



**Minutes of the General Committee held on Monday 14th September 2026
7pm at WYC**

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

Zoom: Terry Davis TD.

- 1 Apologies for absence** – Jo Wyles JW.
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting** – Monday 10th August 2026 approved unanimously.
- 3 Correspondence –**
Harry Whelan to be sent a formal thank you for assisting a young sailor in difficulty safely back to the beach. **ACTION AM**
- 4 Matters arising from previous meeting**
 - a. WYC 125-year Anniversary event in August 2027.
All progressing forward - marquee quotations, estimated costs, seating capacity dinner arrangements, sponsor progress, wine related offers. Identifying champions for individual event days. Checked the proposed anniversary date does not conflict with other town events. **ACTION SG/AP**
 - b. No 1 Sea Wall
See Office report
 - c. The Forge planning application
Status of the planning application reviewed. TD advised waiting for the council's decision and explained the appeal process.
 - d. Volunteer recruitment
See Office report
 - e. Rule change
Discussed introducing a three-minute limit for AGM comments. This was agreed. Notification of the change to go out with AGM paperwork to all members as 1st item on the agenda.

5 Office report: AM

- No 1. Contractor to give date in October.
- No 4. Bathroom refurbishment – Second quote to be received this week
- Office 2 2nd Floor – vacant, will advertise again now everyone back from hols.
- Organised Sunday lunch with No 1 Whitstable – hope to be beginning of partnership that increase bar sales and offer more value to membership
- Work on database with Liam and Steve ongoing – set for going live at end of month.
- Going to get quotes for painting front of building in readiness for 125
- Women's social club visit yielded seven new members & big bar take!
- Working with Zanna Gooch on Female Futures initiative to encourage more women into sailing. Will report more fully Oct.
- Had a few responses to volunteer drive, will meet with them over next weeks.

Discussion on recurring failures to secure volunteer safety-boat crews. Considered whether the number of safety boats could be reduced but noted the recommended ratio one boat per twelve sailors was necessary for coverage during rescues and towing. Difficulty of contacting people whose membership status may change. Safety boat crews' confirmation of duty required.

ACTION AM

Finance report: MB

Figures received.

Peter King is now the safety-boat manager.

A properly developed proposal required in any decision to purchase another safety boat for the next meeting.

ACTION SG

Property works treated as a priority; general maintenance deferred until the new year after quotes obtained.

Agreed to the ramp lease loan being reduced with the requirement of an annual ramp insurance inspection.

Rising employment costs will affect pricing and training profitability

New Members: AM

1x Water user Individual, 5x Water user family, 5 x Social family, 8 x Social individuals,

1X Water user YP.

6 Sailing Report: SG

WYC racing:

Summer series (early) – Saturday AiH: Jon Dennis, Laser: Max Hunt; Sunday AiH: Steve & Mei Baker, Laser Nick Stephens

Summer series (late) – Saturday AiH: Phil Emery/Julie Nuttall, Laser: Peter Gowing; Sunday AiH: Mark Barnes/Joe Barton, Laser: Paul Kelly

Wednesday series – Rick & Sarah Perkins

All above series saw improved average start numbers...

Wanderer nationals/Wayfarer Southernns – Aug 15/16. 10 Wanderer's and 5 Wayfarers took part – Wanderers won by Richard Maltby. SG will report to sailing committee regarding the incident that required the RNLI to intervene.

Club championships – Aug 29-31. A windy weekend with Saturday blown off. Great job by race team, safety boat team, bar team and Jeremy Scott – congratulations to Mark Barnes and Joe Barton our 2026 club champions!

WYC upcoming dates:

Bart's bash	Sept 13
Dart 18 & B14 open	Sept 26/27
KSSA training	Oct 10

2027 dates:

Topper training & traveller open	May 23/24
Tasar Europeans/Merlin silver tiller	Jun 4–6
LaserFest	Jly 3/4
125 Anniversary Regatta	Aug 18–22

Also have requests from Wanderer and Dart 18's not yet agreed.

Volunteering:

Urgent need for additional recorders, safety boat drivers and committee boat drivers for 2027 – page and job descriptions added to website

Proposal for reinstallation of cruiser class mooring buoy:

Jeremy Scott has put forward attached proposal for the reinstallation of cruiser class mooring buoy.

Mooring buoy was discussed and concluded that the cost-benefit was not clear and that genuine users needed establishing. Further research was required.

ACTION SG/AM

7 House Report: verbal MO

Removal and replacement of deteriorated kitchen lobby fire door.

Landing toilet repaired.

Electrical issues.

Disabled access to lady's toilet area revisited. MB to locate previous architectural drawings. MO to explore - keep project as a lower-priority item.

8 Bar Report: MC

August figures are slightly down on 2025 but GP is steady at 58%. In comparison to last year top-level figures were as follows:

Year	Sales value	Profit	GP %
2025	20,509	9,838	58
2026	19,802	9,499	58

- Kate has left, which is a shame as she was both competent and well-liked.
- Finding new staff puts pressure on existing staff and adds to costs as new staff need supervision whilst they are trained.
- Strong start to September with a musical private party bringing in sales of £2400. Lots of non-member sales brought GP up to %60.

Review bar prices quarterly against costs and local-pub comparisons.

MC explained that he feels unsupported as bar manager despite trying to develop ideas to improve sales. He requested an urgent meeting with AM and Magda.

ACTION AM

9 Social Events Report AP

Exciting Autumn and Winter of events planned. Including Sunday lunch from No.1 (Thank you Anthony) 20 Sept, Tim Barton acoustic after racing Sat 3rd Oct, Strictly Bingo, Salsa Dance night and Halloween Party. Winter talks start 20th Nov on the 'Mirror Dinghy'.

All other events now pencilled for a year ahead. Now looking for events managers to start taking ownership of some of the events to spread the load rather than relying on the usual suspects!

Look at membership demographics to inform the choice of event dates. **ACTION AP**

10 Training Report: JW

Been a busy summer of courses, but all went well. Two adult courses still to run a level 2 this weekend 12th/13th September and a Level 1 26th/27th September.

We hope to run a cadet course at Westbere during the October half term. We have 5 more cadet sessions for the season, they have been well attended this year and even when windy, we have been able to get them out with instructors to make sure they have a good session. Several cadets now also enjoying racing at the club.

Two more powerboat courses still to run, the end of September and mid-October, still one space on each available to book.

Improvers has been going well, with 3 sessions left, but several are hiring boats to use for free sailing or racing.

KSSA training day on 10th October, up to 40 boats coming, entry opens on 19th September. We are usually a popular venue as they like to get in some sea sailing.

11 AOB
None

Meeting closed 8.20pm

Date of next meeting Monday 12th October 2026