

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

Present:

In the Chair: Rudi Fortson, Vice Commodore
Susie Breare, Rear Commodore House
Peter Crowhurst
David Porter
Lesley Tregear
Sarah Turvill

Apologies: None

In Attendance

Claire Hallett, Secretary

43/25 Apologies As above

44/25 Approval of the Minutes of 21st March 2025: The minutes were approved as a true record.

45/25 Matters Arising

Solent Lottery. Following feedback from members to RCH post the AGM that they weren't aware of the Solent Lottery, the Secretary promoted the lottery in the last Secretary's News email. This included a link to an existing page and application form in the online Member Area. There are also application forms located in the foyer and in the welcome packs for new members.

46/25 Vice Commodore's Points

Maintenance Projects. Duncan Waite has now completed the repair to the leaking roof joint between the main bar and members' dining room, which has come in £320 under the original quotation. Rudi will write a letter of thanks to Duncan as he also very generously absorbed the extra cost of the work to resolve the water ingress issues at the west end of the clubhouse.

47/25 Membership Matters:

Applications: There are 8 membership applications for 11 applicants this month, 6 of the prospective members applied as a result of the Spring Open Day:

Applicant	Proposer	Second	Comments/Interests
1. Mr Dougie Watmore <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	John Poyner	Ingrid Watmough	Dougie is the father of existing Member, Simon Watmough, and has recently moved to the Island. Interests: Onshore activities.
2. Mr David Tucker <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	John Poyner	David Fox	Has owned a cottage at West Bay Club, Halletts Shute since 2020 and plans to spend more time here (primary residence is in Cardiff). Interests: cruising, crewing, and onshore activities.
3. Miss Jane Roberts <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	Susie Breare	John Poyner	Ex employee (Membership Secretary until April 2025). Jane is interested in cruising, crewing, Dinghy Week, laser training and onshore activities.
4. Mr Tony Lester 5. Mrs Barbara Lester <i>Open Day Recruits + 10% discount on subs.</i>	Catherine Holmes	Susie Breare	Mr & Mrs Lester were Members of the RSYC from 1995 – 2015; they are both retired and living in Norton Green and would like to re-join now they have time to enjoy what the Club has to offer. Interests: cruising and onshore activities.

6. Mr Mike Gunn <i>Open Day Recruit + 10% discount on subs.</i>	Rudi Fortson	David Porter	Owns and lives aboard a Starlight 39 called Zest which is berthed in Yarmouth Harbour. Interests: racing, cruising, crewing, onshore activities and race management.
7. Dr Richard Palmer	Stephen Willy	James Meaning	Owns XOD 135 "Mollymawk" and motorboat "Orion Star" which is berthed in Yarmouth Harbour. Interests: racing, cruising, and onshore activities.
8. Mr Lee Whittington 9. Mrs Mair Whittington	George Cawood	Peter Voysey	Mr & Mrs Whittington are interested in cruising, crewing, and onshore activities.
10. Mr Hugo Lindsay 11. Miss Artemis Lindsay	Rosemary Luck	Jamie Clarke	Mr & Miss Lindsay own an Axopar which is berthed on the River Yar. Interests: racing, cruising, crewing, motorboat training and onshore activities.

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

48/25 Marketing Matters

Open Day Review. The foot fall at the Spring Open Day on Saturday 3rd May was slightly disappointing and lower than last year, although the same advertising strategy was used of putting up posters in key locations in the West Wight as well as promoting it to the membership. It is felt that the current economic climate will have had a negative impact and it was noted that Yarmouth Sailing Club also had a low turnout at its Open Day. Catherine Holmes, who works for Spence Willard showing houses, had advised RCH that she promotes the Club to potential buyers and would enquire if there was an opportunity for the Club to include a flyer in Spence Willard's information packs and feedback to RCH. The Secretary advised that the Club's magazine is already on offer via Spence Willard's Yarmouth office. RCH suggested a 10% offer on subscriptions for youngsters who join during Dinghy Week and Laser Training? At the next Open Day on 23rd August, it would be helpful if members could help put up posters along the roadside, as YSC does.

49/25 Governance Matters

Bye-laws Review. Prior to the meeting the VCC had been emailed a draft of the proposed revision of the boat shed bye-laws (B 16), in line with the recent Memorandum of Understanding for the boatsheds with the Y Class and recommendations on usage by the Club's insurance brokers, Gallagher. A number of further suggestions were made during the meeting, resulting in the following updated draft which would be recommended to the GC, subject to any further suggestions from the VCC:

B 16 BOAT SHEDS

B 16.1 Boat sheds are primarily for the storage of sailing boats up to 21 feet in length (which may be kept on trailers of appropriate size) which are the property of RSYC members. Other vessels and bulky items are not to be kept in the boat sheds without the prior permission of the Secretary.

B 16.2 Seasonal charges will be made for the use of a boat shed. Charges will be levied at the discretion of the General Committee.

B 16.3 Sheds will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. However, preference will be given to boats which race at the Club and which have made use of this facility in the previous year, and then to other boats which race at the Club.

B 16.4 The Secretary or Sailing Secretary must be notified in the event of a member wishing to use a boat shed.

B 16.5 Between May and October the boatsheds may be let out for car parking although their use as a boat shed or when required by the Club for the purposes of events or as an entertainment area will take priority.

