Minutes of AGM of Queen Mary Reservoir Sailing Club Limited

Held at the Clubhouse and on Teams, on 4th November 2026 at 20:00

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Paul Stainsby, Martin Hunt, Paul Cooper and Andy Goode.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as being a true record and were signed by the Commodore.

Proposed by Rafa Matarazzo and passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising

One item was noted under Matters Arising: an update on the Ramp Project. Adam indicated that this would be addressed in his Commodore's Report.

4. Commodore's Report

The Commodore, Adam Jennings-Frisby, presenting his first report as Commodore, thanked the many members who had contributed to it. Fleet captains, club leaders and committees had each been asked to share the achievement they were most proud of this year. He noted that what struck him most was not any single result or event, but the sheer number of people involved in making the club work, every Sunday start, Saturday Club, Sailability session and open meeting existing because somebody gave up their time. It had also been a year of growth, with more boats on the water, more members than ever and more ways for people to get involved as the club continues to diversify.

ILCA racing, the club's largest fleet, had gone from strength to strength under fleet captain Tony Woods, with turnouts of 85 boats in the Summer Series, 43 at the open meeting and regularly 20 to 30 boats on the start line on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. The Commodore congratulated Mark Lyttle on becoming ILCA Masters World Champion in Denmark, Orlando Gledhill on finishing 2nd at the Masters Europeans, and Sam Mason on finishing 2nd at the ILCA 4 Nationals, the latter particularly gratifying as youth sailors progress from ILCA 4 to ILCA 6 and into main club racing. Jonathan Stirling was thanked for establishing the women's training weekends. A separate ILCA 4/6 start will be piloted in the Frostbite Series to further encourage youth and women's racing.

Among the handicap fleets, the Flying Fifteens have grown to five boats. Sunday afternoon training, led by Sam Walker, was well attended and youth Topper and ILCA 4 sailors are now joining Sunday morning club racing. The club held its first Junior Bloody Mary in October, won by Jasper Russell in a Topper. The flagship Bloody Mary attracted 124 entries, and the club also hosted the RS100 Spring Championships, an inland championship, the ILCA open and junior open series and a range of keelboat events. A Sprint Series over three bank holidays drew 29 entries and will be repeated next year. The new, brighter mark flag colours were judged a success. Informal twilight racing on Wednesday evenings, rookie racing for less experienced sailors and keelboat races on Sundays and Wednesdays were also introduced. Eight

new Race Officers were trained this year, though more are always needed and members interested in training were encouraged to come forward.

Saturday Club, led by Vice Commodore David Bithell, had a superb year. Automatically enrolling new members onto the Saturday Club mailing list has grown it to over 350, and reducing the Select membership commitment from 12 months to 3 has brought 20 to 30 sailors out on many Saturdays, at times coming close to running out of club boats. Highlights included coaching from Tony Woods and Rafa Matarazzo and the new "Plastic Fantastic" regatta for sailors fresh from their Level 1 and Level 2 courses. The annual trip to the Andrew Simpson Centre in Weymouth was organised this year by Ian Paczek. The Commodore recorded the club's thanks to Peter Caselton, who has stepped down as Saturday Club leader after being involved from the very beginning and creating the Weymouth trips.

The Commodore reported the continued success of the keelboat programme, also led by David Bithell, with over 100 sessions this year and 80 different sailors now recorded as sailing the RS21s. He congratulated this year's Keelboat Cup winners. A recent "Saturday Club goes Keelboating" event introduced 23 sailors to keelboating, many of whom have chosen to continue sailing through the winter, which helps member retention. In January the club hosted the British Keelboat League qualifiers, and in March worked with the RS21 Class Association to host the Winter Inland Championships, sailed in winds of up to 35 knots, with a club boat winning one of the races. The club also hosted the UK Business School Cup for the first time, with seven teams from leading European business schools keen to return next year. The RS21s remain the club's greatest asset for corporate events, coordinated by Liam Murphy, with HSBC team-building and regatta days taking place this Saturday. Thanks were extended to David Bithell, Sam for keeping the keelboats maintained, Liam Murphy and around 20 volunteer members and staff.

Windsurfing and wing foiling, led by fleet captain Chris Perry, enjoyed a strong programme of open days, taster sessions and coaching, with the October open day particularly successful. The club hosted its first women's foil and fin gathering, attended by eight women new to the club. The rigging area was expanded with additional tie-downs and continued investment in equipment, managed by Matt, and more windy-day late openings were run than ever before. Plans for 2027 include a Saturday Club for windsurfers, a clearer pathway from beginner to intermediate, greater youth participation and regular women's foil and fin meetups.

