

# MINUTES OF A VICE COMMODORE'S COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB, ON FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 1100 HOURS

## Present:

In the Chair: Graham Fell, VC (Zoom)  
Susie Breare  
Rudi Fortson (Zoom)  
David Porter  
Sarah Turvill

## Apologies:

Peter Crowhurst  
Lesley Tregear

## In Attendance

Claire Hallett, Secretary

### 22/25 Apologies

As above

### 23/25 Approval of the Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025:

The minutes were approved as a true record.

### 24/25 Matters Arising

Dogs Bye-law. Following a successful trial, the GC approved the House Committee's recommendation to allow dogs in the Hudleston bar. The bye-laws have been updated accordingly by the Secretary and were approved by the VCC and GC via email. The updated bye-laws include a reference to the dog owner's or handler's liability for any damage caused and any aggressive/anti social behaviour.

### 25/25 Vice Commodore's Points

Maintenance Projects. The VC has received positive feedback from members on the recent maintenance projects, particularly the refurbishment of the east external staircase from the main balcony. Duncan Waite has identified a further two pieces of work: repairs to the cracks and holes in the stonework on the members' balcony to further prevent water ingress which is estimated at £4.6k, plus repairs to the leaking roof joint where the new main bar roof meets the old roof which is estimated at £2.8k. This additional work was discussed by the GC, and it was agreed that the leaking roof joint should be repaired as soon as possible, whilst the stonework could be delayed until later in the year when there's a clearer picture regarding our operating profit. Duncan generously offered to do the stonework repairs and delay invoicing until 2026, which the VC will discuss with the GC of next week. Post meeting: Duncan should be back to repair the leaking roof joint towards the end of April.

### 26/25 Membership Matters:

Applications: There are 4 membership applications for 6 applicants this month:

	Applicant	Proposer	Seconder	Comments/Interests
1	1. Mr Matthew d'Angibau	Kevin Shaw	Chris Taylor	Matthew is a head of camera dept at a Film & TV visual effects company (One of Us: weacceptyou.com) and resides in Yarmouth. Interested in racing, cruising, crewing, dinghy week, laser training and onshore activities. Has been meaning to join for last 2 years. Seconder mentions parents were previous members but not on ex-member list so maybe a while back. Matthew is member of Yarmouth Society.
2	2. Mr Stephen Cross 3. Ms Debra Pepper	Chris Waddington	David Barwell	Steve is a former vehicle inspector for Ministry of Transport and Deb is a former GP Office Manager. They reside in Freshwater. They have a sailboat (Sadler 29) moored in Yarmouth and RYA members. Their interests are cruising. Seconder says, 'They are very experienced cruising sailors, and I am

				sure they would both be an asset to the Club'.
3	4. Mr Nicholas Gaynor	Susannah Seely	Michael Rummel	Nick is a business coach based in SW13, 2 <sup>nd</sup> home Brook, IOW. He is a member of Royal Yacht Squadron and interested in racing, cruising, crewing, onshore activities, and race management. Sterling supporting letters resonating his expert sailing skills and keenness in crewing for races/race officering.
4	5. Mr Philip Hitchens 6. Ms Brenda Jacobs	Anne Vernon	Judith Reid	Phil is a former tennis coach and Brenda is a former director of product support (office automation company), and they reside in Yarmouth. They are interested in onshore activities. Seconder says, 'They enjoy visiting the RSYC as guests and would now like to become members.'

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

VC

## 27/25 Marketing Matters

Open Day. Lesley has sent invitations for helpers on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and is receiving responses.

## 28/25 Governance Matters

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. The membership Secretary has approached the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia regarding reciprocity. They have responded that the request will be reviewed at their committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The Commodore is visiting Sydney next month so hopefully he will be able to carry out a burgee exchange.

## 29/25 Secretary's Points

Membership Statistics. Monthly statistics will be circulated to the GC and VCC at the end of each month on the day of the GC meeting. Earlier this week the Secretary shared the RYA's census of membership figures provided to them by RYA clubs in August for the previous 12 months. The Secretary included a number of observations: Junior Members (aged under 18) have increased very slightly every year for the past 3 years which is a positive direction – from 20 at the end of 2022, to 23 at the end of 2023, to 26 at the end of last year. Student/Youth Members (aged 18-24) have remained static – 56 at the end of 2022, 53 at the end of 2023 and 55 at the end of last year, but it's also positive that these numbers haven't reduced. Other clubs in the South and UK show a big reduction in membership since 2021 compared to our continued growth, and our percentage of leavers and joiners are very favourable compared to the averages of other clubs. Our percentage of leavers decreased massively in 2020 during Covid, whereas other clubs spiked massively – perhaps greatly helped by the efforts put in during lockdown by the then Commodore, Flag Officers and staff organising the regular newsletters, weekly takeaway and helping with prescription deliveries. Also of note is the higher proportion of female members we have compared to other clubs. David Porter commented that, based on the limited menu on offer, the Royal Southampton YC is evidently struggling since their flood last year. The Cruising Group is visiting Gins Farm for lunch on 15<sup>th</sup> April as it's good to support them.

New Website. Peripatus had provided wireframes showing the look and feel of the new home page, which the GC had signed off via email. The Secretary would also forward these with Rudi and David after the meeting.

## 30/25 AOB

South Sheds. David Porter said there had been a suggestion from a member that the outer lintel on the south sheds should be lifted by six inches to allow for containers on wheels to be rolled in. The VC questioned why there was any need to put containers in the sheds and David responded that this was

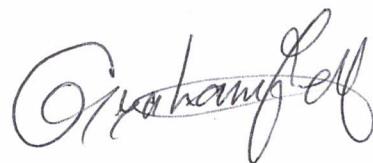
looking to the future and the provision of watertight storage. The VC responded that if the sheds had containers in there wouldn't be space for boat storage and entertaining but advised David to raise the matter with RCH who is currently leading the south sheds project. The current plan is to build a laminated frame within the south sheds – basically a shed within a shed.

The VC advised that the southeast corner shed is now refurbished, reroofed and re-purposed as a secure Club store and will accommodate Solent RIB on its trailer and support solar panels in the future.

Staff Update. Rudi enquired as to the latest staffing news, following the resignations of the Second Chef and Membership Secretary. The Secretary advised that Alberto was starting back as Second Chef next Tuesday and over thirty applications had been received for the role of Membership Secretary, so interviews would commence in due course.

VC's Last Meeting. The current Vice Commodore thanked everyone for their support over the last three years and in turn was thanked by the VCC members for all his hard work and significant contribution during his term.

**31/25 Date of next meeting:** 11am on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham Loff".

