



RAYC Annual General Meeting 2026

Minutes of AGM held at the RA Mess Larkhill on Friday 13th March 2026_{v1}

Item 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks / List of Attendees (AGM report slide 4)

The Admiral and Commodore welcomed 34 members to the meeting (27 in person and 7 joining online via TEAMS). The full list of attendees/apologies is on slide 4 of the AGM report. The committee paid respects to Mike Rowlandson and Tudor Phillips, two former members who have passed away since our last AGM.

Item 2. Approval of AGM Minutes Friday 17th March 2025 (AGM report slide 5)

The minutes of AGM 17th March 2025 were reviewed and approved by the meeting.

Item 3. Appointment of New Flag Officers (AGM report slide 6)

The meeting approved appointments of Nat Webber (Commodore), Jean-Sebastien Cormier (Vice Commodore), and AJ Layden (RC OS) as new Flag Officers. The full committee list is on AGM report slide 6.

Item 4. Commodore's Report (AGM report 7-17)

Our new Commodore thanked our outgoing Commodore, Antony Neylan, for his stewardship of the Club. He then reiterated the objectives of the Club (AGM report slide 8), with a review of the Club's activities across the different dimensions of the Club over the past season, including a summary of our forthcoming adventure training plans that will take St Barbara V to the Mediterranean (see AGM report slide 10). He highlighted the importance of the Club's governance and thanked 114 members who took part in the annual membership survey, including the clear direction it provided on our hull replacement plans. The full report is on slides 11-17 of the AGM report.

Item 5. Honorary Treasurer's Report (AGM report pages 18-22)

The 2025 annual accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting. A summary of the accounts, together with a financial analysis of our two offshore boats, is in the AGM report. A copy of the full accounts is available in the documents section of our website at www.gunnersailing.com. The Treasurer, Major Colin Walsh, announced that after 10 years' service, he would be standing down from the post from 1st November 2026. The Admiral and Commodore commended the excellent work that Colin has given to the Club in carefully managing and strengthening the Club's finances.

Item 6. Membership Survey Results (AGM report 23-33)

The Club Secretary provided a brief overview of the results from the online membership survey that was run from 14th November to 1st December 2025, with a response from 114 members. The results highlight very high levels of satisfaction among our membership, along with excellent feedback on how the Club can progress. See more details in the AGM report, slides 22-33 or visit www.gunnersailing.com

Item 7. Hull Replacement Plan (AGM report 34-39)

Lt Colonel James Boutle gave an excellent presentation outlining the hull replacement plans for St Barbara V, including a potential range of pre-owned boats that could meet four key hull replacement criteria: 1) rated cat 1 and 2 with ability to deliver AT for a crew of 8/9 soldiers in UK and European waters (including passages to the Canary Islands); 2) a boat that would be easy to sail / charter for members; 3) that had the ability to be used for racing, although not an "out and out racer"; 4) financially viable and delivered a strong return on investment. Following a good and open discussion (see comments on slide 39 of the AGM report), the meeting unanimously supported two motions proposed by the Commodore: 1) for the committee to proceed with plans to replace St Barbara V against criteria and potential replacement requirements outlined in Jame's Boutle's presentation; 2) for the committee to progress at "good speed" with the plans, including a potential purchase, if the right boat was available, in the next 3-6 months (with a plan to sell St Barbara from September 2026 after she returns from AT Mediterranean Ubique).

Item 8. ASA and RA Sports Board Updates (AGM report 40-43)

We were delighted to welcome Major (ret'd) Mike Dicker (Secretary of the ASA) and Lt Colonel (ret'd) Joe Howe from the RA Sports Board to the meeting. Mike Dicker highlighted that the ASA's priority was to focus on increasing soldiers' participation in sailing. He confirmed that the ASA would continue to support our hull replacement plans. Joe Lowe provided an overview to the RA Sports Board's objectives and strategies (AGM report slides 41-43) with its focus on delivering a sustained growth in the number of soldiers actively involved in RA-recognised competitive sports.

Item 9. Any Other Business and Future Dates (AGM report 44-45)

- Jean-Sebastien Cormier updated the meeting on the Club's plans to introduce a Club WhatsApp Community to provide an alternative way of reaching members, especially younger soldiers. The approach was welcomed by the members attending the meeting.
- Jon McCleery (the outgoing RC Offshore) suggested that the Club should look to enter the 2026 ASA offshore regatta, even if it was with Bombardier 3.

Item 10. AGM Awards (AGM report 46-49)

The AGM was completed with the Admiral and Commodore making awards listed on slides 48 and 49 of the AGM report. The Admiral concluded the awards with a special mention of thanks to Colin Walsh for his work and stewardship as the Club's Treasurer.

Item 11. AGM 2027 and Force Atlantic (AGM report 50)

The proposed date for the 2027 AGM is Friday, 12th March at the RA Mess, Larkhill. The meeting concluded with an excellent presentation from the crew of Force Atlantic, and a delicious curry supper.

AGM Follow Ups / Key Actions

1. Secretary to share AGM meeting reports and minutes.
2. Secretary to update website with AGM report and photos.
3. Committee to make good speed to progress with plans to replace St Barabra V.
4. For RC(OS) to review the potential of entering a RAYC boat in the 2026 ASA offshore regatta.
5. Committee to progress all other plans for 2026 outlined in the Commodore's report.