

Orwell Yacht Club Management Committee Meeting
Monday 9th February 2026 at 19:30
OYC Clubhouse

Members present: Clive Cooksey (CC): Rob Henchoz (RH): Neale Fuller (NF):
 Fred Codling (RC): John Owen (JO): Peter Hibberd (PH): John Burnell (JB): Charlie Carrington (CCn): Mike Fry (MF): Phil Naylor (PNr): Brenda Read (BR):
 Peter Small (PS)

Jenny Naylor (JNr): Minutes

Trustees present: Steve Gilson (SG).Robert Jones (RJ): Mark Wilson (MW)

1. Apologies for absence:

John Hazelton (JHn): Julia Norman (JN): Stuart Risebrow (SR):Bruce Proctor(BP):Peter Parker(PP)

2. Approval of minutes MC meeting

Minutes of meeting 19 th January approved
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3. Matters arising:

Management Action Plan

Agenda item	Action	By whom	By when	Progress
3a	New Byelaw to deal with Expelled member	RJ, CC, PNr, PS	ASAP	
3b	Working group on Incorporation	CC, MW, JN, SR		No progress. There have been lots of queries on the subject. It is not a major change. CC wants the committee to be happy with the process before we approach the wider membership. The solicitor who is helping us has been asked to produce information on the pros and cons of becoming incorporated.
3d	Side door & Accessible toilets- review what we have done before and take long term view	NF MW BP		No progress. Timeline to follow.
3f	Monitor next phase of electrics	MW NF, JHn		Mark given go ahead to start next phase. The electrician is aware and will advise us when he is ready to start
4.1	Resolve issues with current Webmaster and new Webmasters to move forward	Richard Codling, Jamie Carrington, Andrew Witherley, Peter Small	Feb MC	MS has been contacted and a meeting to take place with a number of people including Richard Codling. Richard Harris said that he would be happy to help with website work.
4.1	Water readings weekly & shared folder Need volunteer to take weekly readings. PNr will maintain spreadsheet if readings provided		March MC	There was a discussion about the use of a smart meter. PN said he would check this.

4.2	Membership applications - Define interview process	Flags	Feb MC	Guidance exists and BR is happy with it. RC asked for a copy.
4.2	History of 'Own Tackle Moorings' and payments	CC,RJ,CCn,RH	March MC	
4.2	Letter to Adrian Woffenden	JNr	ASAP	
4.5	Speak with members who have a number of dinghies stored at the Club	CCn		A start has been made. CCn is treading softly. Will take a couple of months
4.6	Contact Fox's Riggers for costs of mast unstepping / stepping etc.	NF, PS	March MC	
4.6	Use of VHF for skiffs	PH	March MC	
5.	CCTV security	CC & CCn	Feb MC	The inner door has been fitted. A new lock has arrived. RJ thinks the door was removed as it was thought that someone in there may not hear the fire alarm if the door was closed. Hence the door needs to be kept open when someone is in there.
5.	Investigate UPS for CCTV	CCn	Feb MC	How much do we want to spend? How long do we want it to last? £1000-£2000 various types available. Look for something about 3 hours. RJ said we need to make sure battery isn't a fire hazard
5.	Wall – This is a long-term project. Consider a 10-foot extension seawards?	NF	Ongoing	
5.	Investigate fire-proof bags	CC	March MC	
5.	Annual change of door codes New lock for clubhouse entry	JHn	March MC	
5.	Pressure washer plinths require raising	RJ, MW	March MC	
6.	Liaise with garage to avoid blocking access.	MW	ASAP	
7. AOB	Restore dolphin for craneage	CC, NF, PP	ongoing	

a. Complaint re member

SGM held on 8th February resulted in 75% vote by membership to uphold the decision for expulsion.

RJ suggested that we need to write a new byelaw dealing with the matter of an expelled member. It needs to make it clear that if a former member is expelled from the club, they are not allowed on the premises or to use any of the facilities. We need to recognise that there may be exceptional circumstances when access should be permitted and this needs to be included in the byelaw. It was agreed that RJ be assisted by CC, PNr and PS.

