

SUSSEX YACHT CLUB
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE
Held on Monday 10th August 2026

Meeting begun at 19:00

Item	Actioned By	When to do

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

CON, SN, Joined the meeting virtually via teams

Chris West (CW) attended the meeting as an observer.

Meeting began 19:00

Apologies and Absences

Apologies were received from DS

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Last meeting – Adoption of the minutes

Proposal: Adoption of July Board Minutes

Proposed: Commodore; In favour All; Majority; Abstained :

3. Matters Arising and Actions from Previous Meeting

Covered in the agenda items.

4. Governance Review Update

A. Articles of Association

RS introduced the review of the Articles of Association ahead of the proposed EGM in September. SLa thanked the Board and Advisory Group for their work in reviewing the Articles and supporting the proposed changes.

SLa presented the key amendments, including clarification of the respective responsibilities of the Board of Directors and paid staff, particularly in relation to the day-to-day operation of the Club. Further amendments relating to directors' authority, the use of Club assets and borrowing were discussed.

The Board discussed the proposed 20% borrowing limit, including whether this could restrict the Club's ability to undertake future capital projects following completion of the flood defence wall. It was acknowledged that the Club has identified a number of significant future capital requirements and that external funding, commercial borrowing and potential member-supported funding may need to be considered. The Board agreed that the 20% limit would provide an appropriate starting point for the first year of the new governance structure, with the position to be reviewed as the arrangements develop.

The importance of appropriate member involvement in significant financial and capital decisions was also discussed. It was recognised that the Advisory Group could provide an effective mechanism for gathering member insight and developing proposals before they are presented to the Board for approval.

SLa then presented proposed amendments relating to the establishment and role of the Advisory Group under Clause 8A. The purpose of the group would be to provide institutional knowledge, support strategic projects and investigations, and assist with succession planning. Minor wording and grammatical amendments were identified for further review.

The proposed amendments to Clause 19, relating to the appointment, election and rotation of officers and directors, were also discussed. The Board considered the proposed term limits and the importance of encouraging succession and introducing new skills and experience while retaining institutional knowledge. It was noted that individuals completing a period on the Board could continue to contribute through the Advisory Group.

Further amendments to wording and terminology were identified, including references to "shareholders" rather than "members", officer definitions and the wording of the Club's objectives.

RS asked if CW would like to comment? He declined and said he was happy to observe.

The Board agreed to progress the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association to the EGM, subject to the wording changes during the meeting.

Proposal: Adoption of proposed amendments to the Articles of Association
Proposed: Commodore; In favour All; Majority - NB, GW, KH, KK, YC, GH, CH, CON, RS,
TK and AG; Abstained :

B. Transition Arrangements

SLa confirmed that further papers relating to the proposed transition arrangements had been circulated for the Board to review. The Advisory Group continues to meet to refine the proposed structure and supporting documentation.

3. Any Other Business

CH reported on the Club's representation at Cowes Week, with more than 13 SYC boats participating, alongside SYC members sailing on other vessels. Approximately 50–60 SYC members were involved across a range of classes, with the Club receiving recognition in the SB20 and IRC fleets. Congratulations were extended to TK on being part of a winning crew.

RA provided an update on recent social media performance, highlighting a reel which had achieved approximately 35,000 views.

Meeting closed at 20: 15pm

Date of Following Meetings –

Monday 21st September 1900h

Monday 19th October 1900h

Approved by: RS, Commodore

Signed: _____