



# Royal Artillery Yacht Club

Annual Membership  
Survey 2025

Results based on a response from  
114 members 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Michael Simpson  
RAYC Honorary Secretary



# Survey Overview

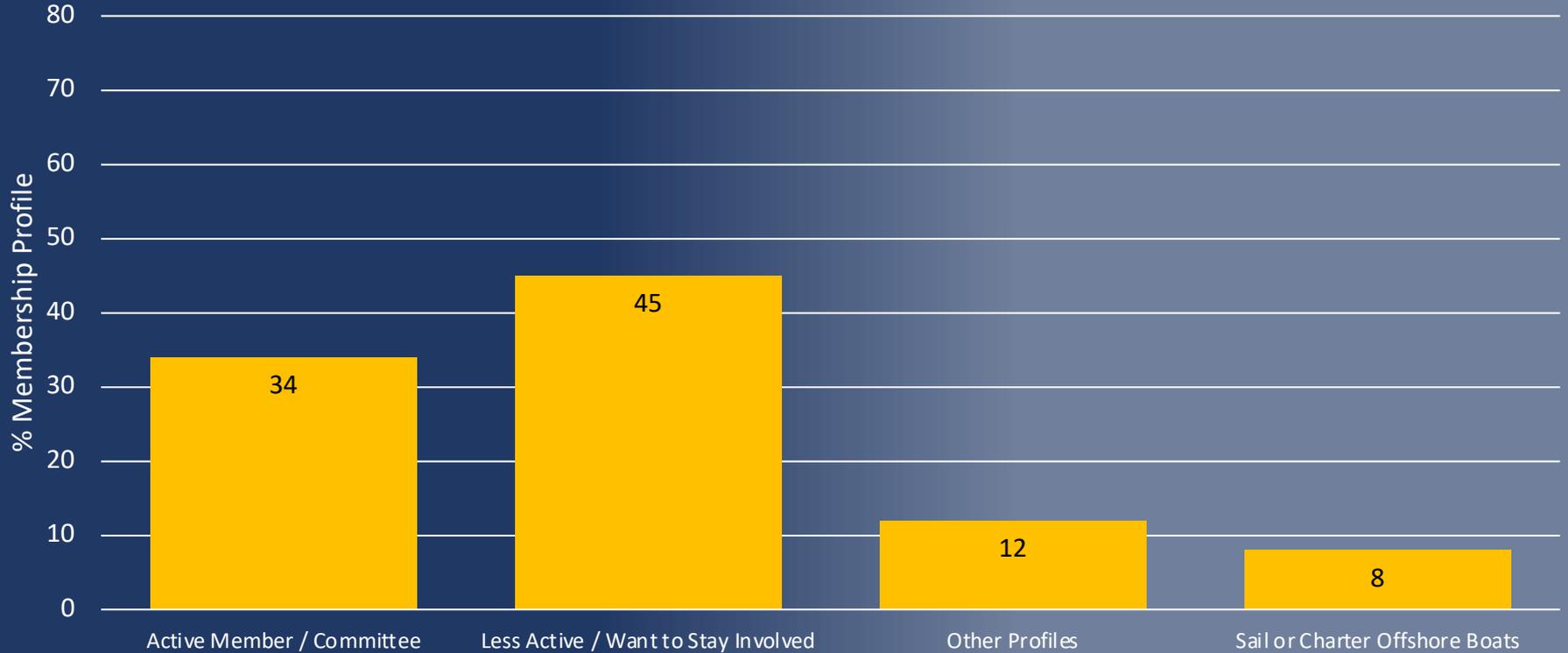
- The online survey was run with members from 14<sup>th</sup> November to the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025.
- Members were sent three emails with details of the survey, together with postings on Face Book and the website.
- A total response from 114 members / 23% of all 493 Active Members. A "solid response" versus a 15-25% response rate for a typical sports club survey.
- 96% of respondents were male with 63% aged over 56 and 68% retired from regular or reserve service.



