

Minutes of AGM of Queen Mary Reservoir Sailing Club Limited

Held at the Clubhouse and on Teams, on 29th October 2025 at 20:00

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Tim Crook.

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 Andrew Craig and passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising

Two items were noted under Matters Arising: an update on the Ramp Project and the topic of Club Diversification. James indicated that both items would be addressed in his Commodore's Report.

4. Commodore's Report

The Commodore, James Baxter, presenting his report began by noting that this would be his final report as Commodore and offered a few words of reflection over the past three years. James went on to review some of the highlights of the past year and spoke about the future direction of the club. He reminded members that the club is a complex business listing the broad range of activities catering to many interests within the membership.

The Youth Windsurfing Team was particularly commended for their outstanding performances across local, national and international competitions. Many of the club's young windsurfers represented Queen Mary at the Techno 293 and IQFoil European and World Championships. The Techno 293 Worlds, held this year on home waters in Pwllheli, saw a strong Queen Mary contingent. Notable results included Milo finishing 14th in the 7.8m boys' fleet (1st GBR), Luke 24th in the 6.8m boys' fleet (1st GBR) and new member Ruby achieving an excellent 12th in the 6.8m girls' fleet (1st GBR).

At the Youth Windsurfing National Championships, the club fielded a slightly smaller team than in previous years, but with equally impressive results. Milo was crowned Techno 7.8m Boys National Champion, Ruby became Techno 7.8m Girls National Champion, Luke secured the Techno 6.8m Boys National title, and Will triumphed as IQFoil Boys 7m National Champion. The Commodore congratulated all four National Champions, describing their success as a testament to their dedication and the strength of the club's youth programme.

Turning to dinghy racing, the Commodore noted that Queen Mary had successfully hosted a wide range of open events throughout the year, welcoming fleets including Cadets, 420s, Merlin Rockets, Phantoms, Ospreys, RS200s, RS400s, RS700s, RS800s and the ever-popular ILCAs.

ILCA racing at Queen Mary continues to grow in strength, with Tony Woods overseeing as fleet captain and around 30 regularly racing on Sundays. The Commodore congratulated Aaron Evans on winning the Wednesday Evening Series.

Orlando Gledhill's performance at the ILCA Masters Europeans was highlighted, where he dominated a 57-boat fleet with six wins out of nine races. Fellow club sailors Louis Doreste and Mark Lyttle finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. Orlando went on to win both the Master's National and Inland Championships, leading every race from the start, though he was reminded that he only managed 2nd in the Queen Mary Autumn Series and 13th in the Spring, where he was beaten twice by the Commodore.

At the Inland Championships, Queen Mary sailors filled seven of the top eleven positions in a 42-boat ILCA 7 fleet, finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th and 11th. In the ILCA 6 fleet, Niall Peelo finished 5th and the Club Treasurer came 8th in a 33-boat fleet.

The Commodore congratulated all who represented Queen Mary at events throughout the UK and abroad during 2025, thanking them for their commitment and sportsmanship. Sincere thanks were also extended to the Race Officers, their assistants, the safety boat teams and the Club Office staff for their continued hard work in delivering world-class sailing week after week.

The Commodore noted that the club had enjoyed several visits from notable figures in the sailing world this year. Ellie Aldridge, Olympic kite-foiling gold medalist, presented prizes at the club, while Olympian Mickey Beckett contributed to coaching sessions. Rising SailGP star Kai Hockley gave an inspiring talk and there were professional coaching and demo days led by Toby Cunliffe (pro wing foiler) and Scotty Stallman (windsurfer). The club also hosted sailing royalty, Sir Ben Ainslie, accompanied by Rolex and GQ Magazine, all marking a memorable moment for Queen Mary members.

The Commodore reported the continued expansion of the keelboating programme. Upcoming events in the RS21s include the Clinigata, Women's Christmas Regatta, Commodore's Cup and Winter Championships, along with the RS21 Inlands. Keelboat membership is led by David Bithell who was recognised for his work and contribution.

Queen Mary's partnership with the Royal Thames Yacht Club was also highlighted, with a wide range of events hosted this year including in the BA Cup, Cornerstone Cup, RYA Match Racing Finals and Random Pairs events. The Commodore was pleased to report that he finished second in the Random Pairs, beating the RTYC Rear Commodore and earning a year's honorary RTYC membership.

The Commodore acknowledged the ongoing collaboration with Imperial College, the continued success of Sailability, and the enjoyment shared through the club's social and recreational ramble around the reservoir activity.