- c. Skiffs:
Activities with the skiffs has continued - we are still focussing on the training of coxes as this is a fundamental requirement.
Recognised that we need profile on social media.
PH said we will need members to take responsibility for maintenance of the skiffs. While on the water, overall responsibility rests with the cox.
Discussion of fees – suggested monthly with 1st year fees to be subscription plus joining fee.
CC asks will they be full members? – this was confirmed and CC happy with this proposal.
Suggestion that a charge per use of skiff was discussed and dismissed as would prove difficult to manage and introduce additional unnecessary work.
RC said it is hoped that the payments will be managed through Sailing Club Manager and felt that there should not be an additional charge for the use of the skiffs.
They would need to commit for 12 months payments, however SCM is a few months away.
PH asked if it is possible to store skiff stuff in the log cabin and that a ‘Safe box’ would be needed for the vhf radios. It was agreed this space could be used.
NF asked if support boat is needed to accompany the skiffs. PH said they are not needed as routine, only possibly if racing.
RJ says need copyright of any pictures used and to beware of using any stock images from the web.
CC suggested advertising in newspaper, PH said we are not ready to launch yet as we need to sort out training coxes.
MF said it would be good to get started, PH again emphasised that we need to have trained coxes which we are making progress with. We need to be certain that we are satisfying the requirements of our insurers and that we are doing things properly.
CC says made an excellent start.
- e. Lockers:
There was some discussion about where the garage has put their air conditioning units. It was decided that we need to talk to the garage about this as it may affect where we can put our lockers.
JO doesn't think the air conditioning units would have much effect. These units should be kept away from other boundaries. RJ said that there has been a unit there for years but now there are 4 not 1.

4. Reports

4.1 Treasurer

JN reported that bank mandates and signatories were being reviewed for all OYC accounts.

4.2 Membership Sec

Memberships

201 have renewed
14 have resigned

Wednesday 4th Feb, sent a final reminder to 8 members that I had heard nothing from adding that they needed to add a late payment fee of £30 to their fees, 4 responded, 3 of which resigned the other renewed.

Saturday 7th Feb, telephoned the remaining 3 of the above members because they have boats registered at the club. The first one, Peter Hooper said he didn't want to be a member

anymore and his Wayfarer was no longer at the club. The other 2 - Steve Butler and James Riley have now renewed and paid the late payment fee.

Out of the 4 applicants I invited following agreement at the January meeting, 2 have joined, Robin Bray and Henry Stogdon, the other 2 Trevor Pearce and Simon Carver, have not responded to the invitation, unable to contact them by phone.

We have 6 applicants in the pipeline which is good for so early in the year. Charlie Provin hasn't been able to get here for an interview. CC suggested conducting an interview via TEAMS with CC & RH.

2 requests for Retired Sailor status from Paul Dickerson and Brian Woods - Committee agreed.

Darren Miller, resigned, said he would move his boat from the Drying Pontoon on the 9th Feb; he has been charged part of the winter fee on the pontoon. He was called away as a RAF Reservist and was unable to move it before Christmas, this was agreed with the Mooring Master.

Adrian Woffenden has requested an additional summer lay-up as he is going to try to sell his boat and he has already paid for this. If unsold he has promised to launch at the end of Summer. The MC used its discretion and agreed to this request.

He also requests to stay on the waiting list for a deep-water mooring. Secretary to write to him regarding selling his boat, details of broker etc as we must ensure that his boat is launched by end September.

Sailing Cub Manager; Group of 5 set up to manage the transition and the need to work with Malcolm for handover from the current system, Malcolm holds the account and he wants to hand it over.

Mick Fuller had written in (see Correspondence) regarding his having to pay for his mooring whilst not using it.