# Survey Voting Profile



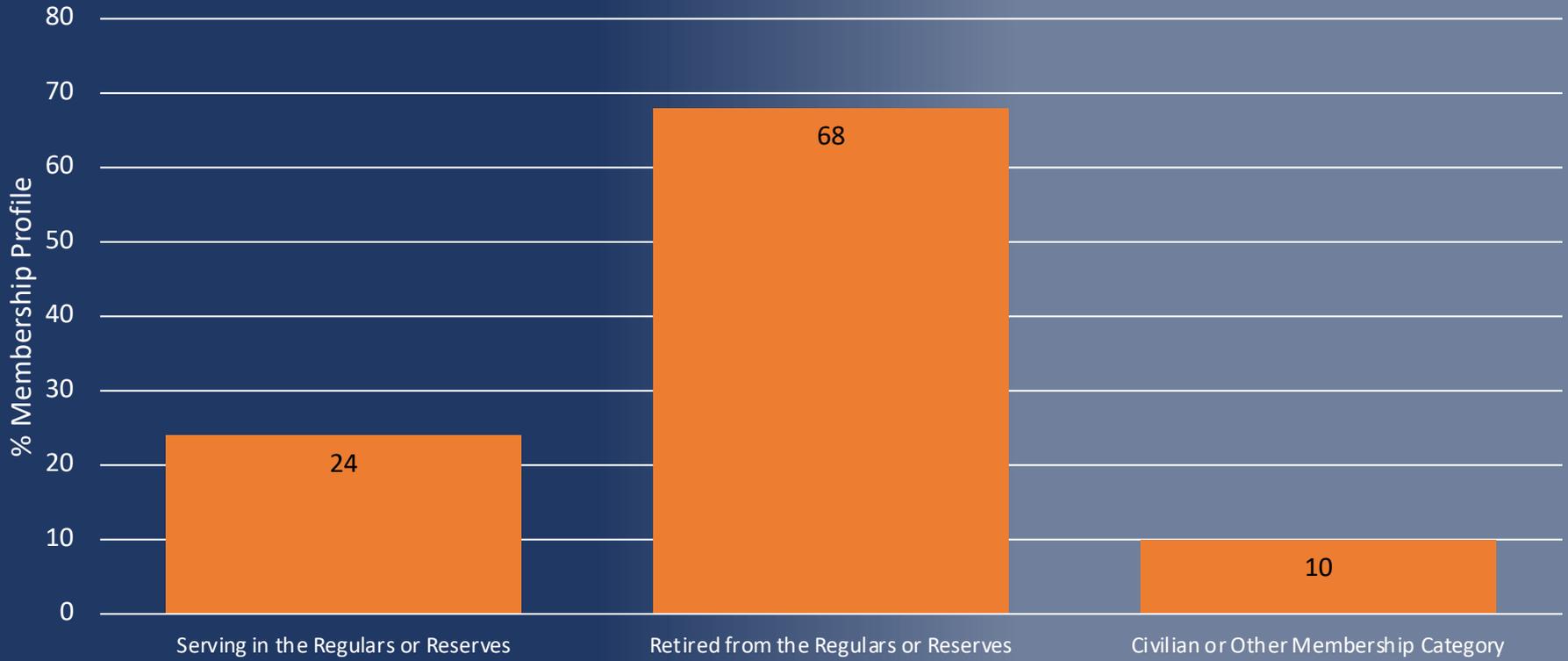
*Over 40% of the respondents are 'active members' or charter our boats.*



# Survey Voting Profile



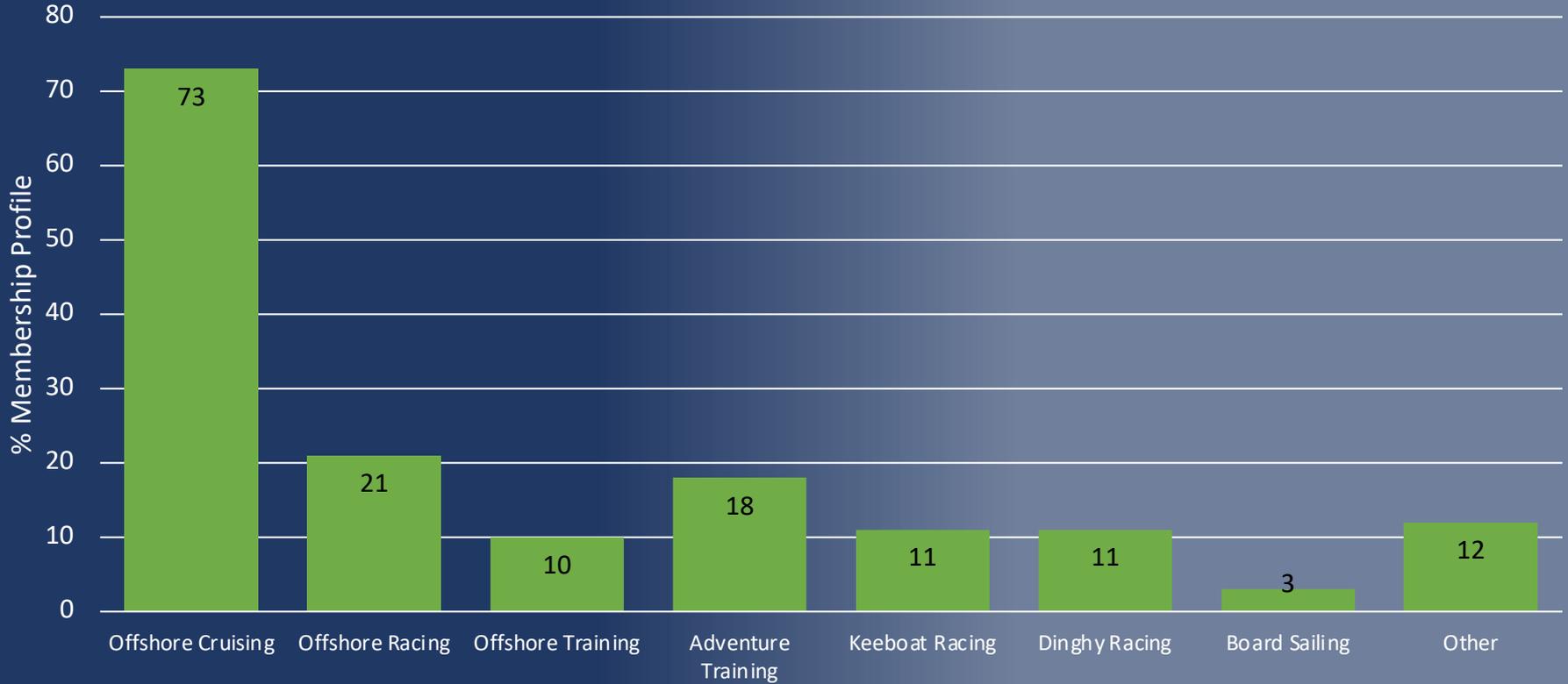
*The majority of survey respondents were retired regulars or reservists.*