The Youth Windsurfing Team was once again commended for an extraordinary year in the Techno 293 and IQFoil classes. At the Techno 293 Worlds in Turkey in April, Milo finished 16th and Luke Stevens 38th in the Under 17 7.8m boys' fleet, with Ruby 24th in the girls' fleet. At the Europeans in Poland, Alex and Luke finished 29th and 40th and Ruby 21st. Closer to home, Luke and Alex took first and third, then first and second, at the regional championships, and Luke went on to win at the Scottish Fin and Foil and the UKWA series overall. At the Techno Nationals the club won the 7.8m girls' title, Luke was 2nd and Alex 4th in the 7.8m boys, and Eva was 7th in the 5.8m girls. In IQFoil, Milo was crowned Junior National Champion, Will finished 2nd at the Nationals and won the UKWA series, and Harry finished 5th and 2nd respectively. Will, Harry, Milo and Ruby have been selected for the RYA IQFoil Performance Development Squad and Luke for the IQFoil Talent Transition programme. Ruby is representing Great Britain at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar this month, and the Commodore wished her the very best of luck on behalf of the club.

Sailability had another successful but challenging season. Its 30 volunteers support four special schools, four adult groups and 15 adult sailors, delivering 201 sessions over 18 weeks. Twelve of the 30 scheduled weeks were cancelled due to weather, a third more than last year, including four consecutive weeks covering most of August and early September. The final session was called off when unforecasted gusts of 24 to 25 knots exceeded the 21-knot limit in the risk assessment. Silt also put the east-side hoist out of action for around six weeks, and the team adapted by launching from the west side. The group is preparing for more extreme conditions by adapting schedules and operating procedures and is building knowledge of mental health and wellbeing.

It was another busy year for the Sailing School, led by Ross and team. The long, hot summer attracted more people onto courses than ever before, particularly adults, with some weekends seeing 18 people on Level 1 courses. Strong conversion from courses has taken Select membership to over 200, proving the right model for the market. The Commodore thanked Michelle, the office team, and the club's 100-plus instructors. He also announced that Ross, our Sailing Principal, is leaving to take up a new role outside the club and thanked him on behalf of all members and staff for his unfailing support and his commitment to safety. Following internal and external interviews, Sam Walker has been appointed as his successor.

The Commodore spoke about the launching ramp project. The two upper foundations were installed in the spring, but the lower footings could not be laid because Thames Water's work on the reservoir outlet kept water levels high throughout the summer. He was pleased to confirm that the contractor would start work the following day. The remaining funding requirement is approximately £7,000, and the club will launch a fundraising appeal once work has restarted. He expressed the hope that by next year's AGM the ramp would be complete.

Looking to the future, the Commodore reported that the club plans to trial coastal rowing this winter, a use of the lake at a time when river rowers cannot get onto the river, subject to financial due diligence. One issue to resolve is the rule that anyone on the lake must wear a personal flotation device. A team including Liz Pescod and David Bithell has worked through the year redrafting a new lease with Thames Water, aiming for a 50-year term. This would resolve the personal flotation device issue and open up access to grants and further fundraising.

Turning to acknowledgements, the Commodore thanked Claire Cooks Surrey for its catering service throughout the year. He thanked all the club's volunteers, including the 30 Sailability volunteers for handling a hugely disrupted season; Paul Johnson, Martin and Jeff for giving up Wednesday evenings to move boats; everyone involved in the Bloody Mary; and the Race Officer teams. He also thanked Simon Winkley Marine, the Royal Thames Yacht Club and Imperial College, and all the Queen Mary staff team.

The Commodore concluded by reflecting on his first year, noting how much so many people give to make the club happen, and thanked everyone present.

5. Hon Treasurer's Report

The primary business was to approve the Club's Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026. The Treasurer, Rafa Matarazzo, presented a review of the Club's financial performance for the year 2025–2026 and provided an update on the current trading year.

Using a number of slides, he reported that the Club had made a loss of £59,000 for 2025–2026, broadly in line with the £61,000 loss reported for 2024–2025. He acknowledged that, despite the optimism expressed at last year's AGM, the Club had not moved the dial as much as needed, with several setbacks in the third and fourth quarters. Cost pressures and competition remained intense, requiring increased spending on advertising.

