

**Minutes of the 176th Annual General Meeting of the
Royal Welsh Yacht Club**

Held on Saturday 25th November 2023 at 1400 hours.

In the Clubhouse at Porth yr Aur and on Zoom

Members Present

Jane Crowther, Eric Crowther, Tom Edge, Jan Edge, Neville Roberts, Bill Barry, Keith Bellfield, Eda Pelham, Brian Roberts, Mark Pearson, Clifford Williams, Ian Park, Linda Park, John Summerfield, John Judge, Robert Hancock, Brian Oulton, Richard Hanlon, Ian Craft, John Illsley, John I H Jones, Mark Walton, Carol Walton, Dawn Smith, John Whittaker, Robert Lowe, Mark Walker, John Summerfield, Lynda Sweeney, David Chin, Neil Christian, Kate Jones, Kathleen Jones, Bethan Majski, Julia & Neil Kefford, Lois Pearce Jones, John Shields,

Zoom: Chris H Jones, David Richardson, Karl Behler, Sarah Roberts

Apologies for absence

Frank Smykowski, Olwen Williams, Sue Hancock, Clive Roberts, Elin Dillan, Malcome & Gill Reeve, Carl Hatton & Polly Edwards, Will Cubit-Smith & Sophie Mohun-Kemp, Nigel & Jean Oldbury, Geoff Hilditch, David & Alison Harrison, John & Paula Preston, Robin Cowes, Malcom Jones, Stephen Wade, Peter Devine, Tim Knowles, Charles Williams.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of those who have passed over the Bar and those unable to attend due to illness.

Approval of the Minutes of the 175th AGM

Proposed: John Summerfield Seconded: Chris H Jones

The Commodores Report

The Work of the Management Committee

1. **Incorporation**
Our CASC application was submitted in March but was lost by HMRC and had to be re-submitted. Several queries, questions and amendments were flagged up and dealt with at an EGM in October. The application has been re-submitted but it will be a slow approval process.
2. The Club has its own i-Cloud storage, so now data can be stored easily and safely.
3. Membership MoJo is now in effect which has simplified the process of storing all members data online and allowing individual access.
4. Maintenance and repair work at the Club is ongoing.
5. The Club room has been transformed with new chairs and tables and re-upholstering of the bench and armchairs and many positive comments have been received.

6. The Club Insurers have been changed to Gallaghers, recommended by the RYA, who understand the needs of a Yacht Club.
7. There is an issue with the roof beams which must be addressed. Previously assumptions were made about the roof construction but now a report has been produced for CADW showing that the beams are not restrained against twisting, and this must be dealt with. John Shields has offered to project manage the improvements, a crawl way and lighting must be installed soon to provide safe access.
8. Lift project – Negotiations regarding lift access are ongoing with CADW and Antur Waunfawr.
9. A big step forward has been made in clearing the Mezzanine, old minutes of meetings have been sifted through and moved to the GCC Archives.
10. Food hygiene and safety regulations instructions have been passed and the old pans have been replaced with hygienic stainless-steel pans. Several other minor issues have been addressed.
11. A website manager is required to keep the Club website up to date.
Post Meeting note: Mark Pearson has volunteered to take on this task.
12. Chris Jones has done an excellent job in pulling the yearbook programme 2024 together but a Yearbook co-ordinator is required for 2025.
13. The management committee now meets online using Zoom which has made meetings much easier to manage.

Succession Planning and Volunteering

Thanks go to the Regatta Team who pulled together to make the Menai Strait RWYC Regatta days a success. Also, to volunteers for social events and maintenance support for the building.

The Club is fortunate to have people who will step in and help with all these events, but the Club needs more people to step forward to join the Management Committee, who are able to give their time to understand the running of the Club and can act eventually as Flag Officers. Without a committee of dedicated members this Club cannot function or move forward.

RYA Training

John Summerfield has run informal training events on his boat which has grown into the idea of forming a training centre at RWYC. The Welsh National Development Manager was contacted, and John attended a teaching course at Rhu Marina. RWYC is now recognised as a training centre and John has written courses on Essential Seamanship & Navigation and Day Skipper, his partner Linda has contributed by making navigational aids to demonstrate. This has involved a considerable amount of work. These courses can only be offered to members or new members at a reduced cost.

The next course will be Day Skipper in January/February 2024.

