

**ERITH YACHT CLUB
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
EYC CLUBHOUSE @ 19.00 hours
5 August 2024**

Minutes

Present

President	Dudley Davies	DD
Vice President	Alan Cooper	AC
Vice President	Mick Kemp	MK
Commodore	Trevor Cambridge	TC
Vice Commodore	Dave Burton	DB
Rear Commodore	Richard Szczepankiewicz	RS
Hon Secretary	Adrian Reeves [seconded]	AR
Hon Treasurer	Guy Bates	GB
Sailing Secretary	John Cant	JC
Committee	Mary Cameron (Wine)	MC
	Andy Woollard	AW
	Ron Havill	RHav
	Chris Beazer	CB (Appologies)
	Dave Sanders	DS
	Richard Harvey	RHar
	Mike Bushell	MB
	Bill Owen	BO
Ex Officio Treasurer	Roger Lambell	RL
[RYA Training Principal]	Jan Thomas	JT]
RYA Chief Instructor	Alan Thomas	

1. Apologies

As above

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Approval Deferred

3. Matters Arising

3.1. Woodworking Container

UPDATE 20240701: JM emailed Phil and Alan with a request to have it ready for use within three months (October 2024)

3.2. Sleeping in Clubhouse & on yachts ashore

UPDATE 20240702: JM emailed Ben Bennett (Insurance Broker) to ask about a) sleeping in clubhouse, b) sleeping in yachts ashore. His response is below:

As regards your query on sleeping on the premises, this would not cause any issue for insurers – on the strict proviso that all safeguarding policies/procedures are adhered to and any requirements of the authorities (i.e. fire) are met.

In terms of members sleeping on their own yachts (whether afloat or ashore), I would simply recommend that the Club are comfortable with the situation (you may want to seek advice/guidance on this from RYA legal) and, importantly, each member concerned must check with their boat insurer to ensure that this is permissible under the terms of their own individual policy. As you say, they do so at their own risk and it would be difficult to see a scenario whereby the Club could in any way be deemed liable in the event of an incident.

3.3. Norman Whitfield (AR / TC)

JM sent a recorded delivery letter to Norman about the arrears and what the GC had decided to do. He received an email from George Hartley who had opened the letter to inform him that Norman died on 28 May 2025 in a care home in Maidstone. JM has responded to the email (5 July 2024) to acknowledge it and has recommended that Adrian contact the Care Home to see if they have any family address. If there is none, then we have done our due diligence in trying to trace them, so we can go ahead with disposing of the assets. AR has sent letters on the 12/07/2024 and await a response. **AR to send a further giving 3 month's notice of the clubs intention to dispose of assets to recover outstanding fees**

4. Operational Reports

4.1. Sailing (John)

John acknowledged and thanked the efforts of the training team in reviving dinghies that hadn't been used in a long time. This has enabled more sailing with typically 10/12 boats being used. This has resulted in more income from boat hire and Bar takings.

4.2. Training (Jan)

the courses. A reminder that this year the courses have generated around 9 new members, some of whom have purchased boats.

Jan Thomas has taken on the role of EYC Training Principle and is preparing for RYA Inspection to this end would like to propose for committee approval that Dudley Davies be EYC Welfare/ Safety Officer

Alan Thomas has taken on the role of Chief Instructor of Sail & Power and has hit the ground running preparing our equipment for the RYA Inspection.

Alan & Jan will be attending tonights meeting to briefly outline their ideas

Alan started by saying they had been in post for 2 weeks but had managed to achieve much with the help of others making special mention of thanks to Bill Owen and Dudley.

The training fleet had been worked on to bring them to an acceptable standard which included a number of abandoned Laser Dinghies Alan proposed that these be included in the training fleet where a premium rate of £20 per person could be charged : This received Committee approval.

Jan and Alan gave a brief action plan which will be expanded on in future meetings.

They have contacted the RYA who are keen to include EYC in their events.

Alan & Jan repeated that their focus is to increase activity and revenue for which they will need club support if it is to be successful

5. Proposals/Discussion (all)

5.1. Donation of a wooden osprey dinghy (JC)

Email to John Cant from Scott Mclemon, an ex EYC member:

I was wondering if you guys would be interested in having the boat as a club boat? It needs some repair, but the club do have the tools and experience. It was the wooden decked Osprey in the dinghy park next (or next door but one) to Jeremy's boat. I only have two conditions. 1. If she is ever sold I get first refusal, 2. She is named Rae, in honour of my dad. Hope those won't be big issues...

PROPOSAL: EYC accept the donation of the Osprey dinghy.

Declined

5.2 David Burton VC Proposal 1

I propose that the committee formally thanks Andy Woolard for the time spent in repairing the disabled lift.

The club can only continue as long as there are volunteers to carry out the multitude of tasks that are needed to keep the club running efficiently. All their efforts are appreciated.

Accepted

5.3 David Burton VC Proposal 2

I would like to propose that Jeremy Michell is granted Life Membership of Erith Yacht Club before he leaves for Hong Kong. This should be done in recognition for his commitment to the club in his roles as Club Secretary, Training Principle, Past Commodore and Past Vice Commodore

It was stated we had reached our quota of life members the maximum number had been agreed at a previous committee meeting when the last appointments were made. It was acknowledged that there are members that are deserving but a limit is required.

Jeremy was thanked for his services and given Honorary Membership in recognition of the many roles conducted over several years.

1 July	5 August	2 September	7 October	4 November	2 December	6 January 2025
3 February	3 March	AGM by 7 March				

Insurance Renewal Email received 2/08

Good Afternoon Adrian,

I hope all is well.

