

# MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 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  
Katie Davies  
Catherine Holmes  
Mark Lacey

Richard Pierrepont  
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas  
Sarah Turvill

## Apologies:

Peter Crowhurst  
Leslie Tregear  
Mark Hall, Guardian  
Tony Walton, Guardian

## In Attendance:

Hamish Fletcher, Guardian  
Anne Kyle, Guardian  
Claire Hallett, Secretary

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Commodore asked GC members to stand to observe a minute's silence for members Hilary Spence, David Asker-Browne and Ian Dallison, who had sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

**62/25 Apologies** As listed above.

**63/25 Approval of Minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> August Meeting** The minutes were approved as a true record.

**64/25 Matters Arising** All covered by the agenda points.

## 65/25 Commodore's Update

Royal Patronage. The Commodore had a brief conversation with the Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, and will be meeting her in due course to get advice on how best to proceed in the matter of royal patronage. Com

## 66/25 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

July & August Results. July and August were both very good months for the Club. Tough targets were set in the budget, but these were overachieved. The staff put in an excellent performance accordingly. For the year to date, the net profit is £17k which is an excellent position to be in compared to the net loss of (£3.5k) at the same point last year and against the £2k budget. Staff costs are on budget, subscriptions are adrift, but it was an ambitious target and we were hit heavily by 80 resignations in January. Good work to all involved for the new members recruited at the August Open Day which will help boost subscriptions from September. The Boat Fund has increased by £12.5k after the annual depreciation top-up. Money has been spent on the refurbishment of the South Sheds, however money has been received from the Y Class in respect of this. Cash wise, we are not as strong as last year (£277k v £300k), but the finances are generally in a good position.

Anne Kyle commented that the GPM for the bar in August was down at 59.7% compared to the average of 62.7% for the year to date and enquired whether this was related to the timing of the stock take? The Hon. Treasurer responded that this was likely to be the case as the YTD GPM for the bar is up on budget and last year. Anne also pointed out that the August sailing costs seem very low at just £449? The Hon. Treasurer would look into this.

Folkboat Week. There was good attendance at this year's Folkboat Week and attendees were using the bar more than last year. RCH advised that 403 meals were served over the course of four days. RCS advised that 54 Folkboats took part, which was more than usual due to it being the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also the Walcon Cup. The net contribution was £3.8k.

South Sheds. The refurbishment of the South Sheds is almost complete. More concrete to level the floor that was under the old workshop is required and this will be down by Friday. The lighting is installed, and the electrics will be completed on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Three slow draining water butts will be installed to take the water from the west half of the shed roof. The Commodore advised that there are no surface drains for rainwater in the car park so after a heavy deluge surface water flows down the sea lane and can subsequently find its way into John Caulcutt's garage due to its position down a slope. We are looking at adding a small surface drain to feed into the existing underground drain, which is not in the original works budget. The provision of lighting and power at £2.5k was also not in the original budget, but it was important to get done while we had the opportunity. The issue with water ingress from the south side of the roof will be monitored. The final figure for the South sheds

is projected to be approximately £55k, so £5k over budget. The Hon. Treasurer highlighted that we may be able to claim back all the VAT on the refurbishment project, provided we charge VAT for shed occupancy from now on – this will be raised with the auditors. Anne Kyle advised that it would depend how much usage there was of the sheds for events. The Hon. Treasurer concluded that we are in good shape, having come through the most profitable months of the year and must keep our fingers crossed for September and the rest of the year.

## 67/25 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. There were a total of 34 membership applications during August and September, all of which were approved by the GC via email. This included 21 applications as a result of Open Day so it was a very worthwhile event and the VC thanked those involved in the organisation, including Lesley, Don and Catherine.

August Applications			
Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1. Mr Rupert MacInnes 2. Miss Daisy MacInnes	Tamsin Pryce-Jones	Andrew Feldman	DOB 1971 (Mr) and 2008 (Miss).  Wife – Anna – is already a member. Mrs & Mrs MacInnes have a home on the High Street, Yarmouth and a motorboat berthed in Yarmouth.  They list their interests as Racing, Cruising & Crewing.
3. Mr Jonathan Oldfield 4. Mrs Annette Oldfield	Phillip Hancock	William Hancock	DOB 1954 (Mr) and 1952 (Mrs).  The Oldfields are also members of the RLymYC, but they have been using the RSYC since 1977.  They are interested in motorboat training.
5. Mr Andrew Jennings (DOB 1983) 6. Mrs Lauren Jennings (1983) 7. Mr Jack Jennings (2014) 8. Miss Amelie Jennings (2017) 9. Miss Charlotte Jennings (2020)	Peter Jennings	Steve Gray	The Jennings family has a motorboat called Leeway, which is moored in Yarmouth.  They are interested in Dinghy Week, Laser Training and Social Events.
10. Mr Edward Sun (Dinghy Week discounted Membership rate).	Bruce Mayo	Robin Minchin	DOB 2011.  Edward has been very active in recent dinghy events and is also a member of YSC.
11. Mr Bede Liszka (Dinghy Week discounted Membership rate).	Bruce Mayo	Robin Minchin	DOB 2010.  Bede has been very active in recent dinghy events and is also a member of YSC.
12. Mr David Adams (1953)	Rudi Fortson	Anne Kyle	Mr & Mrs Adams own/operate "Wessex Marine" in Poole. They hold the annual Targa Rally in