RC stated that it is quite clear that if you don't pay for a mooring then you lose the mooring. NF says he understood if he didn't use his mooring then he didn't need to pay for it, as NF said he had an agreement from CC - CC disputed this.

There was a discussion about what the charges should be, with varying conflicting views. RJ said this needs looking at outside of the meeting and CC agreed. CCn suggested the matter of these 'special arrangement own tackle moorings' to be investigated by CC, CCn, RH, & RJ.

Mast Craning: Peter Small gave a report:

This is regarding the use of the mobile crane from Debbages for the spring raising of masts and the autumn lowering of masts.

In recent years, Chris Nixon and his crane from Debbages boatyard have helped us with the raising and lowering of masts. After this spring, Debbages crane will no longer be available. This will have a big impact on us as well as the Stour Sailing club in Manningtree.

Chris mentioned at the last mast lowering, he might be able to continue to help us if he was

able to store the crane here. His other caveat was that he had to be able to keep the crane financially viable.

Latest information suggests that Chris will not be looking to do this.

We need to ensure this spring that the crane is available to raise the masts before it is out of commission and before the launches commence. This means middle and end of March. I will arrange the dates with Chris Nixon.

In the autumn and thereafter we need to come up with a new scheme. Today I contacted Harry Kings yard at Pin Mill and spoke to Sarah in the office. She was very encouraging and said it is highly likely that they will be able to come here and help us. She is going to look into the matter and get back to me at the end of the week.

Harry Kings have a JCB telehandler with a home-made attachment for coping with masts. We need to check that this equipment can deal with our requirements. Also, we would need to fit into the Yard's own boat schedule. Sarah seems to think that they could help us at the end of October and early November without any problems.

Another option open to us is to get our own dolphin mast crane up and running again, though this may not be appropriate for our larger yachts due to the difficulty in handling the masts once lifted from the vessel.

Probably the least attractive option is to use the marina facilities on the Orwell. It is my understanding that Woolverstone and Ipswich Beacon Marina do not have mast cranes. This just leaves Fox's, Suffolk Yacht Harbour and Shottley.

Discussion notes: If Pin Mill option viable, larger boats would have to lay up/launch at times that fit in with lift availability.

Could consider hire of similar mobile crane to Iron Fairy, but likely to be expensive.

MW mentioned that Bruce has a telehoist.

Although dolphin may not be a safe option for large boats, we should look to fix it anyway Fox's riggers could be approached for any advice NF & PS to do this.

Broad Band & Telephone Contract; renewed by Richard Codling who has again secured a most favourable contract for the Club with Sky for a cheaper price than last time.

4.3 Social Sec

No report received.

PNr gave update on Pip Hare talk Saturday 7th February was very well attended with almost 100 in attendance as a large contingent from Fox's Marina Yacht Club.

Total ticket sales including OYC contribution of £400 was £1075.

Pip Hare's invoice £813.84, so 'gift' to her of £261.16p and she sold a lot of books.

Deborah from Fox's and Pip thanks OYC for the hospitality and Pip said she had a good evening.

4.4 House Sec

Date for Italian baker to come in. Bar doing well

4.5 Mooring Master

Tam Grundy starts work on Tuesday 10th February – he has the Mooring lists prepared by Mooring Sec. PNr has met with Tam to explain them. PNr confirmed to Tam that mooring inspection is an annual requirement – this knowledge will enable Tam to assess the condition and likely lifespan of the tackle knowing that they will be inspected next year.

Some 'own Tackle' mooring holders are making the arrangement for the inspection direct with Tam.

Leslie Tooke has given her mooring to the Club. PP is aware.

Andrew Shepherd does not want his mooring (22), so the moorings near the bridge to be dropped are: moorings 21,22,28,30,31,34 & 35. Also 'own tackle' swinging moorings 24 & 34. PP plans to do this work, although Tam will contact him to see if PP would like Tam to drop them.

4.6 Bankmaster

The dates for the launching programme have been circulated by email. The booking sheets will be drawn up soon.