Sailing Season

1. HMRC comments that sailing is an expensive sport and the Club should provide facilities for those who cannot afford to buy a boat have been taken on board. We can offer rowing opportunities to all and our membership is growing as younger people wishing to take part in rowing have joined the Club.

The Club has come to an agreement with the Guillemot Trust, a charity who offer sailing experiences to those who do not have a boat. Access to sailing a Sadler 26 from Liverpool and a Mersey Mylne from Deganwy will now be possible and there will possibly be a larger boat available which runs RYA ICC courses.

2. There was a successful cruise to the East and South coasts of Ireland, 15 boats taking part and some reaching the Fastnet rock and beyond. Thanks to Geoff Hilditch for organising the event.
3. A J80 racing event was organised at Plas Menai where Port Dinorwic Sailing Club were invited, and it turned into a highly enjoyable Match Racing event.
4. The Club hosted the Menai Strait Caernarvon end Regattas, though numbers were disappointing as only 1 RWYC boat took part. Hopefully, next year we can persuade more RWYC boats to make the effort.
5. The Club hosted a successful LALA Rally, an event which turned into a 2-day event in the Club due to inclement weather. Next year it is hoped that we can support the Conway River Festival, a social event with casual racing in reciprocation.
6. A number of dramas occurred in the fleet, "Santiago" went walkabout and "Ocean Hobo" sustained major damage, but hopefully all will be back on the water in 2024.
7. Boats took part in local cruises and beach BBQs, cruises to Scotland and across the Bay of Biscay.
8. An active calendar has been compiled for 2024.

Rowing

Rowing represents the local demographic and numbers have grown by 50%, this is the fastest growing section of the Club with many new wide spreads of ages and abilities.

28 different rowers rowed over 300 times in 2023, with 3 league races completed.

The Club hosted a very successful Castle to Castle event, the Celtics were taken to Morbihan for the Celebration of the Sea and members took part in the Great River Race in London. Both Yoles, which were mothballed for many years, have had many outings in 2023.

There are 2 transatlantic rowers who are training with RWYC and are soon to become members of the Club and application has been made to Sports Council for Wales obtain a two-man training scull and final decision is awaited.

Post meeting note: This has been approved.

The Rowers will meet in December to discuss their strategy for development of the Rowing section and various training courses. The calendar for 2024 is complete with new events like the Fishguard to Pwllheli long distance race and Monster the Loch.

Coxes training will take place in January online and free, and there are 4 coach places in March for a level 2 British rowing course, for which the Club will be seeking grant funding.

We hope this will help build a strong foundation on which the rowing section can continue to grow.

Social

Julie Lewis, Assistant Social Secretary, has been instrumental in organising quizzes during the year and providing support for other social events. The Calendar of social events can only go ahead if members are willing to volunteer when help is needed.

A familiar calendar of social events throughout the year provided many opportunities for members to get together either to celebrate special occasions or just to have fun and socialise.

Graeme Messenger will retire as steward on 31st December but will continue to work as barman on a reduced hours basis. He set the bar high as host to his famous “taster” evenings but with his changing role next year the Club will hopefully find someone to emulate these enjoyable and successful events. The Club thanks Graeme for his service over the past decade.

Conclusion

All in All, the Club is in a good position, we have money in the bank, membership numbers are growing and if we can get the succession planning sorted, we will be in a very good position to move forward with confidence.

We all have a personal stake to ensure that the Club continues to thrive for our joint mutual benefit. **Please remember it is what you can do for the Club that is important.**

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Commodore, Flag Officers, and Members of the Royal Welsh Yacht Club.

I would like to start by thanking members for their confidence and trust in my handling of the Club's financial affairs over the past 4 years.

With Covid restrictions over, the bar opening hours and the numbers of bodies allowed inside at any one time returning to normal, we were able to get on with the task of boosting the Club's bar profits in earnest and bar sales have reached an all-time high of £56,000.

This year has seen some very lucrative rowing competitions, a full regatta programme and many social events and of course, all your sterling work spending money over the bar!

Membership has again increased, and thanks must go out to the loyal members for their support!

We are still enjoying the benefits of the fixed price contracts for both Gas and Electric, these will run on until October 2024.

We have spent a small proportion of Margaret's legacy on some new galley equipment and furniture for the Club House. The cushions were sponsored by Belfield Software, for which we are very grateful. The new AV installation has enabled the club to show the rugby and other events to be enjoyed as a whole and to use Zoom to its full advantage.