13. Mrs Amanda Adams  
(1957)

Yarmouth, which includes hosting a rally dinner for thirty boats here at RSYC.

**Open Day Applications**

Name	Address	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/interests
1. David Payne (1958) 2. Wendy Payne (1960)	Godshill	Rudi Fortson	Lesley Tregear	Interested in cruising and cruising events.
3. Julian French (1967) 4. Louise French (1965) 5. Bea French (2004) 6. Elliott French (2006)	Yarmouth	Annie Reed	Joanne Conisbee	The French family have been recommended for membership by long-standing friends of the family who are already members.
7. Jonathan Sharpe (1989) 8. Katie Sharpe (poss. Re-joiner. DOB 1982) 9. Barnaby Sharpe (2017) 10. Arabella Sharpe (2020)	London	Susie Breare	Steve Carson	Interested in crewing, dinghy week, laser training, motorboat training and social activities.
11. Simon McCallum (1963) 12. Miriam McCallum (1965)	Totland Bay	Martin Gotrel	Jan White	Interested in cruising, motorboat training, and social activities.
13. Michael Kopko (1952) 14. Clair Kopko (1961)	Freshwater	Adrian Bolton	Martyn Collinson	Keen to take part in racing, cruising, crewing, motorboat training, socials and race management.
15. Mark Craven (1974) 16. Gayle Craven (1972)	Freshwater Bay	John Poyner	Andrew Rothery	Mr & Mrs Craven own/run The Albion Hotel, Freshwater.
17. Thomas Strang (1960)	Cowes	Peter Crowhurst	Rudi Fortson	Mr Strang's father and grandfather were members of the RSYC. He owns Solent Seraph, a Contessa 32, berthed in Yarmouth.
18. Joseph Warren (1985)	Totland	John Poyner	Andrew Rothery	Interested in racing, dinghy week, laser training, and motorboat training. Mr Warren is the General Manager at The Albion Hotel, Freshwater.
19. Esme Wagstaffe (2011)	Totland Bay	Dennis Massey	Lesley Tregear	Interested in cruising, dinghy week, laser week, and social activities.
20. Stephen Powell (1952)	Lymington	Richard Bundy	Peter Jennings	Mr Powell is a sports photographer who is interested in racing, cruising, and social activities.
21. Rowland Thomas (1957)	Totland	Madeleine Green	John Poyner	Interested in racing, cruising, crewing, and social activities.

Registration Fee Review. The initial proposed increase in the registration fee was proposed and agreed by the

GC in May, but subsequently found to exceed the 10% + RPI increase limit defined in Rule 21.2. The 2025 RPI was set in August at 4.8%, so the proposed increase to the registration fee in line with Rule 21.2 is as follows:

MEMBER TYPE	CURRENT REG FEE	PROPOSED REG FEE	TO REFURB FUND	TO PAY. CARD ACCOUNT
SINGLE	£150	£170	£55 (33%)	£115 (67%)
COUPLE	£150	£170	£85 (50%)	£85 (50%)
RE-INSTATEMENT / ACCOUNT ADDITION	£50	£55	£55 (100%)	-

This is a modest increase and the percentage split between the refurbishment fund and the payment card account remains the same. **All present approved the proposed increase.**

Sec

South Sheds Byelaws. The main change to B 16 is the change of name from the Boat Sheds to the South Sheds to reflect their planned multi functional usage, plus a number of amendments based on the recommendations of the Club's insurance brokers. The Vice Commodore's Committee proposes that there should be no vehicle parking in the South Sheds as there will be nine delineated parking spaces in front of the sheds which are in frequent use. It is also proposed that parking permits, of which there are only three still allocated, should be discontinued with six months notice as this is fairer to other members using the car park. Katie Davies commented that the Club would lose vital revenue if it discontinued parking permits and chose not to rent the South Sheds out for car parking during the summer months when they are vacant and RCS agreed that the sheds need to be used to make money during the summer. Hamish Fletcher suggested removing parking permits for a year and reviewing the matter again to assess if the South Sheds should be rented out for car parking in the summer. This was voted on, but not agreed by the majority in attendance. The Vice Commodore would therefore need to review the revised byelaws in order to take into account the requirement to potentially rent the sheds out during the summer and also the requirement regarding the use of hot guns by those using the sheds. The revised version would be distributed to the GC via email for comment by midnight on Sunday.

