

MINUTES OF A VICE COMMODORE'S COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB, ON FRIDAY 17TH APRIL 2025 AT 1100 HOURS

Present:

In the Chair: Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore (Zoom)
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
David Porter
Lesley Tregear
Sarah Turvill (Zoom)

Apologies:

Peter Crowhurst

In Attendance

Claire Hallett, Secretary

32/25 Apologies As above

33/25 Approval of the Minutes of 21st March 2025: The minutes were approved as a true record.

34/25 Matters Arising Covered by agenda points

35/25 Vice Commodore's Points

Maintenance Projects. The GC has signed off the additional work quoted by Duncan Waite to repair the leaking roof joint between the main bar and members' dining room, which will be done in the next few weeks. Duncan generously offered to do the additional stonework repairs at the west end and delay invoicing until 2026, but the GC decided it was preferable not to commit to the work until later in the year when our financial situation is clearer. A further maintenance project is the treatment and re-painting of the south side of the clubhouse, but this is purely aesthetic and can wait.

36/25 Membership Matters:

Applications: There are 2 membership applications for 5 applicants this month:

	Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1	1. Martin Musgrove	Barrie Poeton	Rudi Fortson	Owns a Bavaria 38. Member of the Royal Torbay YC. RYA Instructor/examiner. Operates "Southwest Yachting". Interests: cruising. He has visited the RSYC from time to time. Former member of the ISC.
2	2. James Merson 3. Anne Merson 4. Sam Merson 5. Charles Merson	Simon Merson	Penny Merson	(JM) Research scientist. Pharmaceuticals. Working & living in USA since 2010. (AM) Accountant. Family have been RSYC members for 3 generations. Interest: crewing & onshore activities.

All those present were happy to recommend the applications to the GC for approval.

VC

37/25 Marketing Matters

Open Day. Lesley will meet with the new Membership Secretary, Katie, next week. The Secretary has cycled around the West Wight putting up posters on various village notice boards. David Porter thanked the Secretary for these efforts and also for washing up the other week when the kitchen team was short staffed due to illness. Lesley confirmed that the volunteers are all sorted. The Secretary will contact the Greenings to ask permission to erect the Club's gazebo on their land on 3rd May. Post meeting: Mr Greening has agreed to this.

38/25 Governance Matters

Bye-laws Review. The Y Class has offered to fund the £50k refurbishment of the boat sheds and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Club and the Y Class has been drawn up accordingly. This has no legal force, but it may constitute evidence of an agreement on certain points. The Y Class will fund raise £50k or less, if the build cost is under budget, on the understanding that the Y Class will have first call to use the boat sheds for storing YODs during the winter months. Member and non-members carrying out work on the YODs while they are in the Club's boat sheds must comply with the MOU, Rules and Bye-laws. This

includes tidying up after themselves, making good any damage, not using toxic substances unless necessary and not storing toxic substances on Club premises. The Club would need to be advised of any non-members onsite and any contractors would need adequate public liability insurance. The VC advised that a disclaimer clause can be included, but it has no effect in respect of personal injury or death. RCH commented that the YODs carry extensive insurance, including public liability. It was noted that any updates to the bye-laws should also cover the dinghy park and car park and any potential repair work by members and non-members. [All members of the VCC were asked to consider the bye-laws and contribute.](#)

All

Registration Fee. The Secretary had recently enquired whether it is time to review the £150 registration fee to new members as this has not increased for many years. At present, in the case of a couple or family joining, only one Registration Fee applies. For those joining before December 2025 the Registration Fee will be £150. In the case of single membership, £50 will be paid to the Club's refurbishment fund with the remaining £100 credited to their Payment Card to spend on food and drink in the Club. In the case of couple or family membership, £75 will be paid to the refurbishment fund and £75 credited to their Payment Card to spend on food and drink in the Club. [The Secretary will follow up with the auditors on their ruling that part of the registration fee must go to a specified project, not a generic maintenance fund. The Secretary will research how much income there was from the Registration Fee last year and how much a £5 increase would generate. Plus, the amount that other clubs are charging, and share this with the VCC via email ahead of the next meeting.](#)

Sec

Sec

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. The CYCA was due to review the Club's request for reciprocity on 1st April. There has been no response from CYCA following the Secretary's follow-up email on 10th April. The former Commodore is visiting Sydney this month so the Secretary has given him a burgee in the hope that reciprocity has been agreed and there can be a burgee exchange.

39/25 Secretary's Points

New website. The template designs are almost signed off and the build is ongoing with a view to going live late summer, after online entries have closed for Folkboat Week via the current website, so there should be plenty of time for testing.

40/25 AOB

Webcam. The VC enquired about topping up the webcam funds – [the Secretary would ask the Accounts Administrator to liaise with him directly on this.](#)

Sec

Local News. David commented that he was pleased to read the recent local press release regarding the RSYC Contessa Regatta 2025, which had been given a top billing. The Secretary advised that Ollie Dewar was writing the Club's press releases for all its regattas this year and that the Sailing Secretary was now providing regular sailing updates and results to the local press, as used to happen, as it's all free advertising.

Equality Act. The VC commented that the case regarding trans rights was decided yesterday. There should be no change from the Club's point of view as single sex facilities are provided and there are also separate disabled facilities should they be needed. The VC advised that members and staff should be vigilant about what is being said in the Club as any inappropriate comments could cause us difficulty. There should be further guidance available by June, for example regarding those who hold gender certificates.

Solent Lottery. RCH recommended that the Solent Lottery should be promoted more as a number of members attending the AGM hadn't heard of it before. [The Secretary would organise a specific email and online application form to members.](#)

Sec

Fitting Out Dinner. RCH thanked the VC for his positive feedback on the Fitting Out Dinner. The VC responded that it had been good to see new members and also guests at the dinner, who included an American lawyer and his wife who were very impressed. Susie commented that it was nice to see all the silver on the tables, which had been lacking at a recent RYS dinner. The Events manager was congratulated for her amazing organisation skills.

VCC Members. The VC said that he's delighted that everyone is remaining on his committee. There may be space for one more member, but it's currently a strong committee so this will be reviewed in the coming months.

41/25 Points for Next Meeting

- Bye-laws
- Registration Fee
- CYCA
- Clubhouse Maintenance

42/25 Date of next meeting: 11am on Friday 23rd May 2025