 3 months of the year, with assistance thereafter from Catherine Holmes and Martyn Collinson.

Racing Marks. The racing marks are all being sponsored again this year. RCS thanks Generation Estate for its sponsorship since 2021; sponsorship of racing mark 4 is now being taken over by the BDM Group (Mike Surridge).

### **9/26 Club Secretary’s Points**

Sailing Secretary Recruitment. There were twenty-two applications for the position of Sailing Secretary. The five candidates with sailing experience, as well as administrative experience, were invited for interview. Three declined, so two interviews with viable candidates were held on 27<sup>th</sup> January by the Club Secretary and RCS, and a decision will be made next week.

2026 Magazine Submissions. The Club Secretary reminded those still due to provide submissions for the magazine that the deadline was 19<sup>th</sup> December.

New Website. The new website would be going live next week.

Garden Furniture. Dick and Pat Dawson and Martyn Collinson had offered to help renovate the garden furniture in the Spring. RCH and Sarah Turville also offered to assist.

Stools & Chairs. John Veal has generously offered to purchase several new bar stools and is currently researching a stool to suit requirements. A number of seats and backs from the old dining chairs are in

the process of being re-upholstered by Old Works Upholstery in Yarmouth, which was included in the budget.

**10/26 AOB**

Wightlink. The Commodore advised that Wightlink has withdrawn payment of commission on ferry tickets purchased by members, which equated to approximately £4k annually, but the members' discount will continue.

Drinks Discount. There has been hardly any push back from members regarding the decrease in January in the members' discount on drinks from 17.5% to 15%. If any member challenges it, please advise that we are sticking with it as it makes a difference to the bottom line.

Club name on north side. A decision was made not to put a sign on the north side of the building following discussion amongst the Flag Officers. It was noted that the large sign at the end of the jetty bears the Club's name, so the matter won't be progressed at this point.

Front Door. The Club Secretary advised that the Club's front door will be re-painted when the weather is drier and warmer as it will need to be removed from its hinges.

Signage. The Club Secretary mentioned that new signs had been ordered to be placed by the lawn and verge referencing the rule regarding only Club food and drink being consumed on the premises and dog owners clearing up after their pets. RCS objected as he felt that such signage did little to promote a welcoming atmosphere. The Club Secretary responded that signage is unfortunately necessary to remind members and visitors of the Club's rules and to help to avoid any awkward confrontation. Dick Dawson has kindly donated several pieces of oak for the external signage.

**11/26 Next Meeting:** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 1700 hours

Jackie 27/2/26