



Minutes of the General Committee held on Monday 11th May 2026 7pm at WYC

Present: David Figgis DF (Chair), Maureen Bush MB, Philippa Bloice PB, Jo Wyles JW, Matthew Crockatt MC, Anthony Middleton AM, Steve Gray SG, Andrew Provan AP, Mike Oliver MO, Fef Griffin FG.

Zoom: Terry Davis TD.

1 Apologies for absence - None.

2 Minutes of previous meeting – Monday 13th April 2026 approved unanimously.

3 Correspondence –

DF received email offer for discounted yacht charters – DF to reply thankyou but we are a small boat club. Forward email to Christian Brewer. **ACTION DF**

Letter received from Catherine Pierce requesting access to the clubs' minutes - year 2000 to present. This is part of an archiving project for Whitstable Museum working on a timeline on the history of WYC. MB to speak to Catherine to review her archival work. **ACTION MB**

Agreed AM will oversee the archive and control sign -out records for borrowed minutes.

MB proposed framing archiving catalogues - WYC 1902-1952 and 1952-2002.

4 Matters arising from previous meeting

a. WYC 125-year Anniversary event in August 2027

Planning was discussed including targeting main sponsors, obtaining marquee hire quote for multiple weekends with options for corporate days/cadet functions. **ACTION SG/AP**

b. No 1 Sea Wall

DF/AM reported a site visit to the property – Found poor tenant housekeeping, occupant related damage and concerns over structural and window condition.

Recommended a contractor led inspection creating a schedule of remedial works and planning improvements to restore market value over a few years.

TD to forward previous report to AM/MO.

It was agreed to push the letting agent to enforce tenancy obligations. **ACTION AM**

- c. Review AP points for consideration
Produce a concise marketing sheet listing members benefits for distribution to beach enquires highlighting available activities. **ACTION SG**
- d. Membership & Subs Finalised
SG introduced a membership pricing spreadsheet with a percentage increase formula for automatic yearly increases and prepopulating renewals.
Discussion on percentage increase for next year around 4%. Final decision to be agreed by next meeting.
Discover Sailing 14th June – A 60% discount code issued on the day for new memberships paid for by 30th June.
- e. Clubs Complaint procedure - Draft agreed but extending the guaranteed initial contact from 3 to 7days. Publish the policy on the website. Add to club rules at AGM.

5 Office report: AM

- Stephen Harris talk. £800 net ticket sales. £400 GP approx.
- Instructors on PAYE have been working without contracts or written particulars. Advised by Peninsula that this is irregular. Every employee should have a written agreement. Peninsula sent specimen contract over. Also advised that we need to inform those instructors who we are taking them off PAYE system.
- David Figgis & I inspected No 1 Sea Wall. Need to agree long term policy on improvement of this and other residential properties. Agent suggested their contractor gives us a complete audit of property with me walking round with them and then coming up with job of works. Not obligated to use them.
- Discover Sailing – need to decide on offer?
- Discussed improving management accounts and cashflow forecasts.

Finance reserve funds/budget report - Received

Figures are tight. Concerns regarding Rigdens roof longevity were raised.

New Members report: AM

3-4 returning members.

2 x Water User Individual, 2 x Water User Family, 1 x Young Person, 3 x Social Individual, 2 x Social Family,

6 Sailing Report: SG

WYC racing:

Topper training and SE traveller – April 18/19th Congratulations to WYC members Joe Barton and Ralph Hadley who finished 1st and 2nd in tricky conditions.

Town regatta – May 2-4th – another light wind regatta won by Rick and Sarah Perkins in their Tasar from 52 entries, highest entry in last 10 years included visitors from as far as Shoreham and Bristol.

WYC racing: upcoming dates:

Merlin Rocket silver tiller and Tasar open – May 30/31

Laserfest – June 27/28

Slotty: Back in action, hooter sorted – short of drivers

Boat parking: 14 abandoned boats identified for disposal to be addressed after completion of notice period.

West Quay fencing updated by council.

7 House Report: MO verbal

Nothing else to report – covered by other reports.

8 Bar Report: MC

In comparison to last year top level figures were as follows:

Year	Sales value	Profit	GP %
2025	10992	5214	57
2026	10709	5083	57

I am working with Anthony to establish accurate monthly staff cost figures that include NI as well as applying fair non-sales associated costs to the bar figures.

Some small actions to improve/maintain GP levels include purchasing 4 casks of ale from Canterbury Ales at a time so that we receive a discount. This allows one of our best-selling draught beers to operate above target GP whilst still offering excellent value.

There are significant headwinds for hospitality businesses at present, but I am optimistic that we can still generate a healthy surplus from the bar across the year.

- Cellar work completed. The new aspirator valve system allows 2 ales to be served at once during busy times providing more choice without compromising quality.
- Premium wine range from a new supplier introduced by the bottle. Strong sales, especially during the food event on May 1.
- Spitfire lager to return due to popular demand.
- Aspoll Cyder on tap soon for the summer.
- Pimms jugs and Negroni mixes available soon!
- A strong start to May sales with an increase of 25% year on year so far...

9 Social Events Report

Big thank you to Anthony Middleton for organising Stephen Harris talk on book launch of "Sportsman @ Home". This included a tasting menu prepared by Brian. Very popular, well attended, and sold out quickly with 40 people there. A lot of hard work, which was appreciated by all.

This did expose some issues with the ticketing and booking online, so we will sort this out in time for next event.

Summer social events have all organised including four Sat Summer Acoustic sessions on the deck following afternoon racing. There were 6 planned, but 2 of these acoustic sessions have had to be cancelled or moved due to double booking of the club. I now have access to the Club Diary, so will ensure that all future events are booked in, so we don't repeat the fate of these events!

Further winter talks for Autumn 2026/Spring 2027 are still being organised. I am persuading members of the club with good interests to do talks. Ongoing. We also have some slots free for our usual rota of paid external speakers. I will discuss with Maureen to get suggested speakers and topics.

Native and New original art exhibition being discussed. Date to be confirmed, but likely to be March 2027.

10 Training Report: JW

Topper Training weekend went well with 9 of our cadets taking part in the training on the Saturday.

Local knowledge of the tides helped with the racing on Sunday with Joe Barton winning.

Six of this year's assistant instructors have now done their powerboat level 2 course which is great news as they are able to help more with cadets and training courses. More PB2 courses coming up.

Last weekend was the first of our Adult L1 course, with 8 people taking part. Some have booked onto a level 2 course later in the season.

Cadets has now started, with the first two sessions having numbers limited to 18 cadets because of number of instructors available. Last Friday saw the 3rd session where we had 28 cadets and 21 boats out on the water which was great to see.

Transition to Racing sessions have also started with a mix of adults and cadets taking part last week, which is good to see, looking at starts and where the best place to be is. Then out on the water to practice lots of starting and controlling of the boat speed.

Improvers is also going well, with several of them joining the TTR session.

The RYA inspection will take place on 13th June, we have an Adult L2 course running that day as well as cadets, so plenty for him to see!

Discover Sailing is on 14th June, this is an open day for the club where the public can come along and have a go on a boat, go out on a rib and hopefully sign up for a course and become a member. We need volunteers to help on the day. Please let Anthony or me know if you're able to help.

JW reviewed a simplified RYA style contract, to meet with AM to discuss.

11 AOB

MB to set an annual property valuation date with TD.

MB to confirm to all GC if a 4% rise in subs is realistic.

The meeting closed at 20.05pm

Date of next meeting Monday 8th June 2026