

Chichester Cruiser Racing Club

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held 27 November 2025 at 1900 by Zoom

Present: Mike Smith Hon Sailing Secretary
 Alex Thompson Hon Secretary
 Chris Powell Hon Treasurer and Asst Sailing Secretary (minutes)
 Craig Williamson Asst Sailing Secretary and Social Media
 Brad Croshaw Asst Sailing Secretary
 Gavin Marriott Asst Sailing Secretary
 Bob Garrett Webmaster
 Guy Russell Results and Handicapping
 Pam MARRS Trophies

Item		Action	Date
1	<u>Apologies</u> All committee members were in attendance apart from the Honorary Representative to the Federation.		
2	<u>Approval of the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held 15 September 2025</u> The minutes were approved.		
3	<u>Progress on action items from the minutes of the 12 March meeting</u> 0.2 Mike to use Dutyman to allocate RO/PRO duties – this has not been possible for 2025. Pam offered that she and Richard Creer would provide some training to help get this working for 2026. 2,3,6,7 AGM dinner, prizes, trophies, subscriptions, discussion points etc – all actions have been completed at the AGM. 3.4 Alex to research cost of having business cards printed – this is now to be incorporated in a new proposal – see Secretary’s report below. Pam to send Alex the old business card – done. 6.1 Alex to contact PSC and ISC re winter social dates – done. 6.3 Alex to book date for RORC dinner – done. 7.6 Draft changes to the 2026 Sailing Instructions to reflect the new method of reporting finishing times via WhatsApp. 8.3 Chris and Alex to do a clean-up of the WhatsApp Notice Board group, removing non-members and leavers – done. 9.1 Notice of Race for 2026 to include a condition of entry covering skippers’ responsibility for under-18s. A wording has been initially agreed via an exchange of emails but Mike would like to review it again. 9.2 Pam and Richard to attend Langstone Commodore’s event – done.	Pam Mike and Chris Mike and Chris	31.3.26 31.12.25 31.12.25
4	<u>Review of the draft minutes of the AGM held 8 November 2025 and</u>		

Item		Action	Date
	<p><u>actions arising</u></p> <p>Item 5.2, second paragraph – wording needs to be corrected to “plus £50 for yacht registration”. Draft 2025 AGM minutes then need to be added to “CCRC Documents” on the Website.</p> <p>Informal discussion, item 5 - the suggestion of holding an interclub or open race was noted but is not currently under active consideration for 2026.</p> <p>All other points raised at the AGM are being covered by specific agenda items in this Committee meeting.</p>	Mike and Bob	31.12.25
5	<p><u>Committee members and roles for 2026</u></p> <p>5.1 It was agreed that the following members be co-opted (or continue to be co-opted) onto the Committee, in the following roles:</p> <p>Craig Williamson Asst. Sailing Secretary and Social Media Brad Croshaw Asst. Sailing Secretary Gavin Marriott Asst. Sailing Secretary Bob Garrett Webmaster Guy Russell Results and Handicapping Pam Marrs Trophies</p> <p>5.2 The new role of Social Media was discussed. It was agreed that this would include promoting the Club on Instagram via photos and stories etc, and publishing occasional news items on the CCRC Website. If possible it will also include promoting the Club on Facebook and “X”, though these media are now less popular / accessible.</p> <p>5.3 Chris Powell (Hon Treasurer) was given the additional role of Asst. Sailing Secretary.</p>		
6	<p><u>Secretary’s report including plan for winter socials</u></p> <p>6.1 Ian Walker has been confirmed as the speaker for the Joint PSC/CCRC Winter Social at Portsmouth Sailing Club. Attendance is likely to be limited to 60 and Alex is hoping to have 20 tickets allocated to CCRC.</p> <p>6.2 The second Winter Social at Itchenor is proceeding on the basis described in the AGM minutes. Alex to write to the Harbour club secretaries to invite them to send a representative to talk at the event.</p> <p>6.3 Mark Broad of ESC has invited Alex to give a brief talk about CCRC at one of their cruiser meetings, with the aim of recruiting new members. This idea will be extended to other Harbour clubs as well if possible.</p>	Alex	31.12.25
		Alex	31.12.25
		Alex	31.3.26

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	Bob provided Alex with a Powerpoint presentation that introduces CCRC to potential members.		
6.4	Alex is looking at all existing CCRC web pages, published documents, forms and presentations, with a view to identifying a consistent design for the titles, logo and fonts etc used. The new design would be mandated for any new items produced going forward. This will include the business cards, the cost of which Alex will research. Alex will produce a paper for the Committee to review at the next meeting. Pam offered to assist Alex with this.	Alex and Pam	31.1.26
7	<u>Sailing Secretary's Report</u>		
7.1	Some aspects of the program have been confirmed but others are still in progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HISC Sparkes and Nab Cup confirmed for 10-11 October - ESSC Regatta – waiting for ESSC to come up with a date - Spithead Regatta – Hornet SC to organise. Awaiting clarification of any cruiser racing on the Friday. - Early Spring Bank Holiday weekend – RORC and Ginns Farm booked - Late Spring Bank Holiday weekend – looking at Lymington; nothing booked as yet. - Investigating possibility of berthing overnight at Bembridge after the Seaview lunch 	Mike and Alex	31.1.26
7.2	Some of the wording in the Notice of Race may need to be brought into line with the 2025-2028 RRS and a clause allowing use of photos will be added. Chris agreed to review it.	Chris	31.12.25
8	<u>Handicapping systems and results processes for 2026</u>		
8.1	The fixed handicap racing in Alpha was discussed. Participation was low in 2025 but this may turn out to be cyclical. The statistically - based YTC system seems to be gaining popularity but is not used for “serious” fixed handicap racing such as JOG, RORC, or Cowes Week. VPRS continues to compare well to IRC as a simpler and much cheaper velocity prediction model, and it was agreed to continue to use VPRS for Alpha fleet racing. Guy said that there needs to be a push to encourage regularly entered boats, such as Pepe, to take on VPRS in the Alpha fleet to make it a valid class. All to take the opportunity to do this wherever possible. Guy is keen to run a “shadow” set of Alpha fleet results for 2026 using fixed YTC handicaps where available. These results will be for research purposes only and will not be published or made available to competitors.	All Guy	Ongoing Ongoing
8.2	It was agreed that maintaining a progressive handicap system for Beta		