There were positive developments. Revenue, which had fallen below £1 million in 2024–2025, returned to over £1 million in 2025–2026. Smarter scheduling of courses and better allocation of instructors kept courses at or close to capacity. As a result, staff costs rose by only 2% despite higher increases in the National Minimum Wage and inflation. The Membership Sub-Committee's experiments had identified the three-month Select membership as a major success: Select membership sales increased by 64%, conversion from Level 1 courses rose from 18% to around 45%, and members who commit to three months stay on average for around 12 months.

Rafa explained that the result was held back by the RYA no longer running events and training at the club, and above all by the end of the car park arrangement. Thames Water had sought 60% of the revenue, and the arrangement raised questions about the new lease and the Club's rateable value. The risks were judged to outweigh the rewards, so the arrangement was stopped and the year's car park revenue was written off in the final quarter. Despite this, the Club ended the year with more cash than the previous year.

Rafa noted that at last year's AGM Josie Adams had asked whether the Club would make a profit over the winter. He acknowledged that, although he had been confident, the Club had not achieved a winter profit.

Turning to membership, Rafa reported that the Club ended September 2026 with 742 members, believed to be the highest in at last ten years. However, standard membership has been flat since September 2022. Within standard membership, wing foilers grew from 19 to 55 and windsurfers from 84 to 104, while sailing members fell from 314 to 260. Standard sailing members have fallen from 420 in 2015, and from 45% to 35% of the membership mix. The ILCA fleet is the only fleet whose standard membership has held steady over the past ten years, much credit going to fleet captain Tony Woods. The Club's strategy is therefore focused on course conversion and member retention, through the three-month membership, Saturday Club, keelboat initiatives and winter keelboat cups, WhatsApp groups and improvements to windsurfing facilities. Rafa noted that other facility concerns, such as the showers, are known and will be tackled as resources allow.

Moving on to the current year, Rafa reported that profit was £19,000 behind last year, but £24,000 of this came from lower other income, including the loss of car park revenue, fewer Royal Thames Yacht Club events following their 250th anniversary year, and the loss-making events that have been stopped. Training income was £14,000 ahead of last year and Select membership ahead of both last year and budget. Costs had risen in largely uncontrollable areas, including rent, rates and security, along with a refresh of IT equipment, partly offset by savings elsewhere.

Rafa was confident that revenue would exceed £1 million again and meet budget, although he could not promise a winter profit. He expected the result to be much closer to break-even than last year, potentially a loss of around £15,000, still to be confirmed. He noted that equipment investment had been minimal this year and that the ramp would increase it, and that the Club needs to at least break

even to keep investing. He identified three priorities: a new revenue stream through coastal rowing, the ramp, and reversing the decline in standard membership outside the ILCA fleet, inviting members to share any ideas on the last.

The financial presentation concluded with an invitation for questions from members.

Questions from Members on the Accounts:

1. A member questioned whether rowing revenue was included in the forecast. Rafa confirmed that it was not, and that any income from rowing would be additional.
2. Online attendees asked whether the slides could be shared on Teams. Rafa explained this was not set up and possible during this meeting, but it would be noted for future.

Rafa acknowledged the essential support provided by the Club's bookkeeper, Valerie Cooper, and thanked Amersham Accountancy, noting that Martin Hunt had sent his apologies.

Resolution to Approve the Accounts

Rafa proposed that the AGM accepts the 2025–26 Annual Club Accounts of Queen Mary Reservoir Sailing Club Ltd, which had been reviewed by Tony Bishop, the Hon Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

The motion was seconded by Adam Jennings-Frisby and passed unanimously.

6. Appointment of Amersham Accountancy as Reporting Accountant

Rafa proposed that Amersham Accountancy be reappointed as Reporting Accountants.

The motion was seconded by David Bithell and passed unanimously.

Rafa then read a statement on behalf of the Commodore. It was with great sadness that the meeting learned that Gerald Cooper, one of the founding members of the club, had passed away the previous day. Gerald joined in 1973 with his young son and became a familiar and much-loved figure at the club, serving as 470 fleet captain from the 1980s until the late 1990s. He was the father of Paul Cooper, one of the club's ILCA sailors, and father-in-law to Valerie Cooper, the club bookkeeper, who was present. The meeting extended its heartfelt condolences to Valerie, Paul and the Cooper family.

