



2026/03/22

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd March 2026 4.00pm at the Club

Present: David Figgis DF (Commodore), Terry Davis TD, Mike Oliver (Rear Commodore House) MO, Anthony Middleton AM, Philippa Bloice PB.

The meeting was quorate with 50 voting members. All reports had been circulated with the agenda.

1 The Commodore welcomed the members to the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Richard Davis, Wayne Dixon, Ruth Oliver.

3 Minutes of Previous AGM held on 16th March 2025

Richard Maltby had the minutes corrected last year as he was omitted from the apologies.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Proposed by Jennifer Griffin seconded by Ian Wild. Unanimously approved by all present.

4 Matters Arising

Richard Maltby took the floor. He requested members be entitled to view the full Beach Lease documents and publish them to members using technology as the confidentiality clause in the Deed of Settlement allows for this.

DF stated very clearly that the documents were available for all members to request.

Richard Maltby gave concerns regarding the Lease documents, terms of the Deed of Settlement and The Forge beach bar proposal.

Andrew Jackson asked repeatedly for Richard Maltby to state his point.

Kelvin Tolson illustrated the planning regulations Richard Maltby had issues with and asked if this was all relevant now the beach lease was passed.

Jo Phillips said she felt the minutes of the last AGM were disingenuous, 'WYC as part of the lease negotiations has agreed not to object to a planning application for the Forge', this was a huge difference to having a deal the club can't object to.

Jennifer Griffin reminded everyone that the deed of settlement secured the future of the club and modifications to the previous lease were necessary to gain it.

TD took the floor- The GC are elected to empower the club. Various Negotiations over many years have been complex. The beach lease took 18 months of extremely hard negotiations. The deed of settlement is non-negotiable being the best possible deal we could get with all freehold and beach secured for 200years.

POINT 3.8 in the agreement to settle states:

The Claimants shall use all reasonable endeavours to procure that the Club supports any such applications made in accordance with paragraph 3.7 above for a Licence or Planning Permission and shall provide a letter of support on headed paper and lodge it with the local planning and licensing authorities or other appropriate determining body or person with the following wording:

“WYC have no objection to the proposal and due to its proximity to the club and being surrounded by sailing dinghies, believe that it might encourage members of the public to consider taking up sailing as a sport and possibly join the club as a consequence.”

Terry Davis - ‘No objection’ is very different from actively supporting the application. Trustees, TD, DF and flag officers could not object but everyone else was intitled to do as they pleased.

Various questions addressed to TD on the proposed planning application, included ex High Court Judge Stephen Gerlis who spoke as a social member (who may participate in debate though cannot vote).

Richard Govier raised a vote of thanks.

5 Correspondence

There was no correspondence not dealt with before the meeting.

6 Commodore’s Report

Dear Fellow Members,

This is now my second annual report and after all the stresses of the beach lease, I was hoping for a much easier year, but of course this is WYC.

Firstly, at last year’s AGM, I gave a plea for money to cover our short-term cash flow problems after the huge legal fees and the response was utterly amazing! The generosity of these members allowed us to trade all year, without having to use an expensive overdraft. Correctly no names have been mentioned, but I know who you are and enormous thanks and gratitude is owed to you, from all the members of WYC.

This has been the year of “Retirements” (not sure how many were my fault, but I knew most were coming before I took the job on).

Ruth Oliver has left the Sailing school after 8 years and we now have Katie Berrington at the helm.

Dickie Ledger has eventually found a replacement as bar manager (he has been trying to escape since the day he was bullied into starting the job) and Matt Crockatt

will, as long as you elect him at the AGM, be taking over. The bar is now making a good gross profit!

Maureen Bush, after years 10, has decided to retire as Club Manager. Without her at the helm I'm not sure if the club would have got through the legal costs and stresses of the last few years. She held an extremely tight hold on the financial tiller, allowing only essential costs to be spent. She was often in her office late at night or phoning me or my predecessors early in the morning.

Luckily for us, she is staying on for the year as Accounts Manager. Hopefully all of you are aware we now have a new manager, Anthony Middleton. He has already been thrown in the deep end and appears to be doing exceptionally well.