It was another successful year for Sailing School, with over 3,500 people taking part in courses and activities. The fine weather encouraged strong participation and enthusiasm for getting out on the water was high. A new VHF Short Range Radio Course was introduced and proved very popular, resulting in over twenty new qualifications being awarded.

The Commodore was also pleased to announce that the club has recently been appointed a Pathway Club, receiving recognition and support from the RYA. This was likened to a “Michelin Star”, acknowledging the club’s commitment to developing sailors from youth participation through to competitive racing.

The club’s charitable efforts continued to thrive. Queen Mary maintained its support for the St Vincent and the Grenadines Sailing Association sending a second container of sailing and windsurfing equipment. This initiative, known as the “Abandoned Boats - Change Lives” project, focuses on repurposing and extending the life of redundant sailing kit. World Sailing is expected to recognise this project at its upcoming winter conference.

The club’s Sailability programme also continued to make a positive impact, with the Drascombe luggers, Yeomans, and Hanse 303 boats being specially adapted to support inclusive sailing activities.

Looking to the future, the Commodore reported that £40,000 has been raised over the past two years for club development. Although progress has been slower than hoped, he reaffirmed his commitment to keeping this initiative on track and expressed his intention to support the incoming Commodore in continuing this work.

He also reported the acquisition of a new rescue boat, the Cap 400, which will strengthen on-water safety and support operations.

The Commodore spoke about the launching ramp project, one of his main objectives during his tenure. While not fully complete, significant progress has been made. The design and proposed location have been finalised for a single-sided ramp on the sheltered east side of the lake, intended as the first of two ramps. Once installed, it will greatly improve launching efficiency, particularly in challenging weather. The Commodore expressed hope that the ramp will be ready in time for the Bloody Mary event.

An area of concern was the continued decline in boat-owning dinghy members, a trend not unique to Queen Mary Sailing Club but also seen across other clubs and among boat builders, many of whom are now diversifying beyond dinghies. To address this and to help build membership and increase participation, the club will focus on two key activities: rowing and paddle sports. These paddle sports activities have the potential to help balance the Winter membership numbers.

Turning to acknowledgements, the Commodore extended his sincere thanks to a number of individuals and groups for their contributions to the club over the past year. He expressed appreciation to the staff team, particularly Tony, Ross, Caroline who was recognised for twenty-seven years of service to membership. Michelle, Liam, Paula and Jo in the office, as well as Jerome, Matt and Sam and all the instructors for their work on the water. He also thanked his fellow council members for their continued support and commitment.

A special note of thanks was given to Claire Cooks Surrey for organising the evening’s dinner and for providing excellent food service throughout the year. The Commodore went on to thank all the club’s volunteers, including those involved with Sailability, the Bloody Mary event, Race Officer teams, Simon Winkley Marine our

partner who offer wing lessons and boat repair services. The Queen Mary staff team, all of whom contribute to the club's operations and the safety of members on the water. Their dedication and generosity of time were acknowledged as fundamental to everything the club achieves.

The Commodore concluded his report by reiterating his gratitude to everyone who helps make Queen Mary Sailing Club the club it is.

5. Hon Treasurer's Report

The primary business was to approve the Club's Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025. The Treasurer Rafa Matarazzo presented a detailed review of the Club's financial performance for the year 2024–2025 and provided an update on the current trading year.

Using a number of slides, he outlined that trading during 2024–2025 had been challenging, citing several contributing factors. These included wider macro-economic conditions, particularly the continuing cost of living crisis, as well as a range of weather-related issues. Periods of both excessive wind and insufficient wind had adversely affected sailing activities, while severe weather overall had a notable impact on the training programme. Over 50 training courses had been cancelled due to poor conditions, affecting around 170 customers and resulting in an estimated 4% reduction in total sales. Rafa noted that 2024 had been the thirteenth wettest year in the UK since records began in 1836, marking it as one of the wettest years in over a century.

Further challenges included growing competition from local clubs, many of which have expanded their training offerings. Additionally, the Royal Thames Yacht Club had deferred several planned events to 2025, aligning them with their Club's 250th anniversary celebrations.

Despite these pressures, there were positive developments. Wingfoiling continued to show steady growth and now counts fifty members within the Club, thanking Chris Perry for his outstanding support. However, as mentioned earlier by James, there has been a continuing decline in sailing boat ownership, reflecting a wider trend in the sport.

