

SUSSEX YACHT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE
Held on Monday 19th May 2025

Meeting begun at 19:00

Item	Actioned By	When to do
Sections Safety Policy and Compliance Template meeting	PH/RS/KH	May/June Meeting
Guildford BSAC Proposal	DL	June/July Meeting

	Title	Name and Initials
Present	Flag Officers	Robin Stevenson (RS) – Commodore, Chris Hawkes (CH) – Rear Commodore, Neville Blake (NB) – Rear Commodore, Aidan Tuckett (Treasurer)
	Directors	Martin O’Sullivan (MO), Terry Kinch (TK), Dave Lee (DL), Yvonne Campbell (YC), Giles Weston (GW), Des Silverson (DS), Gemma Hawkes (GH), Kevin Headon (KH), Kevin Knight (KK) , Anne Gisby (AG), Erika Peck (EP)
	Ex-officio	Paul Fisher (PF) – General Manager, Ruby Alabone (RA) – Minute Secretary
Apologies	Directors	Sue Large (SLa) – Vice Commodore
Absent	Directors	Jon Ellman-Brown (JEB)

EP and GH attended the meeting virtually via Teams.

1. Apologies and Absences

The meeting commenced with formal apologies received from SLa and JEB was noted as absent. The Commodore, R.S, confirmed the meeting was quorate and could proceed with the agenda.

2. Declarations of Interest

No specific declarations of interest were raised during this section of the meeting. The Commodore reminded members of their ongoing responsibility to declare any potential conflicts that might arise during discussions.

3. Dinghy Section Report

IO not present to make report.

4. Last meeting – Adoption of the minutes

Proposal: Adoption of April Board Minutes

Proposed: Commodore; In favour: All; Against: None; Abstained; AT, DS

5. Matters Arising and Actions from Previous Meeting

RS, PF, and KH will arrange a separate meeting to discuss safety policies, with KH requesting that this takes place after the Royal Escape Race. Regarding the ASR matter, there have been further developments since the last main committee meeting. AT informed the board that those involved are open to mediation and have begun looking into the associated costs. AT and PF will meet with the member in question, who will be accompanied by a friend, to explore the possibility of resolving the issue informally before any further legal steps are considered.

6. Keelboat Section Report

CH reported that the Summer Series has commenced, with two races and two pursuit events completed so far. The first rally of the 2025 season, which took place to the Solent, was a great success and received positive feedback from attendees. The club continues to support the Festival of the Sea and a volunteer has been secured to run the crabbing event. Coordination with the outriggers is ongoing for Saturday's events, and the club is grateful for their leadership in planning and execution of this year's event. The approach for Sunday, including the KBS prizegiving, is still to be finalised.

In the short term, the primary focus remains on the Royal Escape Race (RER). There are currently 28 entries, with two entries confirmed for the supporters' cruise. The long-range forecast indicates light wind conditions. Activities will be held at the SYC clubhouse over the weekend to help bring the atmosphere to shore, and thanks were extended to YC and others for coordinating these efforts. Directors were reminded that the start breakfast will be held at The Old Ship on Friday, and that the race tracker will be live at this event. Social media coverage will take place throughout the duration of the event. Directors were reminded that RER 2025 T-shirts, now available from the office, and at the RER briefing on Thursday evening.

Once the RER has concluded, attention will turn to preparations for hosting the 2025 Sussex Regatta in September. The next planning meeting for that event is scheduled for late May.

7. Events Committee Report

The previous Friday had been a packed night and positive in the bar. The VE Day 80th anniversary Celebration had a positive turn out with 60 + people in attendance and was a positive evening. The previous Saturday/Sunday had over 70 covers showing promising support from the clubs' members. Sussex University Sailing Club are to host an end of year dinner this Tuesday. The next quiz night will be held on the Wednesday, and it has shown growing support. NB reiterated that this coming Thursday will be the Royal Escape Race briefing. NB confirmed that the Festival of the Sea and Shoreham Raft Race have been organised and well underway and will require for the car park to be closed for both events. NB confirmed the next events committee meeting will be held on 27th May. RS brought to the board's attention the launch of the new 'Bar & Stow's WhatsApp group' to provide a more direct line of contact between the club and its members on social events. RS commented on the low number of 200+ contacts within the group when the club currently stands at 1600+

members. YC fed back that there is a lack of enthusiasm within members for social events but will improve as members regain trust in the bar and restaurant. MOS queried about creating a poster with QR codes to various club WhatsApp groups to increase joining rate and direct communication for the club to its members.

