

MINUTES OF A VICE COMMODORE'S COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB, ON FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 1100 HOURS

Present:

In the Chair: Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
Peter Crowhurst
David Porter
Alan Roffey-Jones (Zoom)

Apologies:

Lesley Tregear
Sarah Turvill
In Attendance
Claire Hallett, Club Secretary

72/25 Apologies As above

73/25 Approval of the Minutes of 31st July 2025:

The minutes were approved as a true record.

74/25 Matters Arising

New VCC Member. Alan Roffey-Jones was warmly welcomed back to the VCC, the VC stressed that he would bring invaluable expertise to a number of matters pending.

Captain of Cruising. The VC highlighted the fact that VCC member, David Porter, is stepping down as Captain of Cruising after a number of years in the role. Tribute was paid to David for all his sterling work and his significant contribution.

Applications Posting Period. The proposed reduction of the posting period for membership applications from 14 to 7 days was approved by the GC in its meeting on 8th August and will therefore be put forward as a rule change at the AGM next April.

75/25 Vice Commodore's Points

Junior/Child Membership Applications. The Club Secretary is under the impression that prospective members aged under 18 must have a current adult member to act in loco parentis. However, Rule 20.10 simply states that "The admission of a person to Junior membership shall require the written consent of a Parent or Guardian of the person concerned, such form of consent to bring Rule 29.4 to the specific attention of such Parent or Guardian." (Rule 29.4 states that "Parents and guardians have sole responsibility for their children or wards and must appreciate that the Club does not, nor shall any Officer, Committee member or employee of the Club be required to, exercise supervision or control). Therefore, clarification is needed regarding the Club's requirements for junior/child members who are joining without having any parent or adult relations who are members. It would also be helpful to discuss if membership applications for all those under 18 should still go through the usual approval process. The VC responded that we need to encourage members to join, but we don't want to short circuit the application process too much as we need to know who we are admitting as a member and what their history is, particularly as we're living in increasingly difficult times. Alan suggested the age be lowered from 18 to 16 and those over 16 years of age follow the normal membership application process. **The VC will look into whether the age of contractual consent is 16 or 18 years old. [Post meeting, a paper (Capacity to Contract: Westlaw) was submitted to the Club Secretary regarding this issue.] VC**

It was agreed that the matter should be postponed until the next meeting to enable Lesley's input from a safeguarding point of view. **The Club Secretary will ask the Sailing Secretary how YSC deals with junior members and will ask the Membership Secretary to find out how other yacht clubs manage this. SEC**

76/25 Membership Matters:

Applications: There were applications for 13 prospective members in August, which the VCC and GC approved via email:

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. The MacInneses 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) 13. Mrs Amanda Adams (1957)	Rudi Fortson	Anne Kyle	Mr & Mrs Adams own/operate "Wessex Marine" in Poole. They hold the annual Targa Rally in Yarmouth, which includes hosting a rally dinner for thirty boats here at RSYC.

There were an additional 21 membership applications resulting from the Summer Open Day, which were also approved via email:

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)	London	Susie Breare	Steve Carson	Interested in crewing, dinghy week, laser training, motorboat training and social activities.
8. Katie Sharpe (poss. Re-joiner. DOB 1982)				
9. Barnaby Sharpe (2017)				
10. Arabella Sharpe (2020)				
11. Simon McCallum (1963)	Totland Bay	Martin Gotrel	Jan White	Interested in cruising, motorboat training, and social activities.
12. Miriam McCallum (1965)				
13. Michael Kopko (1952)	Freshwater	Adrian Bolton	Martyn Collinson	Keen to take part in racing, cruising, crewing, motorboat training, socials and race management.
14. Clair Kopko (1961)				
15. Mark Craven (1974)	Freshwater	John Poyner	Andrew Rothery	Mr & Mrs Craven own/run The Albion Hotel, Freshwater.
16. Gayle Craven (1972)	Bay			
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 dinghy week, laser week.
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.