I have received several enquiries about dates for the mast stepping.

The folder with individual boat handling details is complete with photos and stored in the container. More photos will be added as and when each boat is held in the carrier to confirm sling positions. This will greatly assist both Team Leaders and boat owners in the safe and efficient movement of yachts on the causeway.

Following consultation with those managing tender and dinghy storage, the skiffs will take up a permanent position on the causeway. This will result in the loss of one small yacht storage position. However, this is not seen as detrimental to the total number of boats requesting storage.

4.7 Sailing Sec

Report received:

Great support from sailing committee.

Event schedule almost complete and should be online in February.

I have reached out to Colne YC in relation to Ostend. We have a provisional list of 9 interested boats from OYC.

There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

5. Maintenance

Changing lock on back gate.

Tree (Turkish Hazel) will be sorted in better weather.

CCTV: RJ thinks need to review signage. We need a policy open to club members.

CCn said that we have signage. BR said a lot of new members ask why we have so many cameras. This is an insurance. Prospective members say it is nice to see the security.

CC said that we ought to have a fireproof safe for important documents. RJ said that most records are electronic with actually very little held on paper.

There are historical documents kept in there such as the carrier plans, so we do need a fireproof bag or similar for their safe and secure storage.

6. Correspondence

Richard Plant request for private party Saturday 17th October – has contacted Social Sec but not had a reply – it was agreed that Richard could book the club for this event.

Lesley Tooke (covered in Mooring Master report)

RYA Affiliation. It was agreed that this should be applied for.

Wastesaver bin – access blocked by a car so could not be emptied today. Do we want a collection at £25.15 or take extra next week? MW said he would talk to the garage about not blocking the access.

Email from Mick Fuller: received 9/2/26 (discussed under 4.2)

Dear committee,

Firstly, I give permission for the club to use my mooring this season. With regards to my mooring own tackle fee, the club had a boat laying on my mooring last season which they charged at £439-00. The club also had/ my Mooring fee of £128-00 total of £567-00. I feel that the committee are being greedy in not allowing for me to have my Mooring fee returned for last season. Regards Mick Fuller

Unsolicited text messages

The Secretary read out 7 emails received from members. They were concerned that they had received a text message from a number that they didn't recognise. There is concern that there has been a data breach. It was noted that a considerable number of other members had received the same text message.

CC suggested that this matter requires investigation as it is possible that there has been a data breach and was it a police issue or did it require reporting to the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office)?

Discussion suggested that although a serious matter, it was probably not a GDPR breach. PNr confirmed that we had already asked for guidance from our solicitor.

Text Messages received by members on Sunday 1st February 2026

(This number has been identified as belonging to Samantha Mills)

Text message reads:

I've been notified about an upcoming SGM regarding my Yacht Club membership. I want to clarify that the issues are with the management committee, not members. All communications are handled through my solicitors.

The committee has received a letter before action. Since all communication is through my legal team, I will not attend the SGM. The committee knows all correspondence must go to my solicitors, yet they still aim to portray me disrespectfully.

Communications received by Secretary – Redacted for minutes

██████████
Now follows ██████████ reply

I don't know who you are as you have not told me your name?? If you feel aggrieved about the SGM surely the way forward is to attend and give the members your side of the story? I thought this was in the club constitution as the procedure and the 1st step to avoid wasting everyone's money yours as well on solicitors?

In my opinion the OYC is a very pleasant place to keep our boats and you falling out with the committee and starting legal action with solicitors is just wasting yours and ours, the members money. I hope you can bring yourself to therefore reflect on appointing solicitors and reassess. Please explain what you think the end game is going to be? Your complete vindication of whatever you have fallen out with them over is? Their vindication?

You say your disagreement is with the committee but jumping to legal action is using our, the members money to pay solicitors!

So it will not be popular with the members even if you are right about the committee.

I hope you can resolve this disagreement for your own sake as these things effect peoples health and wellbeing, yours and the committees.. We are supposed to be just having fun, sailing is about good times and dreams.