Short Term Moorings Byelaws. The byelaws relating to short term moorings have basically been tidied up to match the information provided on the Club's website.

Lockers Byelaws. About a month ago a person attended the Club claiming to be a member of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club but he was unable to produce evidence of that. He used a locker in the male cloakroom, departing with the locker key which he retained for over a day. The new byelaws appertaining to lockers are to ensure that the Club can - with good reason - take action to inspect a locker and to take appropriate action if necessary.

Private Functions Byelaws. These new byelaws empower the Club Secretary and Events Manager to close one or more rooms for private functions. Alternative arrangements will be made for members to have drinks, and if reasonably practical, to also have meals.

Car Park Byelaws. Hamish Fletcher suggested that during the winter when the car park is quieter, member parking should be extended from one hour to two hours whilst visiting Yarmouth for non-Club related reasons. All present agreed to this proposal.

[Post meeting: the revised byelaws had been provided to the GC and no further significant amendments or additions were advanced so the proposed amendments and additions are taken to be approved.]

Sec

Secretary Title. The VC pointed out that the title "Secretary", which is used in the Club Rules and Byelaws, is too generic as it can be construed in two contexts, namely, the Club Secretary and also the Company Secretary, which is the Hon. Treasurer. The Vice Commodore's Committee has been considering alternative titles for the Club Secretary which it feels better define the role, such as Head of Operations, as this suits a non-director position. CEO was initially proposed, but many CEOs are directors, which the Club Secretary is not. It was generally felt by the majority present that the title "Club Secretary" rather than just "Secretary" should be used in future in relation to this position.

## 68/25 Update from Rear Commodore House

Past Events. It was a very good August for the Club with 2,300 meals served by our two Chefs. Events in August & September included a successful Open Day, Folkboat Week with 304 meals served in four days, Royal Artillery YC Dinner (49), Catenians Lunch (52), Film Night (36), Red Squirrel Ball (160), WER

Prizegiving Dinner (79) and Club Shoot Lunch (30). Unfortunately, there were a number of sailing lunches and dinners cancelled due to the bad weather.

Upcoming Events. There is a First Wednesday Talk tomorrow – **it would be good to have as many GC members attend as possible and for their recommendations on speakers for future talks.**

There's a Gentlemen's Lunch this Friday, a film night (The Good Liar) next Thursday, a fundraising supper & quiz for the RNLI next Friday, Wine Society on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Laying Up dinner on 8<sup>th</sup> November, Commodore's Christmas Lunch on 21<sup>st</sup> December and New Year's Eve Party with 100 guests for a finger buffet and the Wight Hot Pipes.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It's the Club's 150 anniversary in 2028, as well at the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Taittinger RSYC Regatta. **It is proposed to create a sub committee to oversee the planning of a big event in the 150<sup>th</sup> year.**

GC

RCH

## 69/25 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing Update. The Murray-Smiths won the Turkey Cup race, with Gary Fryer winning the Turkey by coming second in *Spray*. The IW Youth Championships was co-hosted with the YSC with thirty sailors in attendance, the local sailors did well. The Winter Series starts on Sunday and runs until 21<sup>st</sup> December. The prize giving for the WER, sponsored by Spence Willard, was well attended by eighty members and guest and lots of prizes were given out. The Bernard Turner Endeavour Trophy went to Max Newman for completing the Fastnet at just 16 years of age. The Royal Artillery Regatta unfortunately only involved eight boats this year. Win Nicholson kindly donated a painting as first prize for the Royal Artillery Regatta in memory of her late husband Paul, which was won this year by Tom Bignell.

Cruising Update. The cruising group are out to lunch at Gins Farm on 10<sup>th</sup> October. David Porter is standing down as Captain of Cruising, no one has been identified to take over as yet.

RYA Conference. The Club has been invited to attend the RYA conference in Southampton on 30<sup>th</sup> November to talk about why the Taittinger RSYC Regatta is so successful. RCS and the CRO will attend and will draw on the article by Matt Sheahan which seems to sum it up very well.

Crown Estate Agreement. The new moorings lease negotiated with Crown Estate is now signed, sealed and delivered.

70/25 Next Meeting: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 1700 hours



Jack 31/10/25

