

HISC – SOCIAL SAILING GROUP

Minutes of AGM held on 16 October 2026

The Social Sailing captain, Norman Payne, was unwell with Covid. With very short notice Gary Gledhill volunteered to chair the meeting.

Committee Members: *Delia Clarke, Jane Blaydes, Terry McMahon, David Archer, David Dodgson, Tony Button, Patrick Marshall and Norman Payne*

Apologies for absence: Received from twelve members

General report to Members: Norman (would have said) how much he had welcomed and appreciated the support of Members during the past twelve months whilst being the Fleet Captain.

Also, from the Social Sailing committee members for the organisation undertaken to achieve a monthly programme of events. During this time Delia has worked stoically to arrange the winter lunches at the club – not just the bookings but arranging menus, taking orders, cancelling after apologies for non-attendance and making sure all have an enjoyable time. The lunches have additionally received support from the Members Lunch Group led by Rosy Raines. This has meant, for each occasion, there being about fifty members in attendance meaning we can invite worthwhile speakers to make presentations.

Terry again took on the task of arranging summer lunch venues. These meant Members having the chance of visiting eating establishments around the Harbour with, for some, a choice of travelling by boat. Again, not an easy task with a need to book suitable places to accommodate numbers interested along with meal requirements and to suit times of Chichester Harbour tides.

To our benefit Patrick Marshall volunteered to arrange the summer Emsworth lunch visit and again with such success Patrick is looking to organise next May's Emsworth lunch along with a sailing rally for September.

Margaret and Ray Stewart offered their home and garden to act as hosts for a much enjoyed barbecue which was fully booked. They also made available their boat pontoon for us to use.

The summer rally events comprised the first in May at Bembridge – organised by Norman and with twenty boat bookings. David Archer took on the September rally when, unfortunately, there was a Force 6-7 wind with rain. Six boats, however ventured to Cowes with a seventh the following day. Those attending arranged their own meals at the two pubs as booked by David.

Alongside the pleasurable aspects of Social Sailing there is the necessary administration to ensure we continue with a sound bank balance and once again Jane Blaydes has taken care of our accounts and ensured subscriptions are promptly paid. With about one hundred members of the group this is no mean achievement.

Financial Position: Jane presented the annual accounts. These showed, allowing for a £5.00 per member contribution, adequate funds to finance the next year's activities. On Jane's advice a balance of £500.00 should be kept as a contingency leaving the £5.00 membership fee as being adequate for 2026/27. The meeting agreed to Jane's recommendation.

Reports on 2025/26 Events: The past year's activities were presented by Delia on the work she had undertaken in organising all the winter lunches. These had been well received as reflected in the number of members attending with an average of fifty. Apart from the time and effort in arranging the lunches the events benefitted from partnering with the "Members Lunch Group" – run by Rosy Raines – and after lunch speakers providing presentations on a variety of subjects.

Terry, who organised the Summer events, unfortunately was unable to attend but he had provided a record of the activities organised. As with the winter lunches these were well attended with some providing an opportunity to meet at Harbour venues with boat travel.

David Archer also could not attend and again provided a record of the rally, along with dining arrangements, he had organised to Cowes for last September.

Programme of 2026/27 activities: The programme of activities for the group had been circulated with the Agenda and this was agreed.

AOB: No items were raised with the Social Sailing Captain prior to the meeting.

At the meeting suggestions from the floor about possible additional events to the programme were:

- Summer ferry trip from Sparkes Marina to The Witterings
- Additional barbecues
- Revive "Social Sailing Week"
- Organise a "Progressive Supper"

These suggestions will be considered at the next Committee meeting. Volunteers will be required to organise such events.

Appreciation: As an addendum to these minutes (prepared by Norman from notes received) I want to express my appreciation for Gary so willingly and capably taking the chair for the AGM.