



**ROYAL BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB INCORPORATED A0018674M
253 ESPLANADE, MIDDLE BRIGHTON. VIC. 3186
HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
TUESDAY 25th MARCH 2025 at 7:00PM**

MINUTES

The Commodore opened the meeting by acknowledging the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which live, work and play. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and acknowledge their continuing relationship to the rivers, lakes, waterways and oceans on which we sail.

In accordance with Club Rules the Half Yearly General Meeting of Royal Brighton Yacht Club incorporated is now convened this 25th day of March 2025

ATTENDEES

Peter Demura, Murray Cowdell, Peter Austin, Grant Dow, Debbie Jonker, Marnie Irving, Brett Heath, Peter Strain, Greg Clinnick, Andy Holmes, Niesje Hees, Peter Langhorne, Susan Cassidy, Helen White, Lindsay Cormie, Alexey Rudakov, Jim Leckey, Pam Merritt, David Bingham, Ron Davies, Robina Smith, Brenton Smith, Keith Badger, Martha Garkel, Rod McKenna, David McKenna, Andrew Poulton, Simon Tedstone, Mary-Alice Tedstone, Vanessa Twigg, Karen Johns, Margaret Neeson, Wendy Luck, Kim Luck, James Heywood, Joyce Cosgrave, Chris Sand.

APOLOGIES

Peter Gebhardt, Cath Hurley, Mark Woodland, Lyn Bingham, Philip Sloane, Peter Johns, Margaret Rowe, Paul Pascoe, Patrick Purcell, Bronwyn McIlveen, Bruce Smethurst, Ralph O'Shaughnessy, Sue Leaper, Lou Irving, Susie Strain.

OBITUARIES

Norman Baker
Will Merritt
John Scott
David Sedgwick

A minutes silence was observed.

MINUTES

MOTION That the minutes of the AGM held 24th September 2024 held 19th September 2023 be accepted.

MOVED: Murray Cowdell **SECONDED:** Peter Strain **CARRIED**

Business arising from the Annual General Meeting held 24th September 2024, Nil

COMMODORE'S REPORT

The Commodore's report was taken as read. Peter Demura thanked all the volunteers for their contribution to the club.

The Commodore highlighted what success looked like for the club. This included:
Increased Membership

Increase in Sailing
Good Communication
Financial Viable trading
Peer Club recognition.

He further outlined the growth in Intermediate & Youth membership and the improving financial position.

MOTION That the report be accepted.

MOVED: Niesje Hees

SECONDED: Peter Strain

CARRIED

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Brett Heath spoke to the Finance Report.

- Net Deficit : 145k vs 280k
- Operating Surplus : 157k vs 200k
- Total Revenue : up 2.7%
- Total Expenses : up 4.4%

Bar & Catering

The 4 point plan to turn the bar & catering performance around was working.

- COS – menu redesign & focus on wastage. a
- Rostering – focus on better planning month to month – reports detailing employment targets based on monthly data. a
- Marketing – campaign of localised marketing to Brighton and surrounding suburbs to increase patrons using both the restaurant & function area. a
- Functions - improve number and profitability of functions.

Simon Tedstone asked if the Membership report could be made available. BH responded that the monthly committee reports on the web include the membership report.

MOTION That the report be accepted.

MOVED: Kim Luck

SECONDED: Keith Badger

CARRIED

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – All reports taken as read.

Sailing

Marnie Irving spoke to the written report. She highlighted the diversity of sailing that members engage in. Andrew Poulton asked what stage was the report and actions at?

The storm report has been considered by the Sailing Committee and recommendations will be put to the General Committee at the next meeting.

Some of these recommendations include Sign Off Protocols, further Training for rescue crews, establishing VHF radio training & qualifications.

Jim Leckey asked if the report would be made available to the membership. It was agreed that this report be made available.

Assets

Niesje Hees spoke to the current activities with the club assets. This included detailing the dredging which will now occur in 2026.

Chris Sands asked if the survey report was available. NH undertook to send him a copy.

Chris Sands asked if the repairs to the attenuator were within budget. NH responded that repairs were within operating budget longer term solutions were dependant on the renewal of the seabed lease.

Cruising Group

Brenton Smith spoke to the report and highlighted the rotating char was working well and they intend to re-invigorate the on water activity.

Aquatic

Ralph O'Shaughnessy was unfortunately an apology, report was accepted.

Cleaner Sailing

Peter Demura spoke to the Container Deposit Scheme and the collaboration that we are establishing with 1st 14th Brighton Sea Scouts to collect the containers for recycling.

Vanessa Twigg spoke regarding recent diesel spills and that we all have a responsibility to the sea.

Niesja Hees reiterated that the whole club is involved in our diverse club, this is evident in each report and that sailing is a sport for everyone.

