

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY THE ROYAL SOLENT
YACHT CLUB AT 17:00 ON FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER 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
Mark Lacey

Richard Pierrepont
Caryl Terlezki-Thomas
Leslie Tregear
Sarah Turvill
Apologies:
Katie Davies
Catherine Holmes
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 Ed Donald, who had sadly passed away since the last GC meeting.

71/25 Apologies As listed above.

72/25 Approval of Minutes from 30th September 2025 Meeting The minutes were approved as a true record.

73/25 Matters Arising All covered by the agenda points.

74/25 Commodore's Update

Royal Patronage. The Commodore had met with the Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, who had suggested approaching Princess Anne as she is a sailor. Susie Sheldon will be meeting Princess Anne's Private Secretary in the near future and will raise the matter accordingly.

Tree Work. The Greenings of Bank House are proposing that the three trees on the Club's land and the one tree on their land are cut back in the Spring, pending TPO consent which they have applied for. They have received a quote for the work and offered to pay £1000 if the Club contributes £800. There were no objections to this proposal. **The Club Secretary will advise the Greenings accordingly.**

2026 Charity. It is proposed to continue supporting the Hampshire IOW Air Ambulance next year and their project to move their base to Southampton, as this will be on our doorstep and therefore benefit the island. There were no objections to this proposal.

GC Vacancies. Four members of the GC will be stepping down in April – Katie, Lesley, Catherine and Peter. The Commodore is proposing to ask Steve Carson and David Fox to stand for nomination at the AGM. Anne Kyle added that she may also have a potential candidate. It was noted that a minimum of six elected members may serve on the GC so there is no requirement to fill all four vacancies.

75/25 Vice Commodore's Report

Membership Applications. Applications have been received for seven prospective members this month, all of which are recommended for approval by the Vice Commodore's Committee:

Applicant	DOB	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1. Martin Deal 2. Michelle Deal	1961 1965	Steve Wilson	Susie Breare	Own a Princess 54 which is berthed in Portsmouth. Interested in cruising and motorboat training.
3. Brent Sercombe	1961	Susie Breare	John Poyner	Owns a motorboat which is berthed up the River Yar. Interests include cruising, motorboat training, and onshore activities. Partner may join in the future.
4. Dr Jane Clark-Ambrosini	1973	Carol Donnelly	Dick Dawson	This is Carol Donnelly's neighbour, and she is RC House at YSC. She is interested in racing (sails on Whisper with Graeme Bowen), crewing and race management.
5. Max Elsey	2004	Andy Rothery	John Poyner	Interested in racing, cruising, crewing, dinghy week and onshore activities.

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6. Molly Craven	2007	Andy Rothery	John Poyner	Interested in racing, cruising, crewing, dinghy week, onshore activities, and race management.
7. Philippa Reid	2006	Harriet Giepmans	Judith Reid	Mum (Harriet) says Philippa has spent lots of time in dinghies and small motorboats and is keen to get into racing and cruising when she holidays with Grandma (Judith).

The GC approved all application for membership.

South Sheds Byelaws. The new 16 amp power sockets in the South Sheds are intended for use for maintenance on cars and boats and are not to be used for charging electric vehicles, in line with the Club's insurance policy. Accordingly a new draft bylaw proposed by the Vice Commodore's Committee was circulated to the GC ahead of the meeting:

B 16.7a Persons using a shed, or working on a boat or car in a shed shall comply with the duties and responsibilities set out in B 14.11 to B 14.14 inclusive.

B 16.7b An electric power point that is installed in a shed must not be used for any purpose other than carrying out maintenance work on a boat or car, and it must not be used for charging an electric vehicle (of any description) wherever it is situated on Club premises.

The GC agreed with the proposed new bylaw. **This will therefore come into immediate effect and will be shared with the membership in the next Club Secretary's News.**

Solent Lottery Promoter. The Gambling Act requires the appointment of a member as promoter of the Solent Lottery, which can either be a member of the GC or a Club member. Being the Promoter comes with legal responsibility to ensure the lottery is run correctly and to sign the return three months after completion and to be the main contact for invoicing. Anne Kyle volunteered to take on the role of Solent Lottery Promoter.

