



Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting of Chichester Cruiser Racing Club

Saturday 8th November 2025 at Mengeham Rytte Sailing Club at 17.00

Members present: Bob Garrett, Mike and Helen Smith, Chris Powell, Alex Thompson, Pam Marris, Richard Creer, Peter Binning, Anita Fulton, Guy Russell, Clare Collett, Andrew Owen, Lucia Blash, Brad and Nicolette Croshaw, Craig and Fiona Williamson, Gavin Marriott, Jonathan Bailey, Peter Tart, Tim Cowin, Nigel Purkis

Guests : Zac Windibank and Monty Hampton (Markova), PSC Sailing Secretary - Derek Budden with his wife Sara. Emsworth SC Cruiser Secretary - Mark Broad.

The meeting opened with Bob Garrett (BG) welcoming members and guests and setting out the agenda.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from John & Linda Lanham, Owen Farmer, Lisa Fullerton, John Guilfoyle, Pat Morell, Richard Bland, Richard Holmes and Andrew Sweet .

2 Approval of the minutes of the 2024 CCRC AGM

The approval of the minutes of the 2024 AGM was proposed and seconded and the minutes were unanimously agreed by the members.

3 Matters arising

Under item 9 of the previous minutes (Any Other Business), Guy Russell had proposed that everyone's home insurance might cover any potential loss of any cups, and that this might reduce the Club insurance paid for silverware. Chris Powell advised that he had investigated this with our insurers. The Club's insurance already assumes that most losses will be covered by members' home insurance, and therefore the club insurance only acts as a backstop for any residual risks, so the incremental cost for insurance of trophies is not great. The larger part of the premium is for public and officers' liability.

4 Hon Sailing Secretary 2025 Report

It is difficult to put one's finger on summarising this 2025 season where on the negative side at the start of the season we were reduced to 18 boats from 21 in 2024 not an auspicious start.

However for Arcadia, Calypso, Exeat and Highland Lady there were understandable reasons for leaving not related to the CCRC per se. Still this did remove 4 active boats from the 2025 season.

In addition 4 other boats who had been largely inactive throughout their membership of the Club did not renew this year. This is disturbing as we have little information as to the reasons behind

their decisions. Should be a note to all members to be especially friendly and encouraging to our new members till they become embedded in CCRC community.

Still on a positive note we welcomed during the season 4 new boats and the return of Sue Rutter on Folk Dance after her sabbatical. The new boats were :

Colin Campbell- Dunlop on Marieholm Folkboat – Mischief, Chris Charlton on Folkboat- Amalia

And at the end of the 2025 season

Lloyd Stephenson on Half Tonner - Pinball Wizard, Joe Gibbon & Alice Newham on Maxi 1000- Blue Mischief

Together with 2 new Crew Members Clare Collet & Ray Welham & 2026 joiners Richard Bland & Anita Fulton

We also welcomed several guest entries for races which unfortunately were subject to strong winds causing the guests not to race.

Ben Lewis on Glider a MG C27, Alan Glick on Cwtch a Delphia 31, Richard Land on Spring Gold a Sadler 34

If you know any of these please help the Club by encouraging them to try again. A Guest boat can race with CCRC over a weekend for no charge and this is an ideal way of not only racing but enjoying the great social atmosphere of CCRC at our socials.

Sadly, in spite of at least 20 boats available to race only 7 boats did more than 5 races, 5 boats less than 4 and a massive 8 boats did not race. We need to not only add new members but also encourage our existing members to come out racing. Perhaps this begs us questioning why such a large number are not racing and if there anything we can do to fix this.

The NHC group is designed to help spread results and encourage novice sailors and perhaps we need to look here to adjust new boats handicaps to give a positive advantage for their first few races.

The VPRS Group has 9 boats of which 2 are new members. This is encouraging as one would expect a large percentage contribution to this fleet in the future from the more experienced boats in the NHC/Beta Group driven to preferring racing with a fixed handicap. Still again we must all work harder to encourage new members and boats.