# Survey Voting Profile



*Offshore Cruising was the most popular type of sailing by the respondents.*



# Membership Satisfaction

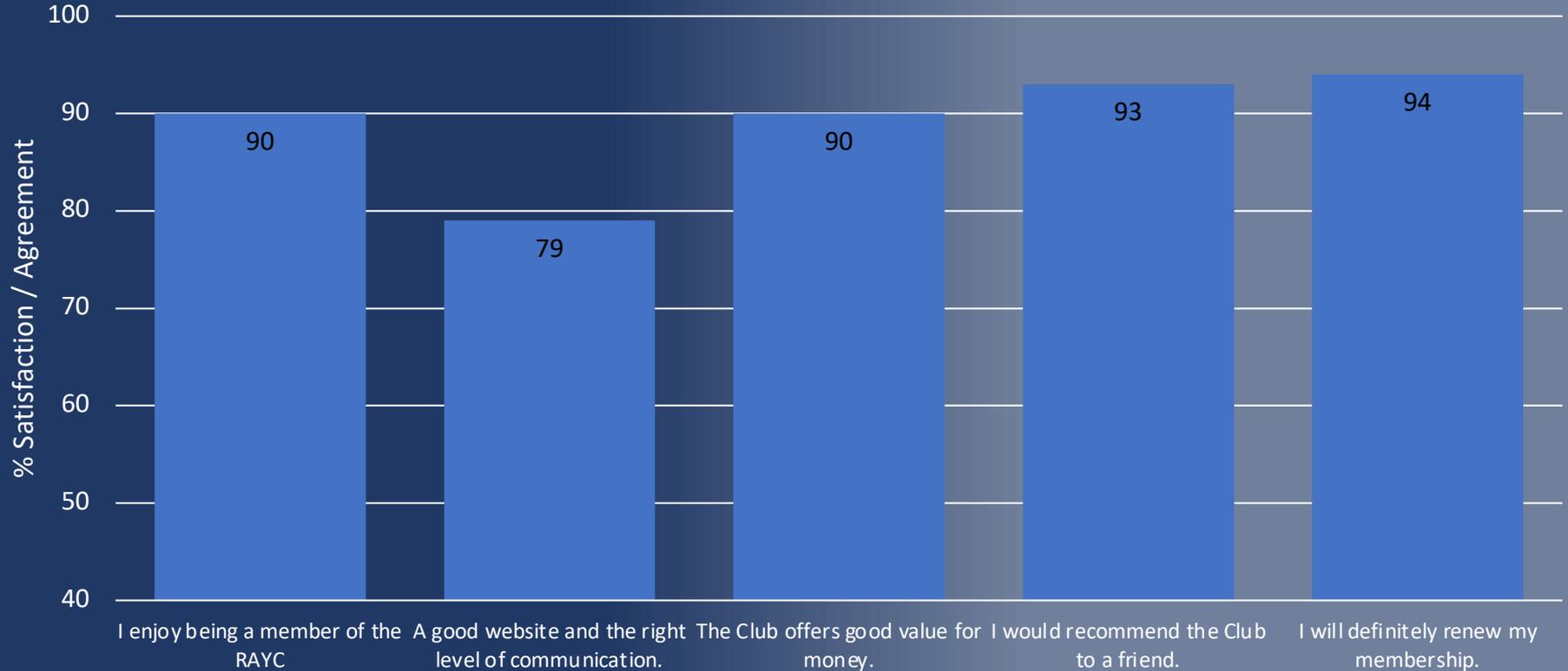
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# Membership Satisfaction