8. Car Park Resurfacing

RS started the discussion on putting some interim measures to the surrounding perimeter of the clubhouse in improvement of the clubs car park and the surrounding land around SYC's Clubhouse. TK followed up that any delays in resurfacing the land have come about because due to waiting on developments surrounding the flood wall.

9. Balcony Decking

RS noted that the balcony decking has been the subject of numerous complaints due to the poor methods of installation. Upon recent inspection and discussion with others, it was determined that the existing decking installation was poorly executed. Specifically, there are insufficient fixings, and the type of fixings used has damaged the clips designed to secure the boards.

There are two decking areas at the club: one on the east end and one along the balcony. The east end decking was installed correctly and remains in good condition. The balcony decking, however, is problematic due to the substandard installation. Initially, a full replacement of the deck and supporting bearers was considered, with an estimated cost of approximately £20,000. RS expressed reservations about proceeding with such a large expenditure at this time and advocated for an alternative solution.

Following further consultation, a revised approach has been identified: securing the existing decking using an alternative fixing method involving screws through the boards, like those used on pontoons. This option is estimated to cost around £3,000. The proposed solution is expected to provide a safe and stable decking surface for an estimated 3–4 years, possibly longer, postponing the need for full replacement. RS recommended proceeding with this interim solution promptly, citing current safety concerns and ongoing failure of the existing fixings.

TK and GW discuss the warranties on the balcony and the installation processes made by Stirling Contractors Ltd. Due to the contracting company going through liquidation the discussion was halted for legal reasons.

10. Parking Permits

RS reported a recent incident at the Southwick site involving a dispute over parking, where a non-permit holder became upset after a notice was placed on their vehicle. The situation highlighted a broader issue regarding awareness and enforcement of the Club's parking permit policy.

RS recommended a renewed communication effort to remind members of the requirement to display a Sussex Yacht Club parking permit when using club parking

areas, including Southwick. He noted that visible permits help avoid misunderstandings and prevent unofficial warnings or confrontations. It was further noted that confusion sometimes arises over who qualifies as a member, particularly regarding groups such as fishermen who are legitimate members but may not be recognised as such by others. GW confirmed that displaying a valid parking permit remains a club rule and suggested the need for continued reinforcement of this policy. The committee agreed that a further communication push on the requirement and purpose of parking permits would be beneficial. It was also suggested that enforcement and monitoring be reviewed to ensure consistency. RS noted that all necessary resources are already in place, and a coordinated effort could now be made to improve adherence.

11. Budget

AT confirmed that he has received budget submissions from the Keelboat and Training sections. Additionally, KK requested that submission of the Safety Boat budget be deferred until after this year's Royal Escape Race. KH established that he will submit a draft budget on behalf of IO for Youth Sailing to PH ahead of the budget meeting scheduled for Wednesday 21st May.

12. Any Other Business

DL informed the Board of a request from Guildford BSAC to store a RIB and trailer at Sussex Yacht Club. He proposed that, should this be approved, Guildford BSAC be subject to the same rules and regulations currently applied to SYC BSAC, to ensure full compliance with Club policies.

RS thanked DL for raising the matter and requested that he obtain a formal proposal from Guildford BSAC for the Board's further consideration.

Action: DL

EP followed up on a query raised via Team Voice regarding the visibility and communication of the Race Officer role at SYC. EP proposed enhancing public engagement and awareness by advertising the Club and its racing activities when a Race Officer is present on Shoreham Beach. One suggestion included the use of an A-board displaying a QR code to provide information to the general public.

RS thanked EP for the proposal and requested that she develop the idea further and bring a formal proposal to the Board for review.

CH expressed support for increased local advertising during race events but advised that any initiative should be mindful of the Race Officer's primary responsibilities and workload, ensuring their focus remains on managing activity on the water.

Further updates were given on the ASR and the ongoing dispute which now continues with further consultation with the owner. Lawyers are now engaged to explore injunction options. Other yard users have been informed as to the obligations as users of the Yard.

Meeting closed at 20:05pm

Date of Following Meetings –

Monday 16th June 1900h

Monday 21st July 1900h

Approved by: R.S, Commodore

Signed: _____