Moving on to a lighter note, I think our social events this year have been a great success. Notable amongst them was Dinner at RORC Cowes, Lunch at Royal Victoria Wotton and the evening at Duver Marina for “Rock the Boat BBQ”. Having returned these to our 2025 programme it will be good to do the same in 2026. Perhaps in the feedback session after the formal side of the AGM is completed, members can add their own ideas for future venues in 2026.

Also, our including other Harbour Clubs in our racing programme has meant larger and more competitive fleets, an excellent symbiosis for both CCRC and the Clubs, Allowing the promotion of CCRC to the members of these Clubs with potential to bring in further boats for our own races. Both Bosham and Itchenor SC now publicise our programme. The winter talks have allowed us to reach further into these Clubs together with promoting the Club in Portsmouth Harbor with Portsmouth SC inviting us to their regatta and a joint race to Seaview next year

As I have already circulated the Club does need a volunteer to be Results Officer. Our racing depends on a solid base of quick and sound results. The Committee is proposing changes to reporting and calculating results as I outlined in my recent circular to members. It is hoped this will not only lighten the burden on the Results officer but also enable draft results to be available soon after racing is complete.

Just a word here on timing of results, this does very much depend on boats returning their times speedily after they finish. If you do not send in your time then you cannot expect a result.

I should also like to remind members that all sailing has a risk element and racing can increase that element. Members will recall the dismasting in very strong winds of Paddy during Race 2. Andrew and the crew managed to return the boat to Chichester Harbour and there were no serious injuries. A salient lesson to all of us asking what we would do in similar circumstances and are we prepared for unexpected events like this.

I should like to ask members to give a round of applause to Guy McBride who has done an excellent job over the years as Results Officer before retiring at the end of this year. Hopefully Exeat may return to CCRC once cruising becomes boring.

Also on this note I should like to thank all my PROs/ASS, Craig, Gavin and Brad with Chris Powell for their help in organising racing on the water during 2025 which on the whole have been without incident and well run. Thank you.

I understand that Andrew and the crew of Pepe enjoyed a week's racing in Fowey in August and I am told by Alex that there are 4 boats currently interested in participating in Fowey Week 2026 draft dates 15/22nd August which could form the basis for a CCRC Cruise to the West Country during August.

Lastly I commend to you the draft Programme for 2026 for comment and discussion.

Mike Smith CCRC Hon Sailing Secretary

The Sailing Secretaries report was proposed by Richard Creer and seconded by Peter Tart and approved by members.

5 Hon Treasurer's Report

5.1 To receive and approve the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025

The accounts are attached and I have set out a brief commentary below.

Last year's AGM approved an increase in the member subscription from £20 to £25. Unfortunately this increase in the subscription rate was accompanied by a fall of 20% in the number of subscriptions paid – down from 59 to 47. As a result, revenue from subscriptions was virtually the same as 2024.

There was a net decrease of 3 in the number of yachts registered, giving rise to a fall in revenue from yacht registration fees of £150.

Total expenses have fallen by £200 as compared to 2024. This is mainly due to a fall in the cost of prizes, owing to the fact that fewer yachts have completed enough races to earn a place in the various race series.

The overall result for 2025 is a surplus for the year of £285, a small increase from 2024's surplus of £231.

After discussion the approval of the accounts was proposed and seconded and then was unanimously agreed by the members.

5.2 To consider and approve the level of membership subscriptions for 2026

With most of our costs being fixed, the fall in membership and yacht registrations is a cause for concern. In order to encourage new members and to maintain the existing membership, I propose to keep the membership subscriptions and yacht registration fees at the same levels for 2026. This means that belonging to CCRC will continue to be very economical, at £25 for each individual member, plus £50 for yacht registration.

Following discussion by members the proposal that Subscriptions for 2026 should remain the same namely £25.00 for each individual member plus £50.00 for yacht registration was made and seconded and then was unanimously approved by members present.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Peter Binning and seconded by Brad Crowshaw and approved by members.