*Core satisfaction levels are high, with 90% enjoying being members of the Club.*



# Summary of Membership Likes

1. Opportunities to sail across offshore, inshore, training, racing, and AT.
2. Camaraderie, community spirit, and ties to the Gunner family.
3. Access to well-maintained boats, equipment and Thorney Island facilities.
4. Support for young soldiers developing skills, confidence, and leadership.
5. Professional, friendly, and a well-led and well-organised club.



*All Summary based on detailed comments from 86 members.*

# Summary of Membership Likes

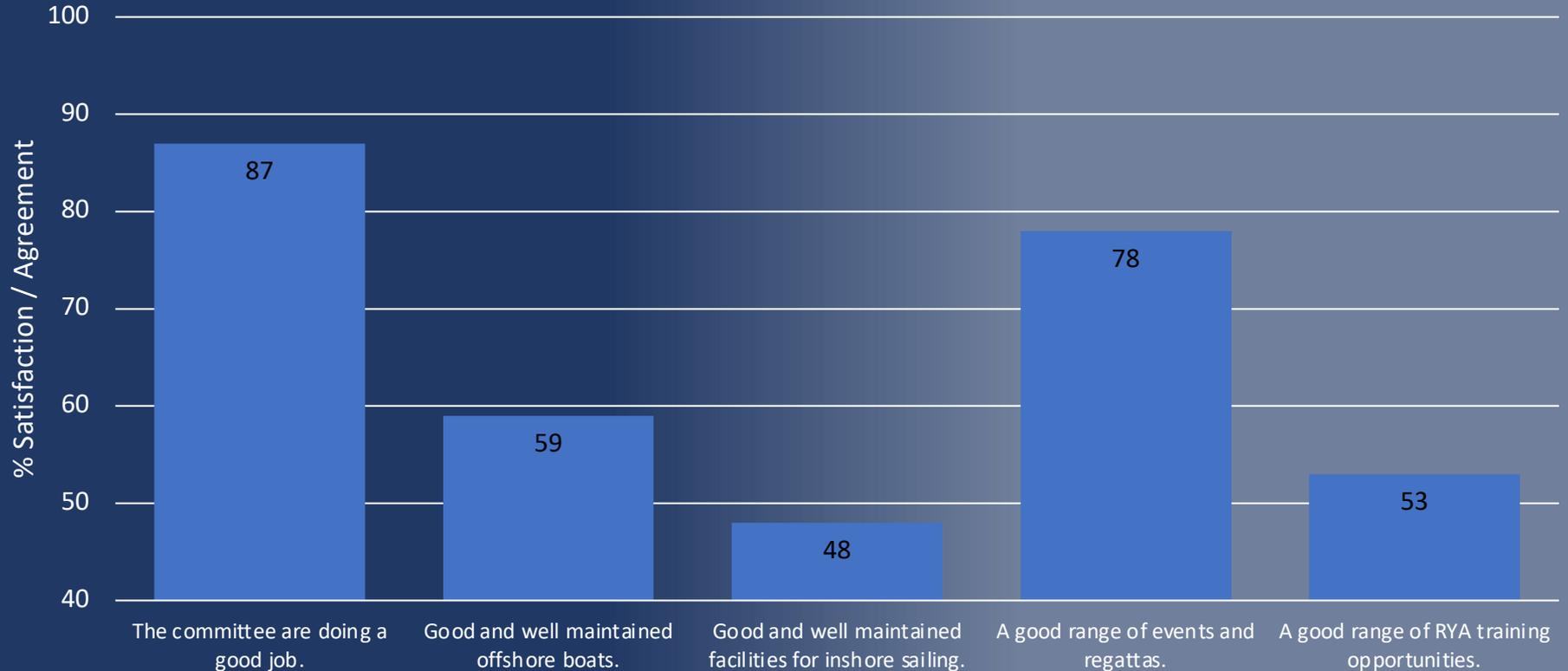
6. Proud heritage, history, and long-standing identity.
7. Good value for money versus civilian sailing clubs.
8. Popular social events and regattas (Offshore, Seaview, Yarmouth).
9. Inclusive and welcoming to all ranks, families, and veterans.
10. Charter opportunities and good yacht availability.