Resuming the meeting, the Commodore thanked Rafa and observed that, while the club is a not-for-profit organisation, it needs to make some profit to reinvest in its assets and ambitions. He noted that the decline in dinghy sailing is being seen everywhere, but that the club's own trend is flat rather than down. He recounted that Olympian Mickey Beckett, coaching at the club the previous Saturday, had remarked that he loves coming to Queen Mary because it is always so busy.

7. Election of Officers

Adam listed the nominations and commented that all had been proposed and seconded prior to the meeting. He then proposed that, unless there were any objections, all nominees be elected in a single vote. All nominations were passed unanimously, and the new council was as follows:

Election of Officers:

- Adam Jennings-Frisby – Commodore
- David Bithell – Vice Commodore
- Paul Johnson – Rear Commodore
- Liz Pescod – Rear Commodore
- Rafa Matarazzo – Hon Treasurer

Election of Council Members

- Andy Goode
- Michael Pryer

Remaining on Council

- Tony Bishop – Club Secretary
- Griff Tanner – Council Member
- James Baxter – Council Member

The proposal to elect all Officers and Council members was carried unanimously.

The Commodore welcomed Andy Goode, who was unable to attend, as a new council member bringing fresh ideas, thanked Griff Tanner for an active first year, and thanked James Baxter, the previous Commodore, for continuing to provide challenge and ideas.

8. Presentation of the B&S Trophy

This trophy was donated by Bryan Willis, the club's first member, and Sue Willis, to be awarded to a volunteer member of the club who has made an outstanding contribution over one or more years. The recipient is encouraged to make at least one cup of tea from the pot, to connect with all the previous winners.

This year, we honour someone whose contribution to the club could easily be overlooked, precisely because of her calm but effective support for youth windsurfing at Queen Mary: Alison Stevens.

Alison is almost single-handedly responsible for the youth windsurfing racing programme at Queen Mary. She organises in-club events, takes the young sailors to external club-level events, and supports them through to international racing, as highlighted in the Commodore's Report. She does this so smoothly and effortlessly that she makes it look like an art.

This was highlighted when one young sailor gave just 13 hours' notice that they wanted to race at an event in Docklands. The message from their parent arrived at 6:30 in the evening, when the club was closed and Alison had her own son to get to the same event. Despite this, she secured a board, sail, wetsuit, harness, buoyancy aid, transport and entry to the event, all after hours, and made sure the young sailor did not miss out.

This typifies the many situations Alison handles without bothering anybody else. She is always willing to find a way to make things work, supports young sailors from their first steps through to national and international racing, and puts a phenomenal amount of effort into ensuring everyone feels supported, included and welcome in the windsurfing community at Queen Mary. She is a true ambassador for the club.

Alison, on behalf of everyone at Queen Mary Sailing Club, thank you. As Alison was not present, the trophy will be passed to her.

9. Any Other Business

Jackie Wand-Tetley asked whether, as the club diversifies into different craft, those activities should have more representation on the Sailing Committee. The Commodore agreed, noting that Council had learned from the development of keelboating that each new activity needs an enthusiastic member to lead it. Once the coastal rowing trial is established, the club will seek a rowing representative, supported by Griff Tanner's experience in rowing. Liz Pescod added that a windsurfing representative had previously been discussed, and it was hoped that the right person can be found. The point was noted and will be taken forward.

Ross was asked to repeat any questions raised online for the benefit of remote attendees. No further business was raised.

The Commodore thanked Rafa for presenting the Treasurer's Report and all members for their contributions and support throughout the year. He encouraged members to share ideas for growing standard membership with any member of Council, and declared the meeting closed at 21:18.

Voting members noted as attending:

Adam Jennings-Frisby

Adam Wickenden

Alex Lalic

Andrew Craig

Charles Wand-Tetley

Chris Simon

David Bithell

Griff Tanner

Harold Mativet

Jackie Wand-Tetley

Jacqueline Glomski

James Baxter

John Boyle

Jonathan Stirling

Josie Adams

Judith Spencer

Lesley Hunt

Liz Pescod

Lorne Whiteway

Michael Adams

Michael Pryer

Morgan Blackmore

Paul Johnson

Paul Schroeder

Rafael Matarazzo

Richard Lee

Richard Sherwin

Richard Steele

Roger Pescod

Rowan de Pomerai

Stephen Honeybourne

Steven Woodfield

Svyatoslav Kechyn

Non-Voting members noted as attending:

Staff team:

Tony Bishop

Ross Malloy

Samuel Walker

Matt Bulbeck

Liam Murphy

Valerie Cooper