We paid £3,441.10 to Beaumaris RNLI Fund from the proceeds of our 176-anniversary year fund raising events.

The Committee took the decision to put £60,000 into a 6-month fixed term deposit account to take advantage of the higher interest rate available at the moment.

The club finances have remained in a strong position and a surplus of income over expenditure of £3,862 has been realised.

As I will now be stepping down as Treasurer, I would like to thank the Club's accountant Mrs Laura Adams, along with her team, from WJ Matthews for all their help and support. Their efficient management of the PAYE, preparation of our accounts and giving of advice as we requested it have made my role so much easier! I can't leave without saying a massive "thank you" to Malcolm Jones who has supported me all the way through the last 4 years!

The Commodore gave a vote of thanks to Jane for all her hard work.

Election of Officers

To elect for a period of 1 year from 1st January 2024 the following officers:

Position	Nominee Name
Commodore	Tom Edge
Vice Commodore	Sarah Roberts
Rear Commodore	Frank Smykowski
Secretary	Keith Belfield
Membership Secretary	Daniel Hanlon
Sailing Secretary	Sophie Mohun-Kemp
Joint Rowing Secretary	Mike Hamer & Kate Jones
Social Secretary	Linda Park

To elect, for a period of 2 years from 1st January 2024 the following members of the Management Committee:

Position	Nominee Name
Regalia, Minutes Secretary	Jan Edge
Cruising, What's App Manager	Bethan Majski

Committee Member	Elin Dillan
Committee Member	Clive Hancock
Committee Member	Iwan Rees Jones
Committee Member	Julie Lewis

To appoint new accountants, Christian Sykes & Co Ltd, Bangor to provide bookkeeping, accountants, and PAYE services from 1 January 2024 to 31 August 2024 at a cost of £400 per month including VAT with Neil Christian as Treasurer.

An amendment to extend the period to 31 December 2024 was voted on and carried unanimously.

Voting

A Block vote was taken since none of the positions was in contention and this would save time. Some members thought that each position should be voted on individually and this would be discussed by the Management Committee for next year.

Votes for the election of Officers and Committee were taken in the room, on Zoom and online. Results were 46 in favour, 3 abstentions and no votes against the proposal, with one vote online being void due to family voting twice.

Annual Trophies for 2023

Trophy	Event	Recipient 2023	Boat Name
Prichard Cup	Extensive Cruising	Mark Walker	Danny Jo
Lawrence Cup	Firth of Clyde	Malcolm and Gill Reeve	Joint Venture
Offshore Cup	Channel Islands and beyond	Robert and Lynda Shields	Avalon
Lime Fleet Salver	Irish Sea	Mark Walton	Nora Harfield
S&A Weeks Bowl	Lady Helm	Kathy Jones	Rowain
Dickies Cup	Rowers Milage	David Chinn	
Rowing Award	Most Improved Rower	Lois Pierce-Jones	
Pushing the Boat Out & About	Rowers Ground Crew Support.	Keith Jones	
Brian Lux Salver	Services to RWYC	Graeme Messenger	
Caernarfon Bay Cup	Tenacity	Carl Hutton and Pauline Edwards	Khamsin

Isle of Man Trophy	Getting to the Isle of Man	Nigel and Jean Oldbury	Seren Y Mor
Uncle Albert Award	Biggest Clanger of the Year	Will C Smith and Sophie M Kemp	Hortus

Letter to be read out at meeting from Carl Hatton

Carl Hatton

Dear Keith and Tom,

Regarding the award, I am still in a state of shock, it's really fabulous, thank you so much! If possible, please can you read this short message to everyone.

I was really shocked and very surprised when Tom called me today to say we had been awarded the Tenacity award for our first circumnavigation of Anglesey this year. Polly and I are extremely pleased and deeply honoured that RWYC members nominated us. Since we joined the RWYC a few years ago, everyone has been very welcoming and friendly, plus all the sound sailing advice we have received from the many very experienced sailors of the club has been invaluable. We certainly would not of attempted the circumnavigation this year on our own without it. A huge thank you from Polly and me, and we wish you all a great evening at the dinner dance.

Annual Accounts 31 August 2022 to 2023

A copy of the annual accounts are attached.