

MINUTES OF A VICE COMMODORE'S COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB, ON THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2025 AT 1100 HOURS

Present:

In the Chair: Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore (Zoom)
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
Peter Crowhurst
Alan Roffey-Jones
Sarah Turvill
Lesley Tregebar

Apologies:

David Porter
In Attendance
Claire Hallett, Club Secretary

82/25 Apologies

As above

83/25 Approval of the Minutes of 19th September 2025:

The minutes were approved as a true record.

84/25 Matters Arising

Junior Membership Applications. It was confirmed that the Club's Rules state that the Registration Fee only applies to new members aged 18 or over (Rule 20.1, note 6). It was also agreed by all present that applications for junior membership should follow the usual procedure with a proposer and seconder and two weeks' notice, otherwise the Club is leaving itself wide open. At present, we say verbally that under 18s joining without their parents or grandparents would need a current member to act in loco parentis. The VC also highlighted that there are limitations on the kinds of contract that will be held binding on a person under the age of 18, as outlined in a document shared with the VCC on 19th September. The Secretary shared with Lesley details of the procedure followed by the Royal Lymington and Royal Torbay Yacht Clubs. **Lesley will look at the matter from a safeguarding point of view and prepare a paper for the next VCC meeting. LT**

Byelaws. As detailed in the draft minutes of the September GC meeting, which were circulated to the VCC, there was a shift in position to permit cars to park in the South Sheds during the summer months. The proposed byelaws were modified accordingly and subsequently all were approved by the GC via email.

Registration Fee. The Vice Commodore's Committee's proposal to increase the registration fee for new members by 14.7% was approved by the GC and has now come into effect.

Solent Lottery Promoter. It is proposed by the VC that the promoter of the Club's Solent Lottery should be an independent member, rather than the Hon. Treasurer or Club Secretary. **The VC proposes to approach Miles Peckham and Anthony Davies regarding the matter. VC**

85/25 Vice Commodore's Points

EV Charging Byelaw. The VC has drafted a new byelaw relating to the charging of electric vehicles in the South Sheds, which the Club's insurers have advised should not be permitted as the 16amp commando power sockets therein are not fully operational EV charging points:

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.

All present were happy for the new byelaw to be proposed to the GC. VC

86/25 Membership Matters:

Applications: There were applications for 7 prospective members this month:

| 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 | Owes a motorboat which is berthed up the River Yar. Interests include cruising, motorboat training, and |

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|----------------------------|------|------------------|-------------|--|
| | | | | 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. |
| 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). |

All were recommended for approval to the GC. **VC**

87/25 Marketing Matters

Recently Joined Members' Evening. The Membership Secretary has invited those who've joined since the last evening in June to the next event for new members on Friday 14th November. The optional dinner after the drinks reception will be open for other members to attend, as it was in June.

88/25 Governance Matters

Non-members in Club Boats. The issue of non-members being on the Club's boats is an insurance matter and mainly applies to those who crew for members are ferried to the day boats on Solent RIB. The Club's insurers have essentially requested that all participants in club racing are members. Members complete a Condition of Entry form for club racing so it is suggested that this could include an indemnity for their non-member crew using Solent RIB. It was also felt that non-member sailors should be encouraged to join by those they crew for. **The scale of the issue needs to be quantified so the Club Secretary will ask the Sailing Secretary for help in identifying non-members who regularly race. It was felt to be an excessive requirement by the insurance company – the Club Secretary would find out why the Club's public liability insurance doesn't cover non-members on club boats. SEC**

Direct Debits. At present, the option of monthly and quarterly subscription direct debits is not promoted, it is only mentioned if a member enquires, or if a member resigns at which point it may be too late to change their mind. It is felt that promoting monthly or quarterly payment of membership subscriptions may help reduce resignations at the end of the year, particularly as payment is due in January, which is often a difficult month financially for most people. **The Club Secretary proposed to promote the option to switch from annual to monthly or quarterly subscription direct debits in the November subscription invoice, which all were in agreement with so this will be relayed to the GC at its next meeting. SEC**

Reciprocity. The VC has not heard back from Itchenor Sailing Club or the San Francisco Yacht Club, so these will be put on hold for the time being. [Post meeting: the VC had received an email from Itchenor SC advising that the view of their members is that they only need reciprocals with overseas clubs and there's no need for UK clubs to have mutual reciprocity since they're all able to visit each other anyway. The committee stressed that our members would always be very welcome there]. **There were no objections to a reciprocal agreement with Real Club Náutico de Barcelona (RCNB) so the VC will approach them accordingly. VC**

89/25 AOB

GC Membership. The four-year maximum term on the GC ends in April for both Lesley and Peter, however at the request of the Vice Commodore, both agreed to remain on the Vice Commodore's Committee. **Lesley also agreed to continue running the Club's Open Days, provided the duty can be shared with another member. The VC will request a volunteer at the next GC meeting. VC**

Front Door Sign. Susie highlighted that the Club's name is not above the front door and queried whether it should be? It was noted that the Club's name is visible at the end of the front drive, on the back gate there's an

RSYC sign and the Club's insignia and RSYC are etched on the glass of the front door. There could be potential for improved signage at all entrances to the Club.

Budgeting. Sarah underlined the importance of a five-year plan for expenditure on building maintenance, club boats etc, to include work that needs to be carried out by a third party due to a lack of skills or resources in house. The Club Secretary advised that there is a 'to do' list which she will update and share with the VCC after the meeting, this includes repairs to the roof of the South Sheds and drainage for the car park. **The VCC are welcome to add to this list with any further observations about work needed ahead of the next VCC meeting. ALL**

Membership Category Analysis. The VC and Club Secretary had looked at grouping the multiple D categories for younger members, but there's an issue with the average subscription then being much higher for the younger categories and much lower for the older categories within the D group. **Peter commented that the jump from the subscription of student/youth membership to that of the next category is huge; he had some ideas and would present these at the next meeting. PC**

New Website. The Club Secretary advised that the development and testing of the new website was coming on well, although there had been some issues with moorings functionality in the regatta booking system which had to be addressed. The VC highlighted the need for protection against Ransomware attacks.

90/25 Points for Next Meeting

- Non-members in club boats
- Visitor/guest byelaws & rules
- Membership categories
- Entrance signage
- Maintenance work etc

91/25 Date of next meeting: 11am on Friday 21st November 2025

(Lesley: apologies, Alan & Rudi on Zoom)

P. Chantrell
21/11/25.

