

Minutes of the RTYC General Committee held on 23rd October 2023

Present:

Commodore	Martin Morgans (MM)
Vice Commodore	Karen Cox (KC)
Hon Secretary	Stuart Carter (SC)

Rachel Morgans (RM), Don Gray (DG), Andy Ketteringham (AK), Tom Smith (TS), Terry Adams (TA), Andy Beaumont-Hope, Judy Pearson (JP), Nigel Collingwood (NC), John Barrett (JEB), Mike Brand (MB), Frank Martin (FM), Lawrence Mayne (LM)

Apologies, Piers Hodges

Approval of Minutes of the last GC meeting Monday 25th September 2023. The minutes were agreed subject to the addition of the following blue minute requested by JEB: [Amendment \(Blue Minute\):](#)). The amended minutes were subsequently signed by the Commodores. Proposed KC, seconded RM. Carried.

Matters Arising Therefrom: No Matters arising.

Correspondence: There were 3 pieces of correspondence: A letter of complaint against a GCM member, An email from MB (circulated), and a letter from Heather Leatt reference the CCTV in the dining room. There was a discussion about the CCTV and the reply to Heather Leatt will be circulated to the GM. The Commodore said that the audio on the new cameras was not enabled but he would seek further assurance that from the CCTV maintainers that this was still the case.

Finance. TA had circulated his report. He explained that during the processing of the data on the Excel spreadsheet we use to collate the information for the Bookkeeper, the Autosave feature was left off and the information was lost. This meant that our bookkeeper was unable to process the month's transactions before she left for holiday. Luckily the information was re-entered, and the P&L for September has now been circulated. The bookkeeper will continue with the production the year's end figures for presentation to the accountants hopefully by mid-November.

TA also informed the meeting that the VAT inspector posed a number of questions related to our VAT returns that we are investigating and will respond to and one of the key issues raised was our claim for Partial Exemption from VAT for membership fees. This raised some concern in the Finance Committee and prompted the need for confirmation that we fully complied. To meet the requirements of full compliance our membership fee must not confer any direct material benefits and those that are provided must have the appropriate amount of VAT applied. We contacted Dudley Gore Associates to obtain their advice on this and they responded by saying that they are not VAT specialists and that if we are concerned should seek advice in this regard. However, they forwarded a range of HMRC VAT advice documents that inferred that, in principle, we are fully compliant. Dudley Gore did advise that, in their opinion our membership fees are an exempt supply, however, we shouldn't mention the discount we apply to members drinks and that we should not claim VAT on items such as the purchase of gold cards for members etc. In the event that we claim for items such as this there is a De Minimis figure of £625 per month that can be applied to allow for this, but this would have to be accounted for. Our next communication with them is on the 15th of November when we hope to put this to bed. The Honorary Treasurer was advised to contact the RYA verbally to get advice.

Bar Committee. TS. Talked about the recent stock-take and bar audit. The wastage does seem high but this may partially be to do with out of date stock being included in the initial stock take. Katie and Lisa identified this after the initial inventory had been taken and had already pointed this out. Unfortunately it

appears some stock had been poorly rotated and was out of date prior to our initial July stock take, this shouldn't of been included, This is a club oversight which Katie and Lisa have taken steps to rectify.

The fact that when the lines had been cleaned but the wastages were not put through the till will explain some of the discrepancies here, however it does seem a little high. The anomaly with the snacks is also being investigated. The stock taker's report will be discussed with the GM on her return from holiday.

The desire for the pricing to become more in line with the 'premium' establishments in the area will also be discussed. TS agreed to provide weekly reports to the GC.

HonSec. Report circulated – no comment

RCS Reports. Circulated – No Comment.

HHO Report: The HHO gave his report and informed the committee that Annie Peers had joined the house committee.

The Roof: HHO said that the roofers had paused work after the last meeting due to some confusion over the payment of invoices. These have now been paid.

Landward side of roof: The landward side of the roof is almost finished with just the guttering left to do. this will be done this week. there is some snagging to do and Bradly is aware of this. There are two flat rooves in the middle section to do but these will be left until last as not to damage them while working on the seaward side. There have been no extras added to this side

Seaward side of the roof: Work has now started on this side, which has been divided into 4 sections. And will be done one section at a time, this will allow us to replace any rotten timbers if found. Unfortunately, the terrace is closed when roofers are working on the front two sections. Some debris has fallen onto the terrace, once Bradley has made safe the terrace can re-open. this will be this week. There will be some pointing on the chimney stacks to be done, once the HHO receive the quote he will inform the GC.

Room 1: The macerator had been removed from room 1. There was still work to do in repositioning the first-floor toilet bowl to move it away from the soil pipe.

Dining Room Ceiling. The dining room ceiling has now been finished. The total cost of this was £550.00. which was paid for by JEB. A big vote of thanks to RCS for painting the ceiling, RCC his wife Mandy, Past Commodore Dave Parrish and Judy Pearson-Parrish, Steph Martin, Elizabeth Anderson, Jenny Freeman, and Annie Peers. They all did a fantastic job in helping to get the dining room up and running for the racing crew's lunch. HHO personally thanked the GC and NEDs for their support

Fire Doors: One of the fire doors on the landing has been wedged open on a number of occasions. This is a serious breach of health and safety, and must never happen again. It does still stick when the automatic shut operates.

RCC: Report circulated. No Comment

Entertainments: Report circulated. No comments. RM said that the Officers drinks function needs to be addressed.

RW: Report circulated. KC said that the East Coast championship had been awarded to West Mersea Yacht Club for 2024 only and would come back to Ramsgate for 2025.

Navigation School: ABH said that things were going well. He asked to use the dining room on Wednesdays as the room had been put back in commission. He also asked that the RYA bills be paid promptly. Honsec apologised and said that he passed the invoices to Elizabeth when they came in but never arranged payment until the invoices were correct.

New Members and Resignations: 8 resignations. No new members to be voted in.

Increase in Subscription Rates: There was a discussion about the reason that the fees had not been increased. Honsec said that the short timeframe and the discussions with the Finance committee on the size of the increase meant that the rise would be hopefully before the end of the year. The Finance committee has recommended a 15% increase. The aspiration to reintroduce the Joint membership would possibly need a ratification at the AGM. As a stopgap there was a suggestion that the second member of a family group would receive a 15% discount making an effective joint membership of £430. This could be ratified at the next GCM. The Finance committee and the Bar committee were still conferring on the possibility of raising the bar discount to 20% following the outcome of the research into raising the bar prices.

There then followed a discussion on the requirement for members attending the AGM to be fully paid up. It was mooted that this could be a problem for those people paying by monthly staged payment. MB asked if there was a financial arrangement available with GoCardless whereby they would pay the membership fee upfront and the member would pay it back monthly. Honsec will check.

AOB.

- 1) **Racing Crews' Lunch** – The Commodore called the catering for the lunch “an unmitigated disaster” and all agreed. It was agreed that Kaba Catering should not be allowed to cater the function that they had currently been tasked with and attendees should be offered a refund. The Commodore had arranged a meeting with the caterers and will report back. (PM note: the caterer agreed at the meeting to refund the money they had been paid. All of the attendees have been offered a refund should they wish it).
- 2) JP asked about who had access to the trophy cabinet as it looked as though some items had been moved around. Honsec said that only the General Manager had access.
- 3) [\(Blue Minute\)](#)

AGM date Feb 25th 2024

DONM. Next meeting Monday 20th November at 1930hrs.
Meeting finished: 22:13