Vice Commodore's Committee. Lesley and Peter will continue to serve on the Vice Commodore's Committee after stepping down from the GC. **Lesley has kindly agreed to continue running the Club's Open Days, but has requested a seconder to work alongside her, if any member of the GC would like to volunteer?**

76/25 Financial Report by Hon. Treasurer

September Results. The bar and catering budgets were missed due to a number of large functions being cancelled due to bad weather, which impacted on the overall result. The Bar turnover was down on last year, but the margins for both bar and catering are holding up well. The year-to-date result is very positively in the black compared to last year and against budget. Traditionally, October, November and December are loss making months, but this year there are a good number of functions and events scheduled so the outlook towards the end of the year is positive. With regards to the cash flow, more money has been spent this year due to the South Sheds project. The general reserves have a healthy balance and subscriptions year-to-date are catching up with the budget. October is looking good so far, which bodes well for the end of the year position. Anne highlighted the exceptional margins on catering which are down to good purchasing and menu planning so the Head Chef should be congratulated. [Post meeting: the Club Secretary relayed this to the Head Chef].

2026 Budget. The Hon. Treasurer has started the provisional budget for 2026. Budget meetings will be held on 14th and 20th November with a view to presenting the finalised budget to the GC on 12th December.

South Sheds Roof. The refurbished South Sheds are looking great, the day boats are in, and the lighting is installed, however the roof leaks. We therefore need to look at replacing the roof in the Spring. A quote of £15-18k has been received and another quote is pending. Patching up the leaks is probably not an option as it won't look great and may not fix all the issues. The £50k budget was exceeded as more work was required, such as the extension of the concrete under the old workshop, squaring the building to accommodate the steel works, the installation of lighting and power. The Club now has a worthwhile building so needs to protect it. Richard enquired about the installation of the outer cladding and was advised that this is a future enhancement. Lesley enquired about the potential for the roof to take solar panels and it was confirmed that the roof had been strengthened to cope with the additional weight.

The Hon. Treasurer advised that, in terms of capital projects, the South Sheds roof is currently the only one. The rental of the south sheds for car parking in the summer will potentially achieve a good income to help with the costs.

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77/25 Update from Rear Commodore House

General Update. There has been nothing but positive feedback on events and catering, thanks to the Events Manager and the catering and bar teams. In the kitchen, Hannah, who started as a KP, is being trained up as a Chef so there is great potential in this. Dave, who has previously worked at the Club as a Chef, has joined the bar staff and is working out well. Mrs Jane Roberts is to be invited to join the House Committee and should prove to be an asset as she is very pro-active.

Past Events. Over 700 meals were served during October, unfortunately in September there were a number of cancellations due to bad weather. Notable past events since the last GC meeting include:

- First Wednesday Talk – over 33 stayed for lunch
- Gentlemen's Lunch – 30 attendees
- Fundraising Supper for the RNLI – 62, with £698 raised
- Two wakes of 100 each
- Wessex heartbeat Supper & Quiz – 61
- Little Ships Club Dinner – 61
- Bridge Lunch – 25 (plans to start a Bridge club next year)
- Wine Society – 48
- Freshwater WI Dinner – 40
- Royal Thames Autumn Excuse Dinner – 36

Forthcoming Events.

- Last Tuesday of the month: Classic afternoon films – good feedback after the first which attracted 13 attendees.
- 5th Nov: First Wednesday Talk by Kevin Shaw – good numbers signed up
- 5th Nov: Fireworks Night Supper – fully booked at 101
- 8th Nov: Laying Up Dinner – 61 to date
- 12th Nov: End of Season cruising Lunch – 40 to date
- 14th Nov – **Recently Joined Members' Evening** – the invitations have gone out, and the GC are asked to please come along to support this event aimed at retaining members.
- 15th Nov: YOD Prizegiving Dinner
- 18th Nov: Ladies' Lunch & Antarctic talk by the Sailing Secretary
- 20th Nov: Wine Society
- 22nd Nov: XOD Prizegiving Dinner
- 21st Dec: Commodore's Christmas Drinks & Lunch – Christmas Draw Squares is being re-introduced in December and will be drawn at this event; tickets will be available to purchase from the bar. **The House Committee is donating many of the prizes, but any other donations would be welcome.**

150th Anniversary. RCH will be forming a sub committee, to include Miles Peckham, early next year to formulate a programme of events for the Club's 150th anniversary in 2028.

78/25 Update from Rear Commodore Sailing

Sailing Update. The first of the Winter Series is well underway with four races and two remaining, followed by a further six races in the second series. Thirteen boats have taken part in two or more races so far and the returning sailors will have contributed to Sunday's bar takings.

