

## Minutes of the RTYC General Committee held on 25th September 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), General Manager (GM) (Part-time), John Barrett (JEB), Piers Hodges (PH), Mike Brand (MB)

**Apologies,** Frank Martin, Lawrence Maine

**Approval of Minutes of the last GC meeting Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023.** The minutes were agreed and signed by the Commodore. Proposed KC, seconded RM. Carried. JEB asked that in future the minutes be issued within 2 weeks of the meeting.

**Matters Arising Therefrom:** It was later pointed out that the ratification of the business plan had not been put on the agenda for this meeting as agreed in July. It will be added to the October meeting

**Correspondence:** No Correspondence

**General Manager:** Following a point of order raised by the NEDs, the Commodore asked the General Manager to leave.

**Finance.** TA had circulated his report. He said that there was one anomaly in the account where a payment had been apportioned to direct expenses but should have been taken from the roof fund. MB asked if the report reflected year end. TA said this was up until the end of August. The bookkeeper was in the process of compiling the EOY figures. MB then asked if the roof costs would be in this year or next year. As the project was several phases the costs would show in both years.

DG asked if the accounts were being done on the sage system and he had heard that the club was changing the system. TA confirmed this saying we would be moving to the Xero software as recommended by members of the finance committee and the bookkeeper. The costs are exactly the same for both systems. DG said that there was a huge amount of work that goes into the migration of systems and had the accountants agreed with the change. TA said that Dudley-Gore had said that they would prefer to stay with Sage. The bookkeeper had said that the change over would not be difficult to accomplish quickly. JEB said that his accountants used Xero and a lot of the banks did too. TA said he would contact Dudley Gore for a definitive answer to what they would wish us to use. (PM Note Dudley-Gore are happy with the change to Xero)

**Bar Committee.** TS said that there was little to report. He hoped to schedule a meeting with the General Manager soon to catch up. ABH asked if the GC could have weekly figures for the bar. This was agreed.

**HonSec.** Report circulated – no comment

**RCS Reports.** Circulated – RCS said he had some questions. He asked that funds be released to top up racing prizes. There was a shortfall of about a dozen glasses at £7.40 plus delivery charges, ca £200. This was unanimously agreed. He then raised the issue of the bar floor. The estimated figure was ca £10,000. There was a discussion about when the work could be done (or afforded) and how much of the bar floor would need to be reinforced to meet the concerns of the insurance company. PH said that he would be happy to carry on project managing. It was agreed that we should keep discussing the issue with a view to having the work done next year.

**HHO:** The roof. They have nearly finished all of the tiling on the front sections (completion by Friday) and the middle piece. The flat roofs are still to be done but they are unsure whether to start that now or start the seaward side of the building. The lead is being delivered on Wednesday so they will start the fillets. They have offered a quote for the seaward side, initially at £42,500, reduced to £38,000. Scaffolding is quoted at £7,500. JEB asked if they were on budget for the front. AL said that they have had half the money so far. They are anticipating that lifting the flat roofs will reveal some rot and corrosion above the stairwell to the flat but the roof above room 8 should be OK. With regard to the scaffolder, clarification is sought about the difference between the quote and invoices. The quote says free until completion and the invoices say 6 weeks free.

There was a discussion about the possibility of using the cheaper tiles and the impact on the conservation area. The building is not listed. There was also a discussion about the possibility of a business loan to pay for the work needed. Further research is required.

The Dining room ceiling. The HHO continued with a briefing on the Dining Room ceiling. There was a discussion on the relative timescales of doing the remedial work using the insurance cover or contracting direct from the club. The Commodore said that the insurance company would green light the project as soon as they had seen 3 valid quotes and as the policy included business disruption cover it would be in the interest of the insurance company to complete the work as quickly as possible. The Nav school Principal mooted the possibility that given the excess and contractors inflating their prices to the insurance company the work could easily end up at £5 or 6K and succeeding premiums could be higher because of the claim. It was suggested that contracting direct would be in the region of £1 to 1.5K and the work could be completed in less than a week. There had been several events booked in the dining room for October. JEB proposed that the 250 club could be used to pay for it.