Social

Karen Johns highlighted the social year in review and the new Paint the Sails campaign.

150th Anniversary

Peter Demura outlined the 150year program and encouraged members to purchase tickets to the ball. There is also the winemaker event on 3rd April and the regatta this coming weekend.

MOTION That the Sub Committee reports be accepted.

Moved: Niesje Hees **SECONDED:** James Heywood **CARRIED**

8. Business on Notice

Niesje Hees – spoken to the motion and indicated that it was cleaning up the rules from an unintended consequence when the rules were adopted.

Kim Luck expressed his opinion that if Federal & State Governments did not allow electronic voting why do we have to do it.

Vanessa Twigg responded that the motion was about accessibility and trying to get all as many people to vote who are eligible to vote. We are able to make our own rules and we should give as many options as we can.

Peter Demura commented that during covid the club operated with electronic voting and there were no adverse impact with using these systems.

The motion to make changes to rule 53 (1) (c) as follows.

Current Rule

53. Ballot

- (1) Votes for the election of Officers and Members of Committee may be given by Members duly entitled to vote, either:
 - a) by attending or depositing their ballot papers with the Returning Officer (to be appointed by the Committee) between the hours of 10.00 am. and 4.00 pm on the day of the Annual Ballot; or
 - b) by postal ballot paper which must reach the Secretary not later than midday on the day of the Annual Ballot, such ballot paper to be in the form prescribed from time to time by the Committee and obtainable from the Secretary by application in writing signed by the Member desiring such ballot paper, or
 - c) by electronic voting, in accordance with the requirements of section 100 and Part 6A of the Electoral Act 2002 (Vic), and Part 5 of the Electoral Regulations 2012.

Proposed Replacement - Note only point c) has changed

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 - c) by electronic voting, while remaining consistent with the process set out in the RBYC by-laws and in accordance with the relevant principles outlined by the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) for internet voting services.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION That the motion be accepted.

Moved: Chris Sands **SECONDED:** James Heywood

CARRIED BY A MAJORITY OF MORE THAN 75% AS REQUIRED BY THE RULES OF THE CLUB

Honorary Treasurer Brett Heath –

That the Club appoints Auditors, Ashfords Pty Ltd, for the 2024-25 financial year.

MOTION That the motion be accepted.

MOVED: Murray Cowdell

SECONDED: Kim Luck

CARRIED

9. RECEIVE ANY NOTICE OF MOTION

No motion received

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation of 150 Year Trophy – Rod McKenna.

It is with great honour and immense pride that I stand before you today on behalf of the McKenna Family to present 'The Celebration Cup' and the 'Deed of Gift' to the Royal Brighton Yacht Club in commemoration of its 150th Year.

From its humble beginnings in 1875, the Royal Brighton Yacht Club has been a beacon of excellence in the yachting community. Over the past century and a half, it has grown not only in size and stature but also in the hearts and minds of countless individuals who have shared in the passion and spirit of sailing.

The McKenna Family with over 232 years of total membership between them, have been involved in the Royal Brighton Yacht Club community since 1941 when our father Keith McKenna was first elected to the club membership and appointed Honorary Treasurer in 1950 for 10 Years. Our mother, Judith, was elected to the club membership in 1981 and acted as Treasurer for the Ladies Auxiliary for 35 + Years, both contributing to its growth and success through their unwavering support and dedication.

Each of our grandfathers were also members while David and I still support the club in Race Management duties. It is fitting, therefore, that we have chosen to honour this milestone with the donation of 'The Celebration Cup'.

The Celebration Cup, as its name suggests, shall represent the rich history, the triumphs, and the shared experiences that have shaped Royal Brighton Yacht Club and any subsequent celebratory events.

The Deed of Gift accompanying this trophy allows for future celebratory events to preserve the legacy of our club for future generations. It is a gesture that speaks volumes about our love and dedication for the sport to fostering a sense of community and sportsmanship at Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

As we celebrate this remarkable 150-year journey, let us also look forward to the future with hope and enthusiasm. Let us continue to uphold the values that have made the Royal Brighton Yacht Club a place of prestige and distinction.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Royal Brighton Yacht Club for accepting the donation of 'The Celebration Cup' by the McKenna Family and for their enduring support. It is an honour for us all to witness this momentous occasion and to celebrate the rich history and promising future of the Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

Thank you.

Jim Leckey asked if the Deed of Gift could be made public, Niesje Hees offered to post it in the online Trophy Catalogue

Chris Sands asked if the Committee minutes could be made available sooner.

Jim Leckey asked if other non-voting members could be invited to Annual Meetings. All members are currently invited to meetings.

Karen Johns asked if the gym could be painted. This will be carried out in the near future.

Rod McKenna asked if the weather station which was damaged in the storm could be replaced asap.

March 2025