Cruising Update. The Cruising Group's End of Season lunch at the Club will take place on 12th November. **David Porter is standing down as Captain of Cruising at the end of the year so the Crawfords are organising a gift of whiskey and flowers, any contributions towards this should go via the Sailing Secretary.**

Millenium Fund. The Millennium Fund is generated from contribution to the Solent Lottery and currently stands at £9k. The fund is intended to support sailing and boating and as such RCS agreed to a last-minute request from youth member, George Newman, to cover the £412 cost of a new sail for his Optimist which he will be racing in the Bermuda National Optimist Championships this month.

Moorings Review. The Head Boatman has come up with a proposal to merge A trot moorings into B trot in order to save on future moorings costs (lifting/laying/maintaining). It will also ensure that the Waverley's route isn't so close to the Club boats. This doesn't affect the position of the lease with Crown Estate. The Sailing Committee has voiced no objections to date, and the proposal is being decided on at the next Sailing Committee meeting as the Club needs to advise BW Moorings of its requirements asap. Hamish highlighted

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the need to protect the Club's grandfather rights in the event of an MCZ related visit, with markers at each end of A trot. It was also questioned whether the same should be done for D trot in future.

MarkSetBots. The CRO confirmed today that Hall Hunter has kindly agreed today to continue sponsorship of the MarkSetBots next year on the same terms as this year, although a lower rate of £7000 per annum has been negotiated.

79/25 Club Secretary's Points

Membership Statistics. The Club Secretary circulated the year-to-date membership statistics ahead of the meeting, which showed they are on a par with last year:

YEAR TO DATE STATS	END OCT 2025	END OCT 2024	END OCT 2023	END OCT 2022	END OCT 2021	END OCT 2020
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	1109	1129	1092	1057	1013	999
NEW MEMBERS	73	76	99	103	80	29
DEATHS	8	7	8	8	10	10
RESIGNATIONS AS OF 1 ST JAN NEXT YEAR	12	19	7	4	5	3

Business Rates. Vail Williams' business rates challenge on behalf of the Club has been successful and the Club's rateable value has reduced from £42.7k to £30k effective from 1st April 2023. This should represent a minimum annual saving of £5k, although the position regarding the multiplier and small business rates relief is yet to be confirmed by the Government.

2026 Magazine Submissions. Further to the emails sent in October, the Club Secretary handed out details of the specifications and deadline for magazine submissions by GC members and Guardians:

- One page: 630 words plus photo which takes up just over a third of the page at the top or several smaller photos
- Double page spread 1155 words with room for 1 large photo at the beginning plus 3-4 photos spread around the text.
- Word document for copy & separate hi-res photos with captions & any credits required

Deadline: 19th December

Commodore	-	Commodore's Report	-	1 page
South Sheds Project	-	Hon. Treasurer	-	1 page (received)
RCS Report	-	RCS	-	1 page
Dinghy Sailing	-	RCS	-	2 pages
XOD Report	-	Mark Lacey	-	1 page
Harwoods Fandango	-	RCH	-	1 page
Ladies' Lunches	-	RCH	-	1/8 page
Wine Society	-	Richard Pierrepont	-	1 page
Flags & Burgees	-	Tony Walton	-	1 page
Etiquette				
The Revenge	-	Hamish Fletcher	-	1 page (received)

Subs Direct Debits. Following a request from the GC to promote monthly and quarterly direct debits to help member retention, the Club Secretary proposed to do so in the subscription invoice due to go out this month. After some discussion, it was agreed that only quarterly direct debits will be promoted as monthly direct debits enable members to resign too easily with insufficient notice.

80/25 AOB

Cannons. The poor state of the cannons flanking the front door was highlighted and the Club Secretary confirmed that it is on the maintenance "to do" list. Richard Pierrepont kindly offered to manufacture new wooden bungs.

Unworthy Conduct Incident. The Commodore advised that on 28th September there was an incident involving two non-members who were not entitled to be in the Club. One of the individuals has flagrantly abused the Club's six times and signing-in rules on many occasions, including having signed themselves in under another member's name without their knowledge. The Vice Commodore pointed out to this person that they had

exceeded the six times rule and were not signed in. Their companion, a non-member also not correctly signed in, took exception to this and was extremely rude and threatening to the Vice Commodore, which is wholly unacceptable behaviour. As a result, the Flag Officers agreed to ban both individuals from the Club and the Commodore sent each a letter advising them as such and outlining the reasons why. The GC was asked to keep this matter to themselves and not discuss it in the bar. All present supported the action taken.

81/25 Next Meeting: Friday 12th December 2025 at 1700 hours

 12/12/25