The last retiree is our sailing secretary, Sally Gostelow, who has for the last 20 years, done an amazing job looking after us all. Sorting out problems with fees, boats on the beach, sailing results, organising our silverware, answering the phone and just helping to keep the club on a steady course, are among the roles she has had to do. Whilst she will be missed, I sincerely hope we may now see more of her, on her windsurf, flying across the bay.

Without wishing to steal the thunder from Steve Gray, Andrew Provan and their team, please make sure you keep August 2027 clear, as it will be our 125th Anniversary and we plan to celebrate this auspicious occasion, our Birthday, with social and sailing events for all members to remember.

Hope to see you on the water soon and at the AGM on the 22nd March at 4pm. David

7 Rear Commodore's Sailing Report

Rear Commodore Sailing Report

The club has seen a strong year across all water sports activities and once again our focus has been on bringing improving sailors into racing.

The sailing school enjoyed another positive year with cadet activities fully booked through the summer and improvers well attended. Our 'Transition to Racing' programme again proved popular with its graduates starting to make an impression in club races.

It was disappointing to see racing turnouts decline by 8% on 2024 (back to 2023 levels) due to reduced participation in club races but this was balanced against a significant increase in numbers racing our feature regattas topped by Whitstable Week with 61 boats taking part. The 2026 summer series have been restructured to try to address what appears to be a summer decline.

We can be extremely proud of the success of our young sailors at the Topper World Championships with Ralph Hadley 4th, Joe Barton 11th and Jack Taylor 41st in the 131 strong main fleet and James Martin 5th in the 43 strong 4.2m fleet and look forward to more great results in 2026.

We hosted the Tasar nationals in June which highlighted to visitors the best the club has to offer both on and off the water, and successful events were also held for Toppers, Lasers, Wanderers and Wayfarers.

The breadth of water sports offered has expanded to include kayak/SUP and range of dinghy cruising events with thanks to Kerry and Richard for organising.

Once again, the club is grateful for the continued financial support of our sponsor Holidaycottages.co.uk who supported a range of activities including our 4th year of bursaries aimed at developing sailing skills.

The club is largely run by volunteers who ensure that the activities mentioned above function smoothly – whilst we all have our part to play, there are those who cover large numbers of duties that guarantee our programme runs smoothly – thank you all!

No of race starts:	2025	2024		2023
Series races Handicap:	506	751	-33%	481
Laser:	469	609	-23%	492
Feature races All:	755	526	+44%	717
Total race starts	1,730	1,886	-8%	1,690

8 House Report

Work carried out in past year.

1. Replacement of tea bar steps and veranda balustrade.
2. Removal of Asbestos cement roofing and replacement of Stroud shed roof.
3. New boiler to No2(Fefs).
4. New floor paint to male changing room and shower area. Thanks to Kelvin and Simon.
5. Upgrade of lighting to LED and motion sensor controlled-various areas.
6. Repairs to male locker doors. Thanks to Ray Page.
7. New PVC replacement windows to Sea Room.
8. Installed sink, water supply and drainage to school room Rigidens.
9. Redecorated Training office. Thanks to Kelvin and Mark Grinter.
10. Kitchen extract system serviced and cleaned to comply with Gas Safe regulations.
11. Numerous sundry 'fixes'.

Proposed upcoming work.

1. Concrete lower Stroud shed floor.
2. Concrete bin store area.
3. Redecorate committee room.

9 Finance Report and Presentation of Accounts for year ended 30th September 2025

Presentation of Accounts had been circulated with the agenda.

The Accounts having been duly proposed by Kelvin Tolson seconded by Richard Maltby. Unanimously approved by all present.

10 Appointment of Independent Advisers

MHA MacIntyre Hudson appointed Independent Advisers for 2026/27

Proposed by Jo Wiles, seconded by Jennifer Griffin. Unanimously approved by all present.

11 Election of Commodore, Officers and General Committee

Proposal 1 - Vote for those restanding - The following, having been duly proposed by Robert Govier, seconded by Louise Provan were unanimously elected.