I write with reference to the above and our previous correspondence and would confirm that the proposed renewal terms for the forthcoming year, are as follows: -

- Yacht Club Combined - £14,206.90 (inc IPT)
- Management Liability - £728.00 (inc IPT)
- DAS Legal Expenses - £68.00 (inc IPT)
- Gallagher Business Assist - Free of Charge
- Special Types - TBC – but no greater than 10% on expiry (£124.52)

Unfortunately, the special types insurer have advised that they are unable to produce renewal terms more than 28 days in advance of the renewal date and I'm on annual leave from this evening until 12th August and wished to provide all other terms to you, prior to 5th August, as agreed.

I will confirm the actual renewal premium of the special types policy upon my return, together with our formal renewal invitation letter and insurers documentation.

I trust the above is in order and allows discussions to be held at the impending committee meeting next week.

Kind Regards

Stuart O'Nions

Account Handler, SME & Personal Lines

11. Finance (Guy)

11.1. Current Account:

11.2. Reserve Account:

11.3. Training Accounting line: £xxx

11.4 Report

12. House (Richard S)

The Bar Cooling Modifications are working well early meter readings indicate a saving of £60 over a 10day period RL will continue to monitor

13. Wine and Social (Mary)

A request from Wapping Art group to visit Wednesday 07/08/2024

A request from a member for an their Art Group to visit on Wednesday 22/08/2024

A request from a member for a scattering of ashes letting 31/08/2024

14. Health and Safety

4th July 2024 A report was issued on the PLA Website of a Barge causing excess wash that resulted in Members Mr & Mrs Pearce being tipped out of their inflatable tender as they attempted to board the pontoon, see below the PLA response

Dear Mr Pearce,

I hope this email finds you and your wife well.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the delay in concluding this investigation into the wash report submitted by Mr Lambell on your behalf on 4th July 2024.

The findings of the investigation were as follows:

After ascertaining the time at which the alleged wash happened, the traffic recordings were used to determine which vessels had passed at the time of the event. The only identifiable vessels based on the description of the incident were the SD DOLPHIN and SONGA FALCON followed by BEAUMONT. While neither of the vessels were transiting at an excessive speed, the combined effects of the wash from all three vessels could have been significant enough to cause the incident.

The Master of the tug has been reminded to be mindful of his wash, especially when transiting in close proximity of other vessels where the combined effect of wash from various vessels might worsen the situation. I have also received confirmation from the tug operator that they will pass on this educational advice to other Masters to be mindful of the effects of their wash when operating on the Thames.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that you are able to make a report via telephone as well by calling our London VTS operations room which operates 24 hours per day/365 days per year on 01474 562215. Our VTS Officers can submit the report on your behalf and take any actions needed at the time. Further information regarding incident reporting is available on our website:

[Contact us | Port of London Authority \(pla.co.uk\)](https://www.pla.co.uk)

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

Jamie Gilbert

Assistant Harbour Master

Port of London Authority

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Follow us at @LondonPortAuth

15. Youth/JYS

No report

16. Rules

17. Website and IT

Proposal from Alan Cooper 22/07/2024

Dear All

The GC kindly approved purchase of a 5G cellular router at the last GC which I have tested.

My somewhat expert view having tested it on all services is that it would not be satisfactory or reliable enough for what we are looking for.

Therefore I returned it during the return period and will have re imbursed EYC with the cost.

Things are a little better in that I reported our service to BT and it seems a bit more reliable. But we will never I think get over the high cost of BT removing copper and installing fibre, which is their aim by end 2025. No probs if the infrastructure goes by your front door, but for us a special install at many £k's. Ducting etc. I can get a proper survey if you want but it will be £k's.

There is one more solution which I would like to try. 30 day return, no questions asked. We pay postage there and back. Starlink Business.

It sounds expensive at £96 per month, but that is no more than we pay for BT Business and their (special) ! service. I pay £45 for domestic at home with BT.

But there would be about £500 cost for satellite hardware and bits. All refundable if we send it back.

Good reviews on Starlink now. Just a thought or leave it as is.

<https://uk.pcmag.com/networking/142905/starlink>

“Elon Musk's SpaceX has been in the news frequently of late - and the service is improving all the time. The 'portability' feature makes it possible to deploy satellite internet elsewhere for a small monthly fee. Still, Starlink is best known for offering a solution to people living in areas outside the scope of high-speed broadband or fibre optic internet. True, such people can rely on a mobile data (4G or 5G) connection but this is usually very costly and not very reliable.”

So in conclusion, I would like to try Starlink and apart from the initial hardware cost is no more annually than BT Business. I would need help putting the antenna on the roof, but I can try it temporary without doing that.

It is on 30 day return. I would have to pay initially as you can only order on Credit or Debit card, which we don't have. Then once we have an account I think the forums say you can change the payment method.

Or forget it, just carry on as we are with BT.

BW

Alan

To Summarise

Alan's point is that BT are phasing out Copper Connections and replacing with Fibre Optic Cabling, They aim to complete this by the end of next year, which will effect our telephone and WiFi connections.

Erith Yacht Club will need to plan for this eventuality.

Alan explains the options as he see them as follows:

- 1) Fibre Optic Installation by BT this is prohibitively expensive (£15,000.00)
We could explore whether funding is available for not for profit organisations
We could lay the cable from the club to the road ourselves
Alan also points out that the current BT Package costs approx. £90/Month
- 2) Starlink Option has set up costs thought to be £500.00 then has running costs comparable to that we currently pay to BT £90/Month Approx.
- 3) Mobile Phone 4G/5G Is thought to be Costly and not very reliable.
The recent trial was not successful
Caveats It was a short trial and not all Networks trialled

It was Agreed that we would trial the Starlink Option

Meeting Closed: 9.00 pm

Next Meeting: 7pm, 2 September 2024