Rafa went on to explain that costs had continued to rise during the year, largely due to the ongoing increases in the National Minimum Wage. However, these had been well managed and remained broadly in line with 2023. He noted that the Committee had taken a prudent approach to expenditure, ensuring that essential operations were maintained without compromising the quality of the Club's activities or facilities.

There had been some disappointing results in converting course participants into adult and youth memberships, but Rafa emphasised that valuable lessons had been learned from this experience. These insights were already being applied to improve engagement and conversion during 2025, with a renewed focus on member retention and follow-up after training courses.

He also highlighted a number of smaller, but collectively significant, factors that had affected the Club's finances. These included the cost of essential gate repairs, the cancellation of several RYA events, and the reduced running of the Club's Bloody Mary event, which operated at only half capacity due to zero wind and severe freezing conditions reaching minus six degrees.

Rafa concluded by confirming that the Club was reporting a loss for the 2024–2025 financial year, presenting the balance sheet and summarising the Club's net assets position for this challenging year.

Moving on to the current year, Rafa reported that trading had improved significantly, with the Club returning to profit and was on track at the half-year point. The club had made big gains in Select Sailing membership during the summer and though it was expecting to fall back during the winter. The Club's financial trajectory was encouraging, giving confidence for a positive year-end.

He attributed this turnaround to several strategic actions implemented since the start of the financial year. An Action Plan and Profit Review had been conducted, leading to the formation of a dedicated Membership Sub-Committee focused on attracting and retaining sailing members. This group has been examining new approaches to promotion and retention, with particular attention given to improving the onboarding process for new members to ensure they feel welcomed and engaged from the outset.

Rafa also explained that the Club had taken steps to strengthen its keelboat proposition, enhancing its appeal and ensuring it remains a central feature of Club activity. On the cost side, a review of staffing hours and greater flexibility in work arrangements had been introduced, both of which were already delivering positive results.

Using a series of slides, Rafa illustrated the tangible impact of these measures, showing a marked improvement in performance compared with the previous year.

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

Questions from Members on the Accounts:

1. Richard Henderson questioned how the club finances were compared to FY26 Budget. Rafa explained that profit was £15k adverse in H1, with £5k due to cost phasing.
2. Josie Adams questioned if the club was going to make a loss in the winter. Rafa assured the club could make an operating profit from its activities during the winter, provided it manages to retain its Select members and is successful in the Winter membership promotion. However, the H1 surplus position would reduce.

Rafa acknowledge the essential support provided by the Club's bookkeeper, Valerie Cooper, and extending my gratitude for her contributions.

He also expressed his appreciation to Amersham Accountancy for their assistance in preparing the accounts and providing independent oversight. Special thanks to Martin Hunt and to Helen Hadfield.

Resolution to Approve the Accounts

Rafa proposed that the AGM accepts the 2024-25 Annual Club Accounts of Queen Mary Reservoir Sailing Club Ltd and approves these for signature by the Commodore and Hon Treasurer, and by Martin Hunt (independent accountant of Amersham Accountancy)

The motion was seconded by David Bithell 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 James Baxter and passed unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

James 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

- James Baxter
- Griff Tanner

Remaining on Council

- Tony Bishop - Club Secretary
- Richard Henderson – Council Member
- Michael Pryer – Council Member

Standing down

- Chris Perry

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

At this point in the meeting Adam Jennings Frisby became the chair of the meeting. Adam, the newly appointed Commodore, began by expressing his thanks to James Baxter for his three years of leadership on the Council, during which he drove financial diligence and stability, developed the ramp project concept and advanced the club diversification agenda. Adam stated that he was delighted James had agreed to remain on the Council and noted that the club was pleased to present James with a small token of appreciation for his leadership and contribution over the past three years.

Adam then introduced himself to members, explaining that he joined QMSC four and a half years ago and became a Council member four years ago. In recent years, he has developed his personal sailing qualifications, becoming a Yachtmaster Offshore, Dinghy Instructor, Race Officer and Saturday Club Leader. He shared his enthusiasm for sailing ILCA's and Double Handers and expressed his intention to become more involved with the RS21 keelboats.

Looking ahead, Adam outlined his priorities for the club. He emphasised inclusion, aiming to ensure the club remains a welcoming environment for everyone, from beginners to Olympians, including youth, families and senior sailors. He highlighted the importance of creating clear pathways to guide members through the wide range of opportunities available on the water.

Adam also stressed the need to focus on member retention. He commended the club's recent success in attracting new members through Level 1 and 2 courses and emphasised the importance of integrating these members into the club for the long term. He added that existing members should continue to feel engaged and have opportunities to try new activities within the club.