77/25 Marketing Matters

Open Day. The Summer Open Day on Saturday 23rd August was a great success. The VC congratulated and thanked all the member volunteers and staff concerned. The addition of two Open Day banners sponsored by the harbour was very beneficial to the promotion of the event. The Spring Open Day next year will take place on Saturday 4th April, which is Easter weekend. This will be Lesley's last Open Day in an organisational role as she is stepping down from the GC in April. It was noted that the volunteer members will need to be advised of this date as soon as possible. [Post meeting the Club Secretary emailed all key dates, including this one, to the GC.]

78/25 Governance Matters

Registration Fee Review. Rule 21.2 restricts the increase of subscriptions and the registration fee to 10% + RPI over a one-year period. Any amount in excess of this would have to be approved at the AGM. Based on the mean average RPI for July 2024 to July 2025, the VC has calculated the RPI rate to be about 4.7%. Therefore, based on rule 21.2 (10% increase + RPI increase at 4.7% = 14.7%) and the current percentages split to the refurbishment fund and payment card account, the proposed increases to the registration fees are 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-INSTATEMENTS/ADDITIONS	£50	£55	£55 (100%)	-

All present agreed this increase should be proposed to the GC. **VC**

Dinghy Park Byelaws. It was felt best to specify set dates for a two-week annual shut down of the dinghy park in order to avoid having to give notice each year. B 15.10, B 15.11b and B 15.3 were amended to cover dinghies being stored off site [Post meeting: a perfected draft of byelaws dated 29th September has been circulated to the GC].

South Sheds Byelaws. The VC circulated the proposed revision to the byelaws via email in advance of this meeting. The Boat Sheds are to be referred to as the South Sheds in future as they are multi functional, being used for boat storage in winter and for any purpose the Club sees fit in Summer. A Memorandum of Understanding is in place between the Club and the YOD Class, as the YOC Class is funding the cost of refurbishing the sheds and has already paid the Club a large sum of money in respect of this. During the Winter the sheds will be used solely for boat storage and Steve Carson, the YOD Class Captain, will allocate the YODs to the sheds. Any empty sheds will then be offered to other boats at a rental fee for the Winter. A car parking permit is a historical arrangement allowing a member to park in the car park all the time at a cost of £199 a quarter. There is no entitlement to park in a shed. No new permits are being issued and there are only three permits still active. Alan suggested that six months' notice should be served now to the remaining permit holders, and their permits should not be renewed after the first quarter next year. This is fairer to all members and ticks a legacy issue off the list. **The VC will propose this to the GC at the next meeting. VC**

Any references to parking permits would be removed from the byelaws and a one-hour time limit on parking whilst visiting Yarmouth was restored in B 14.1. A number of further amendments were suggested to the proposed South Shed byelaws, most notably the removal of any reference to vehicles parking in them. It was felt by all present that the space in front of the south sheds could be used for car parking, as it is now, but the sheds themselves should not be as there is the potential for the supporting pillars to be hit and for cars to leak oil on the concrete floor.

Locker Byelaws. The introduction of new byelaws relating to the Club's lockers located in the cloakrooms is due to a non-member entering the Club under false pretences and using a locker. The Club needs to have the right to check the lockers in the future for items such as stolen goods.

79/25 AOB

Solent Lottery. The General Committee will need to confirm the Club Secretary, or another person, as the Promoter. **VC**

The qualifying age for entry into the lottery has now been updated to members aged 16 or over.

80/25 Points for Next Meeting

- Visitor/Guest Bye-laws & Rules
- Non-members in Club Boats
- Promoting monthly/quarterly direct debits
- Reciprocity with Itchenor SC, San Francisco YC & Real Club Náutico de Barcelona (RCNB)

81/25 Date of next meeting: 11am on Thursday 23rd October 2025

PP *Clair Salter*