



**Minutes of the General Committee held on Monday 9th March 2026
7pm at WYC**

Present: David Figgis DF (Chair), Maureen Bush MB, Dickie Ledger DL, Philippa Bloice PB, Jo Wyles JW, Matthew Crockatt MC, Anthony Middleton AM, Steve Gray SG, Andrew Provan AP.

Zoom: Terry Davis TD.

1 Apologies for absence – Mike Oliver, Fef Griffin.

2 Minutes of previous meeting - Monday 9TH February 2026 approved unanimously.

3 Correspondence –

a. Richard Maltby inquired again why the beach lease documents were not shown to every club member and the decision to offer in-office viewing. The committee stands by the decision not to publish full beach lease documents online, members can view them in the office on request. **ACTION AM/MB**

b. There has been a complaint regarding a long-standing member. This will be dealt under confidential minutes. **ACTION AM**

4 Matters arising from previous meeting

a. WYC 125-year Anniversary event in August 2027
Keep focused on building momentum. Louise to consolidate initial ideas and put forward to the task force. Rachel to create a logo. Get members involved. **ACTION SG/AP**

5 Office reports: MB
General verbal report/HR matters

Trustee appointments/resignations completed, documentation to go to the solicitors, stage 2 - existing agreements to be updated.

Handover to Anthony going very well.

Archiving request from Catherine Pierce /Whitstable Museum for club documents post 2002. MB to clarify with the museum before any transfer or access is granted and will let Catherine know.

ACTION MB

Club signed up to a Staff bike purchasing scheme as an environmental/health benefit.

Cashflow report

Received.

New Members report

1 x Water user individual. 2 x Sailing family 1 x Social Individual

6 Sailing Report: SG

WYC racing: upcoming dates:

Working party – March 14th 10.00

First race – March 15th 11.00

RO training – March 22nd 11.00

Slotty:

Mooring precautionary work completed, Slotty engine service due Mar 10th.

Handbook: Distributed.

Boat parking review:

14 abandoned boats identified for disposal to be moved during working party.

A big thankyou to Steve, Sally and George who found out the owners of every boat parked on the beach and west key. This took a lot of work.

RO guide: To be revised.

7 House report:

Prepared by Maureen Bush as Mike Oliver on holiday

1. Gents' lockers updated – finance donated by coffee club and Ray Page carried out the work – HUGE THANKS TO ALL.
2. Pre working party rubbish collection booked with ClearaGem Monday 9th March
3. Working party schedule attached
4. New subcontractor cleaner has started – Annette Warrell. Many thanks to Bar Karen for referral. And thanks to Helen Lucas for her years of cleaning.
5. Pat testing booked for WYC and office tenants Mon 30th March
6. Stroud roof leak fixed

Stroud shed base urgently needs concreting.

ACTION MO/Simon Reynolds

8 Bar report: DL

Handover progressing, DL staying on for cellar management.

Staff situation looking good. Minimum wage comes in on 5th April all bar staff now on a fixed contract on minimum hours, all happy with this.

Huge thankyou to Dicky for everything he has done.

9 Social report: AP

Some great events undertaken in Feb/March. Bob Dylan talk and Native and New Art Exhibition were most prominent. Both had good turnouts and useful contribution to the bar sales. Unfortunately, two of Winter Talks (“Kill or Cure” and “Thames Estuary”) had to be cancelled at last minute due to illness of the speakers. We are looking to reschedule them for this spring and autumn.

Events for rest of this month are “Thames Barges” – Jeremy Scott on Fri 13 March and Music Club Gig on Sat 28th March. Again, both should be popular and well attended.

New Club Manager Anthony has suggested a couple of supper clubs on Friday 10th April and Fri 1st May, and Quiz for a mid-weekday in early April. Planning ongoing.

Schedule for next year acoustic Summer Sessions on have been prepared (see attached spreadsheet). These are for Saturdays, May to August, with 2 afternoon races, and no other events on (e.g., Opens etc). We are looking to get catering/food available to some of these events. I am collating the list of musicians volunteering for these gigs.

Winter Talks being prepared for next autumn. So far have “Mirror Dinghies” and “J-Class”, “Ian Procter” and “Wonders for Thames Estuary”. Looking for another four talks/speakers perhaps on a less nautical theme (Art, History, Hobbies, Sports, Music etc).

A second coffee machine in the tea bar is available for events – Keith will train staff to use it.

10 Training report: JW

Booking for courses going well so far, with the brighter weather getting more enquiries.

We have the RYA coming to inspect Westbere Lake on 15th March, so hopefully we will be able to run our Easter holiday course there as normal. Spoken to Richard (Commadore) and Kings School regarding boats and both happy for us to use the facilities.

Contacted the five local primary schools this week regarding our RYA On board programme which is due to start in the summer term, two schools Joy Lane and Swalecliffe School which we've not contacted before, came back to us immediately to say they are very happy to send the information it out to year 6 parents, so we should get 12 easily to run it, if lots of interest we can lay on another day if necessary.

Lots of interest in Powerboat courses, so will try to get another set up in April which will run on a weekend rather than a weekday.

Thanks to Colin Smith and Steve Gray who went down to Chichester to collect the new safety boat that we won at the RYA dinghy Show. Katie and I will need to run the engine in for 10 hours, then it will be ready for proper use with cadets and training predominately.

Russ from Topper is coming on 17th March to check all our Toppers for the season. All other kit and been checked and replaced where necessary.

We have been given an old topper from an old member which is sat up on Reeves Beach, we will be bringing it back down to our racking to be check over, has a 4.2m sail which is very useful for our smaller sailors.

The new safety boat was evaluated as more suitable for calm waters and training to be reviewed at the end of the season.

11 AOB

AGM on 22nd `March. Everything in from members 48 hours before.

Update of planning application – James Green sent through plans for an enclosed seating structure at The Forge before he submits it to planning. WYC is bound by our beach lease agreement to support the application. TD pointed out if planning went ahead, we would only pay a peppercorn rent leaving the club approximately £2 million better off.

TD will send agreed planning support letter signed by DF.

TD will attend the AGM to answer lease related queries.

The clubs deck and canopy has planning conditions attached. TD to handle any issues if they arise.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Date of next meeting Monday 13th April 2026