He paid tribute to the club's dedicated volunteers, acknowledging that the club's operations, including Club Racing, Saturday Club, Sailability, Fleet Captains, Council and Sub-Committees, would not be possible without their efforts. He noted that volunteers work closely with the professional training centre staff to combine their strengths and that the club is always in need of additional skills to help drive it forward. Adam encouraged anyone with time and expertise to get in touch.

Adam went on to discuss diversification into adjacent activities that would reduce the club's exposure to weather risks while making use of its existing infrastructure. He mentioned the further development of the keelboat programme and the introduction of paddle sports, subject to successful pilot projects.

On funding, Adam emphasised the importance of securing grants, donations and gifts to enable investment in improved facilities and new innovations that will benefit all water sports members. He also underlined the need to continue leveraging the club's RYA Pathway status.

Regarding promotion, Adam committed to continuing the strong promotion of QMSC as the premier destination for year-round water sports in the South East and encouraged greater use of social media channels to reach wider audiences.

Finally, Adam highlighted the importance of maintaining good relationships with club partners, including Claire Cooks Surrey, Simon Winkley Marine and the Royal Thames Yacht Club, to ensure mutual benefits for members and partners alike.

In closing, Adam thanked the members once again for their trust in him and his fellow Council members as they lead QMSC through the coming year's challenges and opportunities.

Adam handed back to James Baxter to present the B&S trophy.

8. Presentation of the B&S Trophy

This trophy was donated by Bryan Willis, the club's first member, 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 dedication, leadership, and quiet determination have made a lasting impact on our club and community: Chris Perry.

Chris joined the Club Council five years ago and stepped into the role of Windsurfing Fleet Captain, right during the COVID pandemic, a time when the club needed steady hands and strong leadership. Chris was both.

He's helped to shape our safety strategies, ensuring that our members can enjoy the water with confidence. He played a key role in developing the onboarding process for new members, making it smoother, more welcoming, and more effective. Chris has been the glue of the windsurfing community, literally building it from the ground up.

For Windsurfers and Wing-foilers he created and has grown a WhatsApp group that now connects over 200 windsurfers and wingers, offering advice, encouragement, information and chat. He's been the go-to person for feedback and questions, always responding with clarity, and a genuine desire to help.

One of his most visible legacies is the transformation of the rigging area. From a rough gravel patch to a premier astroturf space with shelter. It's now a place that invites people in, it has a club buzz and reflects the pride we take in our facilities.

Thanks to Chris's tireless efforts, the number of people windsurfing and winging at the club has grown significantly. His work on activity programmes, talks, and demo days has brought energy, excitement, and new faces to our waters.

Chris, on behalf of everyone at Queen Mary Sailing Club, thank you. Your contribution has been outstanding, and your impact will be felt for years to come.

Please accept this BnS Trophy a small token of our immense gratitude.

9. Any Other Business

Paul Stainsby expressed his gratitude to the club for allowing him access to the club's boats during a period of low water levels and while the hoist was out of service and it was not possible to sail his Flying Fifteen keelboats. He enquired whether it would be possible to attach a longer wire to the winch, enabling boats to be lowered further into the water. The club agreed to take this suggestion forward and will review the current arrangements.

Maggie Fitcher offered her heartfelt thanks to the club for the support she has received, which has enabled her to continue sailing with the Saturday Club and in the club keelboats. She also praised the excellent work of Sailability, commending its efforts in helping people with disabilities experience the joy of being on the water.

The Commodore thanked everybody present and declared the meeting closed, at 21:15

Voting members noted as attending:

Adam Jennings-Frisby
Adam Wickenden
Allan Logan
Andrew Craig
Charles Wand-Tetley
Chris Perry
Chris Harris
David Bithell
Elizabeth Pescod
Gordon Davies
Iwan Drewett
Jackie Wand-Tetley
Jacqueline Glomski
James Baxter
Janet Hawkins
John Boyle
Josephine Adams
Julie Harrison
Maggie Futchter
Mark Owsianka
Michael Pryer
Mike Adams
Paul Stainsby
Paul Cooper
Paul Johnson
Rafael Matarazzo
Richard Steele
Richard Henderson
Roger Pescod
Steve Bell

Non-Voting members noted as attending:

Valerie Cooper

Guests:

Martin Hunt, Amersham Accountants

Staff team:

Tony Bishop
Henry Edwards
Samuel Walker
Liam Murphy