*AI Summary based on detailed comments from 86 members.*

# Membership Satisfaction

*Other satisfaction questions indicate some areas for improvement, although low awareness of inshore facilities at Thorney may account for the relatively low score.*



# Summary of Improvement Ideas

1. Improve yacht maintenance; accelerate replacement of St Barbara.
2. Strengthen communications: newsletters, website, event visibility.
3. Increase youth & junior rank involvement; rebuild grassroots sailing.
4. Improve regatta organisation; boost participation (dinghy & offshore).
5. Expand training access: RYA, qualifications, refresher courses.



*All Summary based on detailed comments from 78 members.*

# Summary of Improvement Ideas

6. Make events more inclusive: crew-matching, socials, and onboarding.
7. Support serving regiments better; develop DS/YM pathways.
8. Upgrade booking systems; improve administrative responsiveness.
9. Grow partnerships: regimental YCs, commercial links, reciprocal clubs.
10. Modernise fleet and broaden sailing opportunities (Baltic/Med options).



*All Summary based on detailed comments from 78 members.*

# St Barbara v Feedback

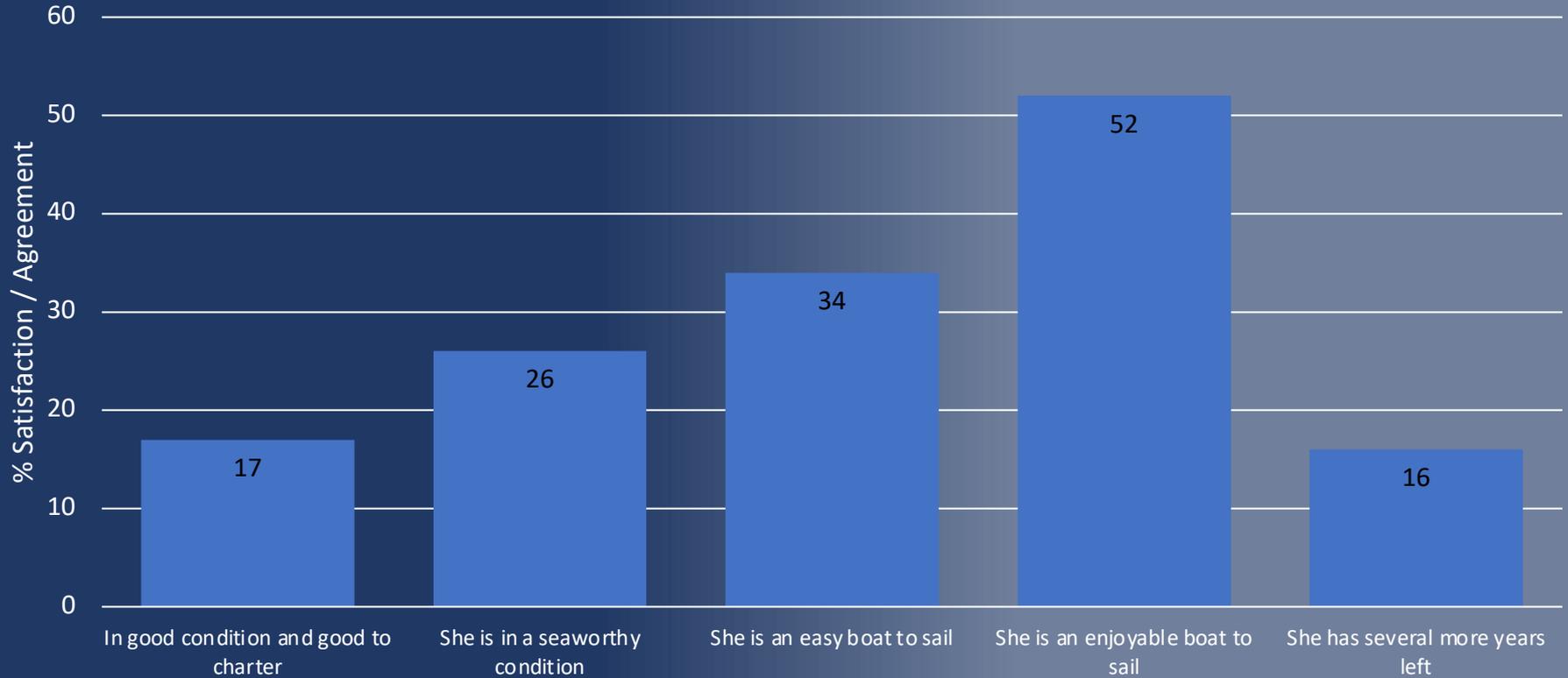
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# St Barabara Feedback