David Figgis	Commodore
Vacant	Vice Commodore
Steve Gray	Rear Commodore – Sailing
Mike Oliver	Rear Commodore – House
Vacant	Hon Treasurer
Maureen Bush	Accounts Manager
Terry Davis	Legal property agreements
Jennifer (Fef) Griffin	New members 'Meet and Greet'
Jo Wyles	Training Principal
Andrew Provan	Social Events

Proposal 2- Vote for New GC Members - Matthew Crockatt as Bar Manager and Anthony Middleton – Club Manager.

Proposed by Robert Govier, seconded by Louise Provan, unanimously approved by all present.

12 Resolutions for rule changes

1) Resolution 1

Rule 14 – insert wording – The Club Manager

To read: **The Club Manager** or a person nominated by the General Committee shall:

2) Resolution 2 – page 7 current wording 'Bar Committee and Social Committee'

To read: **Bar & Social Events Committee**

3) Resolution 3 - Rule 40 – rewritten.

To read: Any member who is a nuisance by interfering with the rights of other members or visitors to the club may be requested to leave the club by any member of staff or by any member of the General Committee. A report of the incident is to be sent to the General Committee for consideration. The member is suspended until the General Committee have received the member's written explanation of their conduct and shall give the member full opportunity of making the explanation in

person, or of resigning, before considering whether to continue the suspension until some specified date or event or expelling the member in accordance with Rule 39.

4) Resolution 4 - Rule 42 -insert wording 'or a member of staff'.

To read: A member of the General Committee **or a member of staff** may cause admittance to be refused to any visitor, or require any visitor to leave the club premises, should the visitor's presence on the club premises be in their opinion undesirable.

5) Resolution 5 - Rule 69 - Remove words from 'The limitexceed such limit.'

To read: Members acting on behalf of the club in expressly appointed roles by the members at an Annual General Meeting or the General Committee by its delegated powers are entitled to be indemnified by the members of the club against any liabilities properly incurred by them or any one of them on behalf of the club and wherever the contract is of a duly authorised nature and entered into on behalf of the club.

6) Resolution 6 - Rule 82 Annual General Meeting - Removal of conflict with rule 21 by deletion of the following words: 'setting members' subscriptions and fee levels payable the following subscription year,'.

7) Resolution 7 - Rule 83 - 15% to be replaced by 10%.

To read: The chair at the Annual General Meeting shall be taken by the senior officer present, or if no officer be present by a member chosen by the meeting. The quorum for the Annual General Meeting is 30 voting members or **10%** of the members eligible to vote whichever is the lesser.

8) Resolution 8 - Rule 84 - Remove first word 'postal' and add wording 'any written form'

To read: Votes will be valid in **any written form** for Annual General Meeting only if received by the office at least 48 hours before the meeting.

9) Resolution 9 - Rule 86

Remove the word 'postal' and replace with '**a voting form in any written form**'.

To read: A notice of such meeting shall be sent to every voting member accompanied by a voting form in any written form at least twenty-one days before any Special General Meeting stating the time and place where it will be held and the business that will be brought before it.

A vote accepting all amendments duly proposed by Glen Cook seconded by Jo Wyles Unanimously approved by all present.

13 Any Other Business

DF gave thanks to: -

Coffee Club especially Ray who did a brilliant job on the lockers in the men's changing rooms.

Sally retiring a gift was presented, Sally thanked everyone.

Terry was presented a gift of thanks for the incredible amount of work on the beach lease and all the work he has done over the years. TD reminisced fondly over his years at the club.

Maureen finishing as Club Manager was thanked for all her work and presented with flowers.

Clubs 125 Anniversary

Next year 17-27th August 2027 Andrew Provan /Steve Gray gave an overview of the event. To incorporate Whitstable Week with good parties and sailing. Looking for ideas for sponsorship to put club on a firm financial footing.

Wednesday – Sunday invited people from heritage classes connected to the club. Taking windsurfing racing into account. Support needed from members.

Ian Wild gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman for a rather extraordinary meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

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Chairman