Any permit holder wishing to use a boat shed for car parking must obtain permission from the Secretary. Priority will be given to members who made use of this facility in the previous year.

B 16.6 Owner(s) of every boat or car stored in a boat shed must have signed an Indemnity Form available from the Accounts Administrator, and must have paid the rental charge in advance.

B 16.7 The Club expects any boat or car that is left in a boat shed to be adequately insured and accepts no responsibility for any damage, howsoever caused.

B 16.8 The Club reserves the right to remove any boat or car left in a boat shed without permission and arrange for them to be stored offsite at the owner's expense.

B 16.9 All boats, cars and trailers left in the Boat Sheds must be kept in a serviceable condition and are left entirely at the owner's risk.

B 16.10 Subject to byelaws B16.11 and B16.12, any work that is carried out on a boat or car on Club premises shall be carried out by a Member of the Club.

B 16.11 A commercial contractor may carry out work on a boat or car on Club premises if the contractor:

(i) Notifies the Club of: (a) their identity, (b) the date (or dates) of their attendance, and (c) the name of the boat or the registration number of the car.

(ii) Confirms that they hold Public Liability Cover for an amount not less than five million pounds (£5 million).

B 16.12 A person (visitor) who is not a Member of the Club and who is not a commercial contractor, may carry out work on a boat or a car on Club premises if:

(i) The work is carried out in the presence of and under the control of the Member who has primary responsibility for the boat or car.

(ii) The Club is notified of (a) the identity of the visitor, (b) the date (or dates) of the visitor's attendance, and (c) the name of the boat or the registration number of the car.

B 16.13 Each person using a shed, or who is carrying out work on a boat or a car on Club premises, shall:

(i) Be responsible for their own safety, the safety of others, the security of the boat or car, the care of Club equipment, and the security of the shed.

(ii) Be responsible for safely removing and disposing of any waste materials and products.

(iii) Immediately report to the Club Secretary, Boatman, fulltime member of staff, or Flag Officer, any damage to Club property or damage to property belonging to a third party that is caused by (for example) the spillage of paints, varnishes, or resins.

B 16.14 The parking of vehicles and access to the Club's car park shall be in accordance with byelaw 14.

B 16.15 Where a Member, whilst renting a shed, is suspended or expelled by the Club in accordance with its Rules, that Member may (in the event of suspension) be directed by the General Committee to remove their boat or car from the shed (for the duration of suspension) and must do so in the event of expulsion.

Registration Fee. Currently, the Club's registration fee is calculated as follows:

Couple or family, only one Registration Fee applies.

Single member, £50 to Club's refurbishment fund, £100 credited to Payment Card . Couple or family membership, £75 to refurbishment fund, £75 credited to Payment Card.

Re-instatements & additions to existing account, just £50 fee to refurbishment fund.

The Secretary had shared research into other clubs' registration fees prior to the meeting, plus calculations based on a percentage of the subscription fee, which is what a number of other clubs do. It was felt that if the Club were to pitch a registration fee at £400-£500 it would become a rather elite club. Sarah felt that it should remain as it is, but the portion that goes to the refurbishment fund should be increased from £50 to £100. The VC highlighted that £150 in 2014 would now equate to £206.65 after applying CPI. After some discussion, all present agreed that a modest 16.6% increase to £175 was acceptable for all new members, and that £125 of this should go to the refurbishment fund and £50 to the payment card account whether for single, couple or family membership.

For re-instated members and additions to existing accounts the same percentage increase would apply, so the registration fee would be rounded up to £60, all of which will go to the refurbishment fund.

It was also felt that the some of the membership categories could be merged to simplify administration. The Secretary would ask the Membership Secretary to do some analysis of this.

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. The past Commodore had visited CCYA with the hopes of a burgee exchange, but the relevant contact was not there so he has returned with the Club's burgee and was advised that our request for reciprocity will now not be considered until June.

Equality Act. The VC advised that there is updated guidance, including that everyone must use the appropriate cloakroom facilities based on their biological gender, however it doesn't help the club much at this stage. The Secretary spoke with the senior staff this morning to emphasize that they must be particularly

mindful, respectful and use appropriate language when dealing with trans people and situations that may arise. Are both gender signs needed on the disabled cloakroom doors as they currently only have a disabled sign on them? The Secretary will write a note on the matter to the staff in the near future.

Sec

Terrorism Act. The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 has an implementation date of 2027 and will be kept under review, the resulting impact and measures, including bag searches, car registration logs etc, will apply in particular to larger events, such as the Taittinger Champagne Reception and the Towers Party. The VC has prepared a paper, which has not yet been circulated beyond the VCC.

50/25 Secretary's Points

April Results. April was a busy month and the financial results are good for the bar and catering – above budget and last year.

Staffing. Adam has left the waiting team and Becca is reducing her waiting shifts to evenings only from 1st June, so a second for Danielle is still required. The VC thanked the Secretary and Events Manager for their help waiting and drying up yesterday when the team was short staffed and the Club busy.

51/25 AOB

Photo gallery. The VC commented that the Photo Gallery hadn't been updated since 2024, the Secretary would liaise with the Membership Secretary on this.

Sec

52/25 Points for Next Meeting

- CYCA

53/25 Date of next meeting: 11am on Friday 27th June 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Fortson', with a long horizontal line underneath.