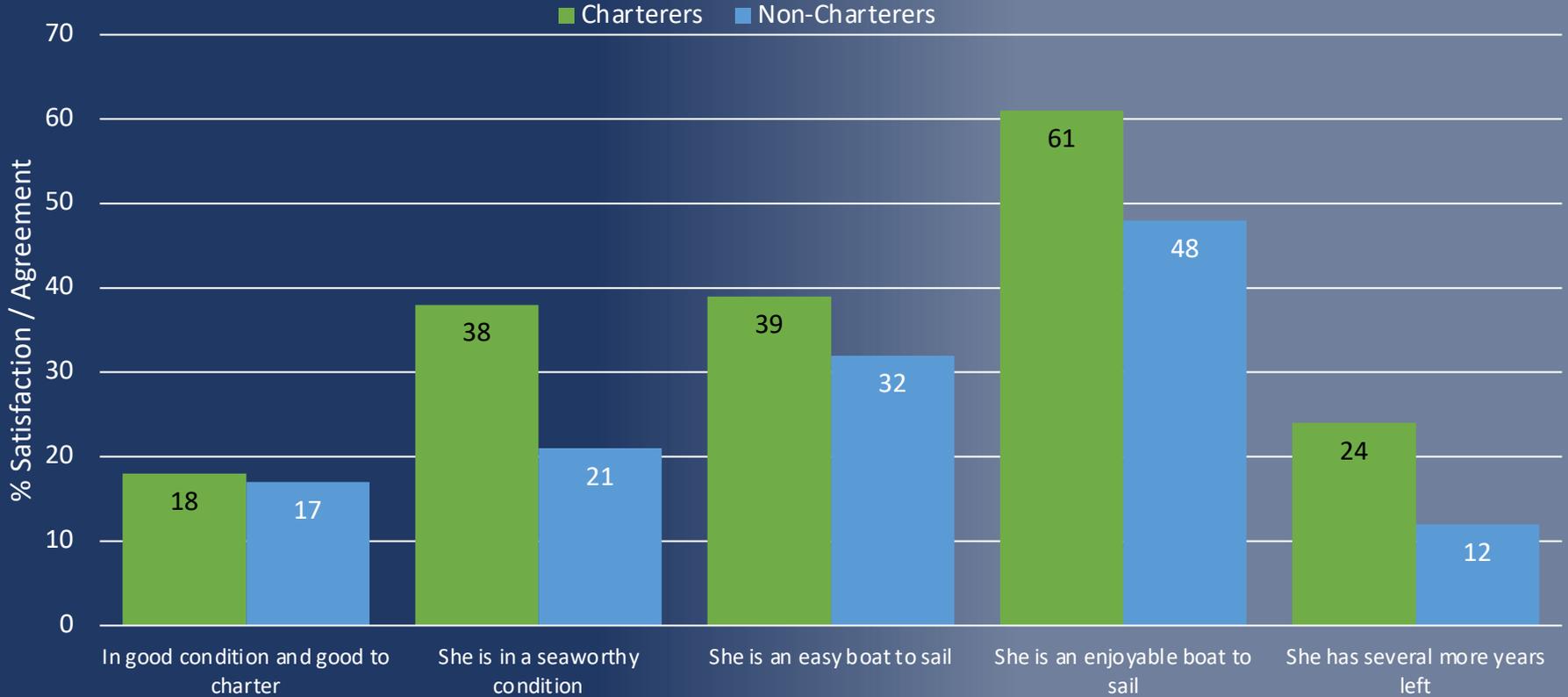
*Feedback supports our plans to replace St Barbara in the next 12-18 months*



# St Barabara Feedback



*Broadly consistent feedback from 39 boat charterers versus 75 "non-charterers"*



# StBV Replacement Criteria

Criteria	Not Required	Desirable	Essential
1. Cat 0 - unrestricted service (worldwide operation).	24%	56%	20%
2. Cat 1 - up to 150 miles from a safe haven.	3%	28%	69%
3. Cat 2 - up to 60 miles from a safe haven.	6%	10%	84%
4. Suitable for RYA training, e.g. Yacht Master.	3%	26%	71%
5. Suitable for Offshore Adventure Training.	2%	13%	85%
6. Suitable for racing.	19%	68%	13%
7. A suitable and easy boat to sail for family charters.	4%	56%	39%

# Summary of ALL Comments

1. Respected for long-range AT – robust, proven on ocean passages.
2. Enjoyed by experienced users, but limited for modern use. The majority feel she has limited years left.
3. Most agree she is seaworthy, but old and tired. She is not considered in good condition. She is “aged, weary, beyond economic recovery”.
4. Aesthetic and functional decline are repeatedly mentioned. Missing features (e.g., autohelm) reduce usability. Many call for replacement rather than ongoing refits.
5. Although many say they were unable to comment due to not sailing her recently.

