

**SUSSEX YACHT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE
Held on Monday 21st July 2025**

Meeting begun at 18:59

Item	Actioned By	When to do
Versadock Proposal	DL	September meeting

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

EP attended the meeting virtually via Teams.

DS enters the meeting at 19:06

TK enters the meeting at 19:50

1. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were received from Aidan Tuckett and Chris Hawkes and Gemma Hawkes, Paul Fisher.

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. Last meeting – Adoption of the minutes

Proposal: Adoption of June Board Minutes

Proposed: Commodore; In favour: All; Against: None; Abstained;

4. Matters Arising and Actions from Previous Meeting

Covered within the main body of the meeting.

5. Update on Flood Defence Wall

RS informed the Board of a meeting held with Adur District Council, attended by TK and PF, in which the roles of both volunteers and paid staff within the club were discussed. RS referred to a desired piece of land relevant to the project, prompting SLa to request a visual aid to assist the Board's understanding, with GW suggesting that a plan might suffice. RS noted that the planning application remained incomplete and expressed thanks to EP for her work in clarifying aspects of the process. ADC have issued a joint press release and the current estimate is for work to commence around December 2025 with an anticipated build time of circa 8 months. Hamish at Bate & Albon will prepare a deed of transfer for a 12-metre section of land to be transferred to ADC, and meetings will be arranged to create a fee proposal to facilitate ongoing discussions with ADC, enabling contractor appointment and commencement of works.

In response to KK's question about the necessity of the land transfer, RS confirmed it was required for the relocation of the entrance gate. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be required to approve the transfer, with October identified as the deadline for agreement.

The meeting also discussed temporary access arrangements, including the possibility of a partial closure of the entry and a temporary entrance. YC noted that the car park would be closed for the duration, and GW confirmed that original contract terms require the council to allow SYC to operate as normally as possible. MOS asked whether resurfacing the car park would be possible, but RS advised it would not.

The flood wall is expected to run close to the footbridge, and GW confirmed that the Dolphine Hard ramp is non-compliant with regulations. YC added that ADC would provide a gate from Dolphine, and SYC would retain control over its own land.

RS reminded the Board that SYC had received £3.3 million in compensation for the loss of the old clubhouse and that ADC had indicated no further payment would be made. RS warned that ADC may be reluctant to fund additional works. The 2027 project deadline relates to ADC's planned merger and move to Unitary Authority status. It was agreed that a Teams meeting may be needed to support any interim votes. DS raised the matter of boat owners unable to remove vessels, with RS noting that the port might be able to assist. RS concluded by confirming that further questions could be addressed in a Teams Q&A session.

6. Management Reports – SYC Ltd and SYC Ops Ltd

SLa presented full reports for both Sussex Yacht Club and SYCOPS.

7. Dinghy Section Report

IO reported that family and cadet sessions had been affected by adverse weather, although turnout remained positive. The Young Sailors programme is set to begin but requires additional instructors.

8. Keelboat Section Report

The Keelboat Section report had been posted on Teams. RS reported on the Sussex Regatta and the potential use of robotic race marks, which would cost £1,000 to hire and £4,000 to purchase. RS asked that Board members read the proposal and consider how the technology might be used across other sections. CH will provide further information at the next meeting. KH queried whether approval could be given immediately in light of the September regatta, but it was agreed that a decision would be made in August at an online Teams meeting.

9. Events Committee Report

NB reported that Friday evenings remained popular and that Sunday lunches were well attended. The Raft Race will take place this weekend, and directors were asked to support entrance cover. JEB and AG offered to volunteer on the day.

10. Update on ASR Launch

RS explained that AT had led discussions with Mr Fairbairne regarding the ASR process. An offer had been made to allow him one year to remove his vessel from the club, with membership reinstated; however, the offer was declined. SYC will now proceed with an injunction and will be able to demonstrate to the court that it had made reasonable efforts to resolve the matter. The injunction will enable the club to dismantle the vessel, with site monitoring enhanced through CCTV. The expected timescale is six months from the date of the injunction. SLa asked whether removal of the vessel could assist the flood wall project; RS confirmed that further documentation had been requested from boat owners before any lifting or moving of boats takes place

11. New Club Rules

GW outlined proposed amendments to the club rules, noting that while Rule 3 had been expanded, its underlying principle remained unchanged. The updates focus on timescales, narrative consistency in communications, and clear expectations for member conduct. Rule 33 in the new draft corresponds to Rule 40 in the previous version, with penalties increased to double or to whatever is deemed appropriate.

The revised rules do not introduce any new provisions but feature a restructured format, consistent language throughout, and logical grouping of related items, reducing the total from 68 to 44 rules. DL queried whether the changes represented a complete rewrite or a modification, and GW explained that the process involved retaining some rules in their entirety while rewording others for clarity and ease of reading. MOS raised the issue of how moorings are allocated to members at Southwick. TK suggested allowing a 14-day review period before holding an online Teams vote.

After a detailed discussion, the Board agreed that this matter should be explored further in the virtual August meeting via Teams, at which time a formal vote on the new rules will be taken.

12. Any Other Business

NB reminded members that bar and restaurant chairs must remain indoors.

JEB reported on a successful recent Coastal Challenge competition, with plans for next year to expand to a two-day event and double the number of paddlers; beverage pricing will also be reviewed. The Ocean Racing Committee of Paddle UK has indicated interest in SYC hosting the World Championships in three to four years.

KH reported that the Southwick listed building consent application is progressing positively following meetings with the planning officer. DS reported work with PF on VHF and declared a conflict of interest.

DL requested that the Versadock proposal be added to the September agenda. SLa asked for updates on Raft Race volunteers from KK; none were reported. EP reported on signage for the race officer at Shoreham Beach and will provide pricing details; RS expressed thanks for her work and confirmed that CH had invited her to the next KBS meeting.

EP also referred to a safety document from February and the need for each section to review it; KH and PF have been working on this despite challenges in scheduling

Meeting closed at 21:10pm

Date of Following Meetings –

Monday 18th August 1900h via Teams.

Monday 22nd September 1900h

Approved by: R.S, Commodore
Signed: _____