The proposal was that the work to replace the ceiling should go ahead immediately with the cost being born by the 250 Club. Proposed by AL seconded DG. Carried.

JPP raised the sticky button on the door entry intercom. This has been reported and the maintainer of the system has been called in to fix it. As part of the fix they will also install a door entry handset in the office. (PM Note – Button fixed. Entry phone installed)

**RCC:** Report circulated. No comments. RCC thanked Jonathon Hague for organising a successful cruise to Holland. A visit by students from St Lawrence College has been organised on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. This will consist of a short reception at the club followed by a visit to the cruising boats in the marina.

RCC then mentioned the cruising supper which has been scheduled for Saturday 28 October. It was agreed that there would be a meeting between the cruising section and the office as soon as possible to discuss the supper

#### BLUE MINUTE.

A representative of the Royal Yacht Squadron had been invited to give a talk on 10 November. RCC asked if there could be a room made available for him. There was unanimous agreement that the club should pay for one night. Paul and Norma Russell had also volunteered to give a talk on their travels (they would not need accommodation).

NC asked if there had been any open days proposed this year. KC said there had been a date allocated but the caterer had pulled out before it could be organised. They were also trying to establish open days for local businesses. TA said that the plan was to set up some open days at the start of the season in 2024 when the weather would hopefully more stable. It was agreed that those weekends when there are breaks in the sailing calendar should be used to promote the club.

**Entertainments:** Report circulated. No comments

**RW:** Report circulated. KC said she would like to put on record that there has been a small team that ran Ramsgate Week and the most prominent, who practically lived in the club for the duration, were Martin and Rachel. Piers Hodges was brilliant as were Paul Woodward, Andy Ketteringham, Mike Brand, and Sue and Tommy Foster. TA said a glance at the figures said that, as of the end of August there was a provisional profit of £12K.

**Navigation School:** ABH said that things were moving along steadily with 7 or 8 more Yachtmaster students and 2 more Day skipper students. He has asked the GM for the Hold Bar on the 18<sup>th</sup> November for a VHF course which had literally been organised that very day . He asked that £5000 of the money generated by the course fees and due to the effort of the volunteer instructors be shown on the Roof fund accumulator graphic.

**New Members and Resignations:** no resignations. All new members voted in.

**Club hierarchy, protocols and lines of communications:** The Commodore said that his was a plea to improve lines of communication between the volunteers and the professionals, who, under the proposed business plan, had been brought in to ensure that the club was being run with best practices. MB suggested that the GM should be asked to present her plan for the club at the next GCM. This would enable the General Committee to ask relevant questions and agree the best way of supporting her. JEB stated that although the GM had come to the last GCM in July, as she is not a director of the club, she cannot therefore be a member of this General Committee. She may be asked to give presentations.

**Increase in Subscription Rates:** There was a discussion on possible incentives for membership. It was acknowledged that the general public were subsidising the bar profits and the Commodore said that not enough members were coming into the club. MB suggested that the current discount of 12% was not enough to offset the feeling of club members that the benefits of membership were not enough to justify the membership fee given that the members of the public were allowed in. The suggestion was that the bar prices would rise to a level equivalent to other august establishments in the area and full club members would be given a discount of 20%. A short piece of research would be carried out to determine the feasibility of the measures proposed to include scoping the difference between members and non-members revenue at the bar. MB asked that there should be an analysis of hotel profit room by room.

It was agreed that membership rates would rise in line with inflation and to offset the large increase in utility bills. There was also a desire to reinstate the joint membership category.

**Race Hut:** Harbour Master suggested that Coastal Watch, who are looking for a permanent base in Ramsgate, could be offered a sub tenancy at the Race Hut. It was agreed that it could be investigated

## BLUE MINUTE

**AOB.** AGM date Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

**DONM.** Next meeting Monday 23<sup>th</sup> October at 1930hrs.  
Meeting finished: 22:13