Sent from my iPhone

██████████ has just received another communication from the same number, which is ██████████. ██████████

The sender did not let the recipient know who was sending the message.

Message from unknown sender at ██████████ :

Hello I totally agree with your comments

But just to clarify

The legal issues are only against the MC not the OYC members

The legal recourse is only because Mr Mills challenged the lack of clarity for members

Nothing more that that

We all

Want the club to be there for all to appreciate

██████████ reply is as follows:

Hi, do you mind saying who you are? I thought you were the person who the SGM was about.

My point is it does involve the members as you are depleting the clubs money with solicitors bills which is unnecessary and will totally effect all members. Please sort this out without solicitors!! Find another way please

Sent from my iPhone

██████████
OYC member.

Dear Jenny, FYI., I receives (sic) this text to my phone on Sunday, 01/02/25, one week before the SGM.

No name attached

From the number, ██████████

It's sad that things got to that stage, but, it seems the committee was left with no option but to expell (sic). I'm glad it went the way it did and admire the way the committee conducted the meeting with fairness and clarity.

Kind regards. ██████████

██████████
Dear Secretary,

Thank you for the information, however I'm perturbed by your last sentence.

There appears to have been a significant breach of GPDR at the club.

I feel the committee must explain to all members, with some urgency, how this came about and what steps it has and will take to ensure no repeat and that members data is secure.

Best regards

██████████

[REDACTED]
Dear Secretary,

I have recently received a text message, presumably from Terence Mills, about the SGM concerning his expulsion from the club. So far as I am aware, I have never had any dealings with Terence Mills and I am puzzled as to how he managed to obtain my mobile 'phone number. Does the club make such information available to members in dispute with the club or has he or his partner taken that information from the club for their own use without permission?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Jennifer

Sorry to bother you but I have received the text message below which may relate to the sgm on Sunday but, as it does not mention either oyc or Mr Mills, it may a matter of pure coincidence and is a phishing exercise. However if it is from Mr Mills it begs the question of how he got hold my phone number. It may be that it was acquired from the launching list rather than a direct breach of the club's data records. Whatever the source of the information it has been miss-used which in itself would be reason to expel Mr Mills I feel. If other members have received similar and genuine correspondence from Mr Mills a general note to the membership regarding the miss-use of data rather than a personal reply will suffice (I'm sure you have plenty of better things to be doing).

Jenny

Thanks for your prompt response. You and the committee have my sympathies having to deal with this sort of thing which really shouldn't happen in such a friendly club.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hi,

Regarding this Special General Meeting I have this evening received this attached text message from I'm guessing the member this concerns.

I'm not sure this is appropriate behaviour from the individual if this is the case.

If this can be looked into I would appreciate it.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Hi Jenny. I've had this text, assume other members have had too but thought you should know. As you can see the sender is not in my contacts nor is someone I've actively shared my number with.

[REDACTED]

A considerable number of members reported receiving the same text [REDACTED] received text, but does not know how her number was obtained as it is not publicly available at the OYC.

6. New members and applicants

no one to approve at present

7. AOB

Port Marine Safety another day

RJ said he needs help raising the pressure washers so that they comply with electrical requirements. MW agreed to help him

Update on Crazy Hen
MF gave an update:

Message received from the son of buyer, Andy Collis:-30 Jan 2026

A

Hi, dad retires at the end of February he will be coming to pick up the boat on the 25th Feb 11:56

31 Jan 2026

Hi, That's good news. Thanks for the update. If your dad would contact me and the other club officers named in my posted letter a week or two beforehand, we will arrange access to the club premises and the boat. (He will not be able to drive or walk onto site without a barrier/gate pass)Your dad should come prepared to do a significant amount of preparatory work on the boat before setting off back to the Solent.

Regards,
Mike

Ongoing:

1. Dredging
[REDACTED]
2. Dolphin
[REDACTED]

Meeting Closed at 22.32