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	<p>continues to be beneficial, by making it easy for new entrants and guests to start racing and by encouraging all competitors to develop and improve. This was supported by the Assistant Sailing Secretaries, who saw it as key to make the onboarding process as simple as possible.</p> <p>The NHC progressive system is a well-defined protocol that gradually adjusts ratings on the evidence of actual results accumulated over time. This is fully implemented in the Halsail results system. Initial base NHC ratings can be assigned to yachts using the published list or an estimated rating. Although the RYA has stopped promoting NHC, they state that it will continue to be available should clubs wish to use it.</p> <p>An alternative to NHC would be to use YTC ratings. Each yacht must obtain and annually renew her YTC rating by submitting a form incorporating certain data to the RYA. There is no agreed protocol for using YTC as a progressive handicapping system, however clubs are permitted to apply their own discretionary “personal handicap” adjustments to each yacht’s YTC rating, to create a local club handicap.</p> <p>A second alternative might be to use an unofficial hybrid of NHC and YTC. YTC ratings obtained as above would be converted to an NHC format using the formula $NHC \text{ rating} = 1000/YTC \text{ rating}$. The resulting numbers would then be processed through the NHC progressive handicapping system to adjust them based on the evidence of actual results over time. Halsail have indicated to Mike that this would be possible to do in the Halsail system.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed to continue to use the existing NHC progressive system for Beta fleet racing.</p>		
8.3	<p>Guy noted that 14 of the 22 Alpha fleet races in 2025 has less than three competitors. He proposed that in future such races should be declared void and would neither count towards the points series nor result in the award of the designated trophy.</p> <p>Brad pointed out that this would create a disincentive for yachts to turn out for a race, because they may make a considerable effort to arrive at the start line only to find that the race has been voided.</p> <p>Chris pointed out that CCRC has recently altered its NoR to remove the award of glasses or plates for individual races. Going further to void certain races entirely may be a step too far.</p> <p>Mike agreed to consider this proposal in consultation with the Assistant Sailing Secretaries and others, and come up with a suggested approach for the Committee to review.</p>	Mike	31.1.26

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8.4	<p>Guy supported the idea of having finishing times input by PROs into the Halsail system, which would have been prepared by the Results Officer with classes and ratings etc. PROs would be responsible for sense-checking reported finishing times, having taken part in the race themselves, and having overseen its progress. PROs would also know the actual start time, and would have a list of starters and retirees.</p> <p>Guy suggested that we should take any opportunity to remind competitors of the requirement to finish within 15 metres of the buoy, and to report the yachts ahead and astern along with estimated time intervals (SIs 13.3 and 13.4).</p>		
8.5	Guy advised that he is reviewing existing handicaps with a view to confirming the rating of perceived outliers.	Guy	31.1.26
8.6	<p>Post meeting note: Guy has done a check post the meeting on the settings for discards in both fleets. Alpha is 8 discards for 19 races (or in effect 14 races with 3 boats or more) and for Beta 10 discards for 22 races (or in effect 19 races with 3 boats or more).</p> <p>Guy has requested that the Sailing Secretaries review how discards are applied if both series are to be competitive to the end.</p>	Mike	31.1.26
9	<u>Treasurer's Report</u>		
9.1	<p>The financial estimates for 2026 were reviewed. This has the base assumption that we will maintain the existing member and yacht numbers, with new joiners offsetting leavers.</p> <p>The current estimate of the 2025 AGM finances is that there will be a surplus of about £100, although the invoice from MRSC is still awaited.</p>		
9.2	Chris suggested that the membership systems could be tidied up a bit by removing dormant honorary members who have not been in touch with the Club for many years. Their membership would not be cancelled as they could be reactivated if they showed an interest in CCRC at any time in the future. However this was not agreed.		
10	<u>Any other business</u>		
10.1	It was agreed to book Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club for the 2026 AGM. The proposed date of 21 November 2026 was suggested, starting at the slightly earlier time of 1630. Alex to contact MRSC and also invite other local sailing club secretaries to attend the prizegiving and meal, on purchase of a ticket.	Alex	31.3.26
10.2	Bob has designed new management access levels for the website, and this will now be implemented based on the new committee:		

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	“Subscriber” – Club members “Contributor” – Committee members “Author” – Elected Officers, Social Media “Administrator” – Webmaster, plus Treasurer as a backup	Bob	31.12.25
10.3	Alex suggested that there should be an event or article to highlight the social media possibilities. Alex and Craig to discuss.	Alex and Craig	31.1.26
10.4	Pam suggested that the Fitting Out Supper is likely to suffer from lack of support, since it is scheduled to take place on a Saturday when there is no CCRC racing taking place. Mike to consider possible alternative.	Mike	31.1.26
11	<u>Date of Next Committee Meeting</u>		
	It was agreed that the next meeting would take place via Zoom on Thursday 19 February 2026, 1900 – 2030. Alex to issue invitations.	Alex	15.12.25
	The meeting finished at 20:48 hours.		

Chris Powell, Hon Treasurer
4 December 2025