MINUTES SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
Thursday 29th October 2026. 7pm at the Clubhouse

Members Attending
Acting Commodore Grant Dow, Rear Commodore Andrew Holmes, Murray Cowdell, Past Commodore Wendy Luck, Kim Luck, Cath Hurley, Andrew Poulton, Brett Heath, Murray Erwin, Robina Smith, Anthony Garvey, Peter Langthorne, Martha Garkle, Fran Johnson, Darren Reid, Lou Irving, Marnie Irving, Michael Brice, John Mooney, Sheree Reynolds, Paul Wise, Betty Ryan, Tony Ryan, Claire Pritchard, Stephen Gray, Sue Leaper, Ron Davies, Past Commodore Paul Pascoe, Jennifer Pascoe, Patrick Purcell, Rod McKenna, Sean Hogan, Josh Stuchbery, Past Commodore Peter Demura, Brenton Smith, Terry Frankham, Brendan Dow, Peter Robson, Deborah Jonker, Clive Fraser, Peter Homann, Ross McDowell, Karen Johns, Leigh Betts, Ross Melville, Neil Sargeant, John Bertrand, Chad Humphrey, Nick McGuigan, Lindsay Cormie, David Hutchings, Keith Badger, Lyn Bingham, Past Commodore David Bingham, Past Commodore Paul Woodman, Tony Fenton, Bryan Drummond, David Hallam, Wayne Moulton, Peter Stubbings, Grant Dunoon, Peter Gebhardt, Peter Johns, Chris Cormack, Ben Durrant, Peter Austin, James Betts,

Apologies
Charles Stanton, Niesje Hees, Susie Strain, Peter Strain, Steven Reynolds, Mary-Alice Tedstone, Peter Coleman, Jan Fergusson, Glenn Fergusson, Glenn Norton, Charles Stanton, Tim Roberts-Thomson, Steven Maude, Christopher Wellman, Bronwyn McIlveen, Paul Jackson, Mandy Jackson, Gordon Buchan, Andrew McCallum, Jim Leckey, Paul Jenkins, David Jonker

Opening of Meeting

Acting Commodore Grant Dow welcomed members and opened the meeting with wishing Past Commodore Wendy Luck a very Happy Birthday. It was confirmed that a quorum of Members was present.

This Special General Meeting has been called Pursuant to Rule 30(2) by the General Committee to deal with an error in the way the September General Committee election results were calculated and then reported. This is being done in accordance with Rule 33(3). He read the applicable rule.

"Any irregularity in any appointment or election of or any act or thing done by the Committee or any Member of the Committee shall be rendered regular if a General Meeting or Special General Meeting of Members of the Club under these Rules resolves that such appointment, act or thing be approved."

The following points were noted:

- The returning officer, in attendance, will be Nick Kyriazis Director Ashford Audit & Assurance who will present his findings report.
- Based on his report we are confident that the votes are correctly recorded, and the tally of votes can be announced.
- With the agreement of the two General Committee candidates who were tied in their number of votes, that in accordance with the Model Rules, rule 54(11), we resolved the tie for this sixth appointment. Yesterday, this was resolved via a toss of coin, resulting in the election of Keith Badger who will make up the final place on the committee, subject to the motion passing. A written record of this has been posted to the website portal for members to view.
- The third item on the agenda will not be needed as I have confirmation that each of the elected officers of the club wishes to accept their appointment.
- The fourth item, a Notice that will result in some changes to our voting processes being recommended and adopted. This will be presented at the half-year meeting, led by former Commodore, Paul Pascoe.

- The error was a human error made when setting up the voting methodology for online voting. We had successfully used the voting platform before. The difference in this election was how it was configured compared to prior elections. In hindsight, some additional trialing should have taken place to confirm the changes would deliver the correct outcome.
- The chronology for discovering the error was an initial verbal, then written query of the result by a member, following which there was a review by the club. This included direct contact with the voting platform provider in the USA. Initially, all who had reviewed the system set-up and election report thought it was a correct outcome.
- However, further analysis of the data by former Commodore Paul Pascoe discovered the error, who then advised the Committee. Within a few days of the error being identified, a General Committee meeting was convened, the Commodore stepped down, and an interim committee was put in place. We then engaged our auditors to complete a review and report their findings.
- Item 4 of the agenda addresses our going review and improvement in how we use the system. I think it's important to say that electronic voting resulted in a much larger number of voting members, which I believe is a significant benefit to good governance. Notwithstanding this misstep, it is a genuine benefit to our election process.

Are there any questions – No questions were received.

Acting Commodore then made the following observations:

- The recent process clearly illustrates the passion that members have for this club.
- For those looking for a villain in the 2026 General Committee election, I can assure you, there isn't one. This was a conflation of honest actions and decisions, not a single act or omission. Suffice to say, the lessons have been learned and now properly documented for future elections, with some further change to be made.
- Going forward, I believe the biggest challenge for this year's General Committee is to close the fracture created through this election process and to work as a team, constructively. I am personally looking forward to that.
- As you can plainly see, the election result for Commodore was very close, but the outcome is clear, so we all need to support the new Commodore and Committee and allow them to govern the club for the benefit of us all. Judge us by our deeds.
- Finally, I want to acknowledge those members who were not successful in the General Committee election. To engage as positively as they did and then be asked to stand-down due to the counting error, hurts. Those members stood down with good grace and integrity.
- I would note this error, while not welcome, demonstrates how good governance works, in allowing enquiry, transparency and review, demonstrating that our club rules do work in challenging circumstances.
- Before we turn to the motion, I want to mention an important security matter. On the weekend, and several weekends prior, we have had trespassers on the marina after hours – a police report was made this week. Can I please ask you to ensure the gate is closed after you enter, and to report any odd behaviour. It's a precious asset and we need to be vigilant.

Returning officer Nick Kyriazis presented his report – previously made available on the Members portal.

There were no questions.

Acting Commodore Grand Dow put the motion to the members, for their consideration. Importantly, this is a motion to correct the error made, not a vote for or against those who have been elected. In short, it ratifies the will of the members expressed in the election.

"That pursuant to Rule 33(3) Correction of acts, omissions or irregularities.
The members accept the independent auditors report to the 2026 Election results for the Commodore, Treasurer and Committee Election and that the Committee identified in the report be declared as the Royal Brighton Yacht Club Committee for season 2026/2027."

The motion was Proposed by Grant Dow, seconded by Murray Cowdell and carried unanimously

The Committee was announced:

Committee 2026/2027

Commodore	Mark Buckley
Vice Commodore	Grant Dow
Rear Commodore	Andrew Holmes
Club Captain	Paul Jackson
Honorary Treasurer	Ross Melville
Committee	Keith Badger
	Marnie Irving
	Steven Reynolds
	Neil Sargeant
	Josh Stuchbery
	Mark Woodland

Past Commodore Paul Pascoe was asked to table his Notice of Motion
Under Section 76 of the Club Rules, Paul Pascoe gave notice to propose an alteration to the Club Rules at the Half Yearly Meeting.

There will be three proposed alterations:
1) An addition to Section 4, Definitions, to define the term "Officer" to include both Flag Officers and the Treasurer
2) Changes to Section 53 points 2 & 3, Ballot. To simplify the voting process so that both paper and electronic voting can be done as first past the post removing the need for any manual interpretation of ballot results.
3) Provision for the situation of a tied ballot, with changes to be in line with the Consumer Affairs Model Rules

Commodore Mark Buckley was presented with his burgee; he spoke briefly about the club moving forward together.

Meeting Closed 7:28pm

Philip Hall
Secretary/Manager

Grant Dow
Chair

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