*All Summary based on detailed comments from 37 members.*



# Bombardier 3 Feedback

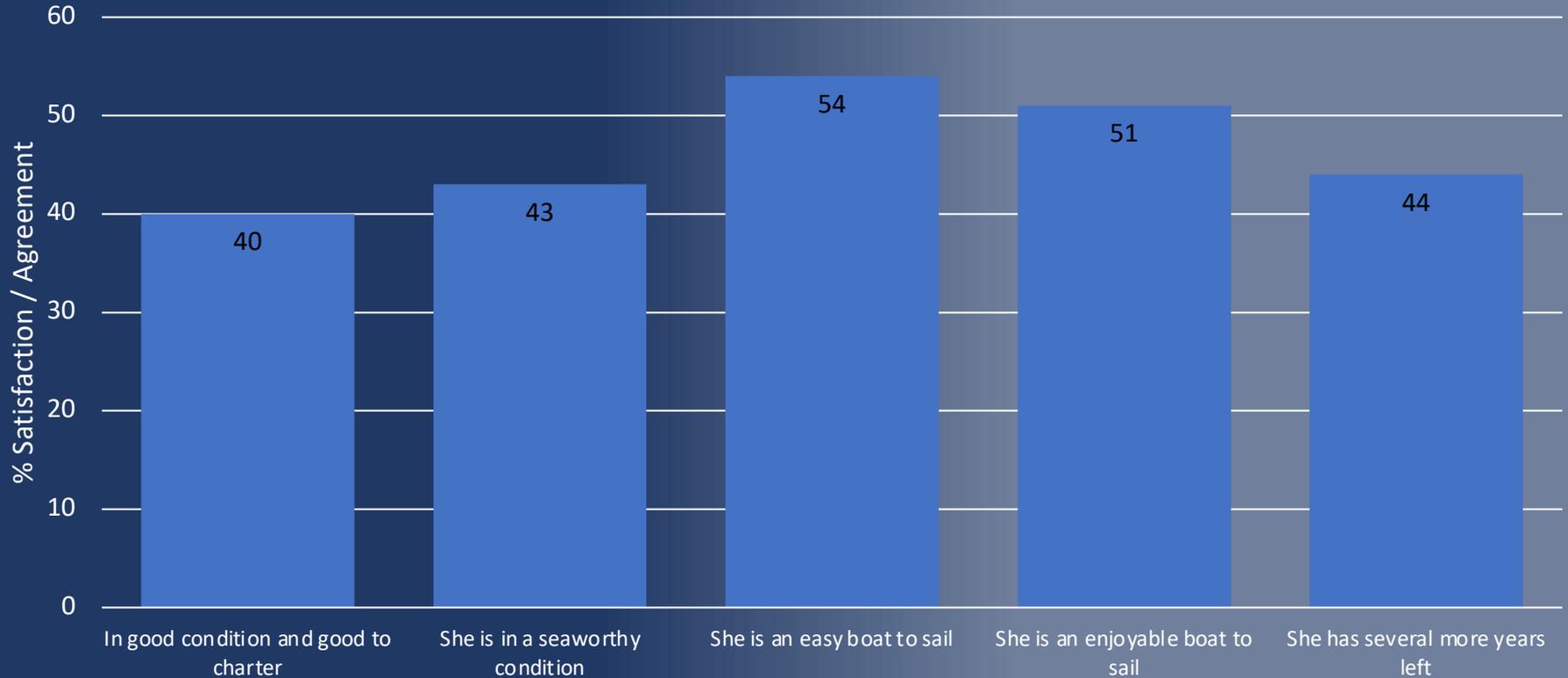
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# Bombardier 3 Feedback