Chichester Cruiser Racing Club

Income and Expenditure Account	12 months ended 30/9/2025	12 months ended 30/9/2024
Paid Members	47	59
Income	£	£
Membership Subscriptions	1,175	1,180
Yacht Registration Fees	900	1,050
Interest Received	81	94
Surplus / (Deficit) on Events: AGM / Prizegiving	48	26
Total	2,204	2,350
Expenditure		
Insurance	727	727
Race Marks Maintenance	210	250
Subscriptions Paid (Halsail, SCRA, RYA, Solent Protection, Chi Harb Fed)	455	425
Prizes & Trophies	469	660
Web Hosting	52	52
Paypal Fees	6	5
Total	1,919	2,119
Surplus / (Deficit)	285	231
Balance Sheet	30/9/2025	30/9/2024
	£	£
Cash in Bank	6,743	6,793
Stock of Regalia	108	138
	6,851	6,931
Provision for Race Marks Maintenance	(399)	(750)
Provision for the Season's Prizes	(569)	(710)
Received in Advance	(157)	(30)
Net Current Assets	5,726	5,441
Fund brought forward	5,441	5,210
Surplus / (Deficit)	285	231
Fund carried forward	5,726	5,441

6 Hon Secretary's Report

Season 2025 – I would like to say a big thank you to all the helpers who did the hard work behind the scenes. It is them that ensures we have lovely socials at the sailing weekends. Their work involves booking the berths, choosing and arranging the dinner venues, reprinting attendee lists, corralling the skippers, herding crew orders, and fixing the whims and diets of all.

So, this year, I would like to thank Tim Cowin, Brad Croshaw, Guy Russel and Gavin Marriot for their respective hard work to get the weekends and socials so well planned with each venue visited.

I'd like to give thanks to this clubs friends, the local Sailing and Cruiser Secretaries of Bosham, Itchenor, Tudor, Chichester Yacht Club and Porchester Sailing Clubs. It is these clubs look after and host the CCRC at various social events. I'd also like give special thanks Sailing & Cruiser Secretaries of Portsmouth and Emsworth Sailing Clubs for coming to our dinner tonight and for their on-going support of CCRC.

I would like give particular thanks Peter Tart and to Mengeham Sailing Club for helping us host this event. I am sure you all agree that this venue is fantastic. I do hope that we can all come again next year.

On to marketing.

A raving fan is our club's best advert or put simply word of mouth works best. We can increase our membership by us talking more about why and what we love doing. I am sure all of you are already speaking about the CCRC, so I therefore propose get us all some CCRC business cards to hand out to your friends and fellow pontoon neighbours. Remember all guests gets the first weekend race entry for free.

Our other new member recruitment drive has been through the Winter Talks. These talks have not only educated us, but they promote the club's name direct to other sailing clubs. We must keep our name in front, we need to get more members interested in racing. This year we had two guests from Bosham and several new members from Emsworth and Portsmouth.

This leaves me to talk about this year's Winter Talks.

Our T1 Talk is on 17th January – "How to Make Boats go Faster" I am hoping to secure North Sails for this talk and for it to be hosted at Portsmouth Sailing Club. 5.30/6pm with either Soup or Hot Dogs afterwards.

Our T2 Talk will be 1st March – This year the committee has suggested that it will be fun to tell our own stories with slides. So, we'll invite all the Harbour sailing clubs to send their best raconteurs. So, we can hear their "Tall Tales from the High Seas".

This will be an open mic session at Itchenor Sailing Club from 11.30 to 1pm with Sunday lunch to follow. I propose to invite the speakers to send me some slides to include in their presentations. This will be an opportunity for any one to tell their favourites.

My tall tale involves Sharks, a Boat sinking and a completed New Year's Day boat race, all of which happened on the same day.! I hope you can all support this event and then stay for Itchenor SC famous Sunday lunch afterwards.

The Fitting out Supper is Saturday 18th April, with the first CCRC Race 19th. At this dinner, there will be a briefing about the 2026 Season, the weekends and who is organising each event.

Finally, we have organised a Christmas "Race to the Shops". This is the 3rd year of this event and is going to held on the 6/7th Dec and is for all those still in the water. We will have diner at Island Sailing Club, Cowes.

Happy Sailing, Secretary Out.

