

RBVC Voting - 2020



Due to the current restrictions it is not possible to have in-person voting prior to September 21st. However there is considerable risk the restrictions will be extended, and for this reason it cannot be assumed that an in-person vote during September is possible. The club rules specify the AGM must be held in September, and there no provision to delay the AGM.

The Club Rules allow for in-person, postal or electronic voting so the election will go ahead as planned using postal and electronic voting.

The club will be using software that allows members to vote from their home using their computer or mobile phone during the week leading up to the nominated date of the election.

Members without an email address or those who do not wish to vote electronically and yet would like to cast a ballot should do so by requesting a postal ballot at the earliest opportunity.

If you share an email address with another member, it is recommended to request a postal ballot for the second member.

Due to the current restrictions, the postal service is delayed and members are urged to mail ballots well in advance of the deadline for receiving ballots.

How will electronic voting work?

One week prior to the election, an email will be sent from the online voting system to every eligible member who has not previously requested a postal vote. To be eligible you must be a financial member of one of the voting membership types. A member who pays their membership fees after the initial batch of voting emails have been sent out and prior to the close of voting will also receive an email with their link to vote. Members are encouraged to pay their membership fees well in advance of the election date to reduce the amount of manual effort in this process.

The email will include a link to a website with a unique identifier for each member. Members click on the link and are presented with a form similar to a manual voting slip. Election of Flag Officers and Treasurer (if required) are a simple click of the preferred candidate and election of Committee Members requires numbering from one through to the number of candidates. Once submitted, the link to vote can no longer be used, preventing multiple electronic voting.

What if I don't receive the email with the link?

It is possible that some members may not receive the email link due to the spam settings on either their own computer or that of their internet provider. If a member does not receive a link, the returning officer has the ability to send the link from an alternative email address which should ensure that the email arrives.

If I request a Postal Ballot can I change my mind and vote electronically?

Yes you can, subject to the following conditions:

- If you do not return your postal ballot, or you mailed it but it is not received in time, you can still vote electronically up until the close of voting on election day;
- If you vote electronically and also mail in your postal ballot, the postal ballot will be marked as invalid.

How secure and how anonymous is electronic voting?

The system will be monitored by the club returning officer, Past Commodore Wendy Luck and scrutineer Peter Austin. The software has a number of options, and those chosen by the club provide the highest level of security and anonymity with the electronic process mirroring what has been done manually on every previous ballot.

- All votes are completely anonymous – not even the returning officer will have the ability to see how an individual member has voted
- Scrutineers will be able to see **who** has voted, but not **how** they voted. Having the ability to see who has voted allows for checking of potential duplicate votes.
- Scrutineers will not be able to see any results until the vote has closed at 4pm on the date of the election.

Wendy Luck
RBYC Returning Officer