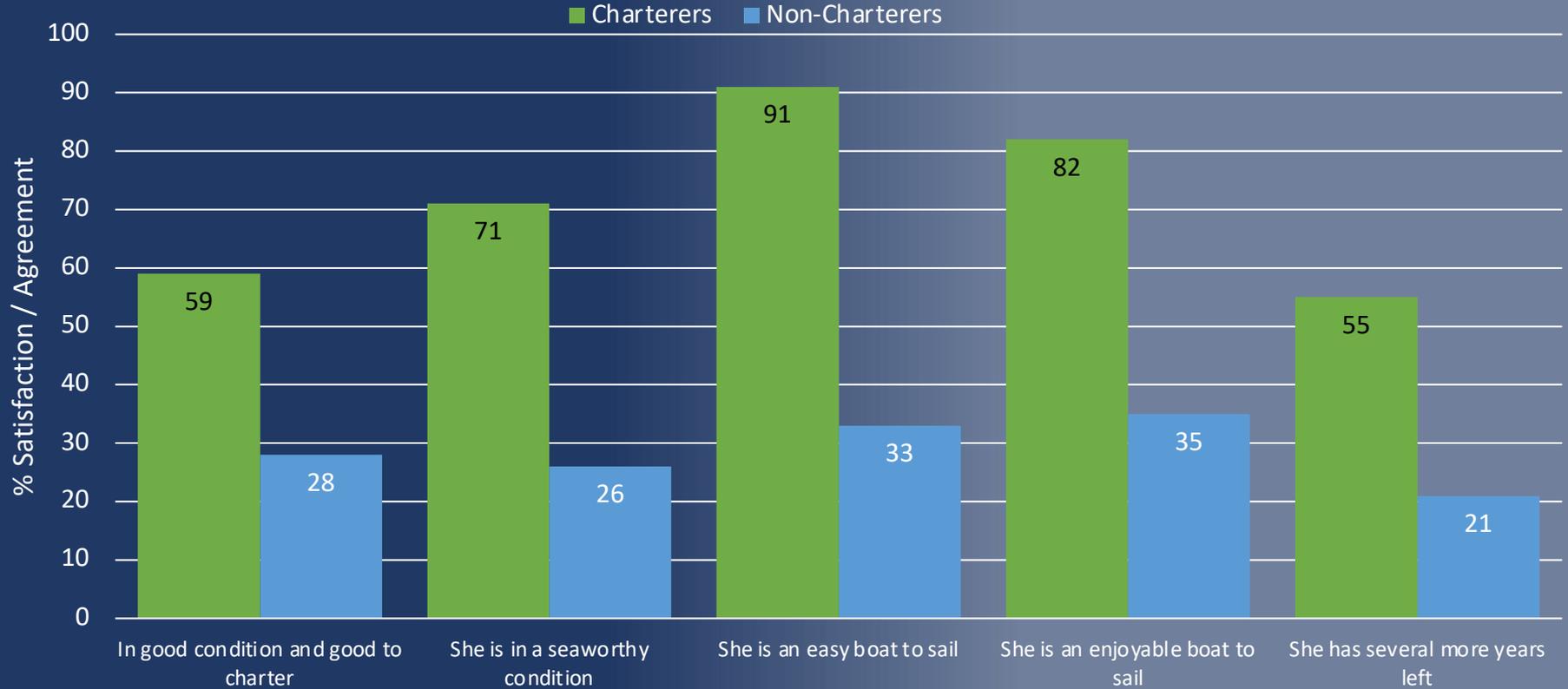
*Feedback supports plans to delay the immediate replacement of Bombardier 3*



# Bombardier 3 Feedback



*Much more positive feedback from 39 survey respondents who have chartered our boats*



# Bdr3 Replacement Criteria

Criteria	Not Required	Desirable	Essential
1. Cat 0 - unrestricted service (worldwide operation).	72%	26%	2%
2. Cat 1 - up to 150 miles from a safe haven.	21%	57%	21%
3. Cat 2 - up to 60 miles from a safe haven.	6%	14%	80%
4. Suitable for RYA training, e.g. Yacht Master.	2%	17%	81%
5. Suitable for Offshore Adventure Training.	4%	38%	58%
6. Suitable for racing.	17%	56%	27%
7. A suitable and easy boat to sail for family charters.	2%	33%	65%

# Summary of ALL Comments

1. Generally seen as seaworthy and reliable. Many find her easy and enjoyable to sail, but increasingly 'basic' or 'tired'.
2. Mixed views on overall condition – some report poor maintenance.
3. The majority feel she has several years of life remaining.
4. Lack of autopilot limits usability. Having a tiller is noted as a drawback by some.
5. Some suggest replacement due to limited competitive capability.



*All Summary based on detailed comments from 31 members.*

# Other Ideas and Comments

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# Other Ideas and Comments

1. Maintain and upgrade yachts; ensure high maintenance standards.
2. Continue annual expeditions (Med/Canaries/Baltic) for AT & engagement.
3. More club weekends to involve less experienced members.
4. Balance boat design: serving soldiers' needs over racing focus.
5. Address charter fee concerns for multi-cap badge units.
6. Create RAYC WhatsApp/crew-finder tools.
7. Explore partnerships with commercial charter organisations.



*AI Summary based on detailed comments from 31 members.*

# Other Ideas and Comments

8. Raise awareness: videos, storytelling, highlighting AT benefits.
9. Build clear pathways: first sail → offshore qualification.
10. Consider a powerboat for PB2 training and revenue.
11. Prioritise serving regiment for new boat requirements.
12. Improve associate membership simplicity.
13. Unlock fundraising: tight team + external advisers.
14. Maintain two-yacht model; ensure long-term sustainability.
15. Members offer to help—strong appetite for volunteering.



*AI Summary based on detailed comments from 31 members.*