7 Election of Officers

No new members had been put forward to join the Committee. The existing Officers of the Club were prepared to continue in office for 2026 and were duly re-elected by unanimous vote of members present: Hon Sailing Secretary - Mike Smith, Hon Secretary - Alex Thompson, Hon Treasurer - Chris Powell, Hon Representative to the Federation - Richard Creer.

8 Any Other Business

There being no further any other business the formal part of the AGM was closed at 17.55hrs

Informal Discussion following AGM

Following the AGM there was an informal meeting in which members were invited to discuss the Club's activities and format and raise questions. The following is a brief precis of those discussions:

- 1 It was generally agreed that liaison with Portsmouth Harbour Clubs including RSNA and PSC is a good thing, as this could lead to increasing the racing fleet size and possible new members. In the CCRC 2026 Programme, CCRC/PSC have therefore proposed two combined events. The Spithead Regatta 2 days and 1 evening. and the 19th July race to Seaview Yacht Club.
- 2 PSC / CCRC combined races should start and finish at race buoys part way between Portsmouth Harbour and Hayling Bay for ease. Hayling Bay's Rizzi is the most westerly mark in Hayling Bay.

- 3 Alex Thompson (AT) mentioned that the Spithead Regatta 19th -21st June starts with a Friday evening race. (This has subsequently been queried as Friday Race is only for Tempests). CCRC will try to arrange berths at the Hornet SC for the weekend. AT also mentioned that the Spithead Regatta management has to be decided. For insurance a single sailing club needs to manage the event. There is a possibility for the 2 or 3 sailing clubs taking turns. So far RNSA / Hornet SC are involved and there is a possibility that CCRC could be included.
- 4 Handicaps were discussed MS presented to the AGM a comparison between VPRS and IRC including their objectives, construction and recommended usage. A discussion took place on the current handicap arrangement and the possible advantages of YTC including its current free cost. Concern was expressed at the low numbers currently racing in Alpha under VPRS although it was pointed out that this was often cyclical and in past years Beta had been the concern including in 2018 when Handicapping was last considered. MS advised that it is important for newcomers and Guest boats to be able to use a progressive handicap such as NHC. The Club Results Officer can allocate NHC handicap without delay. The Beta fleet would need to continue to use NHC, which is the only form of progressive handicap supported by the Halsail Results software. The Committee agreed to review the Handicapping for 2026. Guy Russell volunteered to take on the Results Officer role for 2026 and this was wholeheartedly welcomed by the meeting; the Committee will take this forward.
- 5 Peter Binning (PB) proposed an Interclub Race run by CCRC between all Harbour Clubs. AT seconded this but mentioned the committee were not currently in favour as this had been tried previously as Open meetings with no success. AT mentioned there is a similar Portsmouth Interclub Harbour Cup competed for between Hardway, Fareham and Porchester Sailing Clubs. PB also suggested that one 2026 bay race – should be Windward / Leeward, and perhaps offer a pair of races with a simpler course as a change.
- 6 AT mentioned the two proposed CCRC 2025/26 Winter Talks. The second one will be “Tall Tales from the High Seas” 11am 1st March at Itchenor Sailing Club with lunch afterwards. AT suggested there was a possibility of a glass of fizz might be provided – which could be paid for by attending members. This had already been turned down by Hon. Treasurer and was not favourably received by attending members. It is proposed the events will be advertised to all Harbour clubs to encourage 1 or 2 of their members to attend the open mic speaking event. The first talk is 17th January at PSC from 5.30pm. We are hoping this talk will be given by North Sails or possibly Elvstrom, but as yet the speaker has not been confirmed. Hot Dogs and a hearty soup will be provided.
- 7 AT said that CCRC Business Style Cards will be distributed to all members – so members can give them to sailing friends and pontoon neighbours. CCRC membership increases best by word of mouth.
- 8 The length of races was discussed with some feeling that it was a lot of effort to turn out for a two hour race. However the general feeling of the meeting was that two to three hour long races are about the right length.

At 18.30hrs the meeting was closed by BG and a vote of thanks was given to Mengeham Rythe Sailing Club for the use of their premises for the AGM and the dinner afterwards.

Following the dinner which was a great success and enjoyed by all, a further vote of thanks was given to Alex, Brad, Nicolette and Lucia for the dinner prepared by them.