Royal Brighton Yacht Club
The Sailors' Club

14th October 2026

Dear Members

2026 Committee election – Correction of Results

I am writing to advise that, following a post-election review of the 2026 General Committee election, an error has been identified in the tallying of votes produced by the Club's electronic voting platform.

Importantly, all votes cast by members were accurately recorded by the system, and all postal votes were correctly recorded and counted. The issue arose solely from the configuration of the platform's results reporting process. Under Rule 53(2) of the RBYC Rules, each General Committee ballot must be counted as "a vote for the six candidates given the numbers one to six". The election report was not configured in accordance with this requirement. The same issue also affected the ballot counts for the contested positions of Commodore and Honorary Treasurer. Consequently, the results declared at the September 2026 Annual General Meeting for those positions determined by ballot did not accurately reflect the votes cast by members.

Following a request to publish the detailed election results, Commodore Cath Hurley and Secretary Phillip Hall requested that Past Commodore Paul Pascoe undertake an independent review of the matter. This review, which included an assessment by the provider of the electronic voting platform, identified the specific cause of the discrepancy. The findings confirmed that the issue resulted from a technical configuration error. There is no suggestion of misconduct or wrongdoing by any candidate, volunteer or member of staff.

As a consequence, the positions determined by ballot, namely Commodore, Honorary Treasurer and the six elected General Committee positions, must be declared vacant and the Committee for 2026-27 correctly constituted in accordance with the election outcome. The positions of Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore and Club Captain were elected unopposed and are therefore unaffected by this matter.

The General Committee met on Monday, 12 October 2026, to consider the issue and unanimously resolved that a Special General Meeting be convened on Thursday, 29 October 2026, for the purpose of rectifying the situation and giving effect to the will of the membership as expressed through the election process. Prior to the meeting, members will be provided with a detailed explanation of the issue, the corrected election results, and a letter from the Club's independent auditors confirming the outcome.

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To ensure continuity of governance pending the Special General Meeting, the current Committee has been replaced by an interim Caretaker Committee comprising Acting Commodore Grant Dow, Rear Commodore Andy Holmes, Club Captain Paul Jackson, Acting Treasurer Brett Heath, and General Committee members Keith Badger and Simon Lynch. This Caretaker Committee will be responsible for the oversight of the Club's ordinary affairs until the matter is resolved by members.

On behalf of the Club, I sincerely apologise to members and all election candidates for the uncertainty, concern and upset this situation has caused.

I encourage all eligible members to attend the Special General Meeting, ask questions and participate in the process.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Dow
Acting Commodore