

Bowmoor Sailing Club Executive Committee

Meeting Summary

Meeting held on 3 September 2026

Overview

The Executive Committee reviewed membership, training, finance, sailing, facilities and club operations. The meeting focused on preparing for renewals, shaping the 2027 programme, progressing facilities improvements, and improving how the club manages growth, member behaviour and communication.

Attendees

Simon Hinnigan – Commodore
Mike Dyer - Vice Commodore
Charlie Sansom - Rear Commodore
Lizzie Fewings - Training Principal
Douglas Roberts - Membership Secretary
Geoff Silcock - Treasurer
Mike Tustin - Commodore Nominee

Apologies

Karen Cooke - Club Welfare & Safeguarding Officer

Membership

Membership remains ahead of the equivalent point last year. The committee noted that the figures relate to memberships rather than individual members, because family memberships affect the overall count. No immediate operational membership issues were raised beyond the wider discussion of subscription and fee levels.

Training

The committee reviewed the 2026 training programme. Some spring and early summer courses were affected by instructor availability and lower demand, while summer holiday courses were very well attended. Instructor availability is expected to improve as more assistant instructors, and dinghy instructors have been trained.

The committee discussed the best seasonal pattern for future training, including

the balance between Easter, early summer and late summer provision. Cold-water considerations, course timing, adult weekend formats and the relationship between formal RYA courses and member coaching were also discussed.

Training pricing will be reviewed for 2027, including comparison with local clubs, course delivery costs, reinvestment in the training fleet, and whether the current member discount structure remains appropriate.

Finance

The previous financial year ended broadly as expected. Training income was lower because of reduced activity, while membership income remained strong. The club holds significant reserves, which are generating interest, but planned projects could reduce those reserves over the next few years.

The committee agreed that reserves should be reinvested appropriately into the club while maintaining sensible financial control. There was broad agreement to proceed based on an approximately 4.7% uplift across subscriptions (£1 per month on a Family Subscription) and related fees, including boat park and locker fees, subject to final detailed figures. The committee favoured regular inflation-linked increases over less frequent larger increases.

Sailing

The winter racing format is expected to continue broadly as before, with the Sailing Committee reviewing the format before the Frostbite series. The 2027 calendar is in draft, with possible additions including two-day cup events and an overnight social element following the success of the 50th anniversary event.

Committee boat maintenance and replacement planning were discussed. The committee supported progressing a replacement five-metre Humber safety boat over winter on a like-for-like basis with the existing larger RIB. The size was considered appropriate for powerboat training, events and carrying capacity.

Club fleet replacement will be managed through a planned but responsive approach rather than a fixed replacement cycle. The committee also discussed boat maintenance costs, boat hire income and the need to better match hire arrangements to the cost and condition of the fleet.

There was support for developing a class-based annual boat-hire model, with communication to members before renewals. The aim is to encourage familiarity with specific classes of boat, support better fleet management, and reduce the gap between hire income and maintenance costs.

Facilities

Facilities priorities include changing-room and hot-water improvements. Design work is progressing, but the electrical supply upgrade remains an important dependency. The committee discussed whether parts of the hot-water project could proceed without waiting for the full electrical upgrade.

The preferred approach remains to install new hot-water tanks in the roof space, refurbish the changing rooms, improve shower cubicles and floors, and provide additional changing cubicles in underused areas. The expected disruption is around two weeks per changing room, with work likely to be carried out sequentially. Temporary changing and toilet facilities would be needed during the works.

Boat-park remodelling was also discussed. The proposal is to improve layout and management at the northern end, create new rows at the far end, add a hedge, improve the appearance of the area, and limit unnecessary vehicle access through the boat park.

The committee agreed that noticeboard updates and electronic noticeboard slides would be useful for members at this stage.

Club Safety and Member Conduct

The committee discussed safeguarding, water safety, club rules, member conduct and incident reporting. Some issues raised as safeguarding concerns appear to relate mainly to member behaviour, rule compliance and the pressures created by a larger and changing membership.

Examples discussed included unacceptable behaviour, swimming outside permitted times, and inappropriate use of facilities, and members or guests breaching safety requirements. The committee noted that effective follow-up is difficult when reports do not include enough information.

The committee agreed that the club needs to review improvements to security, including CCTV in appropriate areas (boat park, club house and grounds). This will be considered further.

Committee Roles

The committee discussed recruitment for vacant officer roles, including Executive Committee Secretary and Club Welfare and Safeguarding Officer. The committee agreed that the safeguarding role remains important for RYA-affiliated club requirements and for the training centre, and should ideally be independent of the

active instructor community while remaining closely connected to the relevant committee work.

Decisions And Agreements

- Proceed based on an approximately 4.7% uplift across subscriptions and related fees, subject to final detailed figures, this amounts to an additional £1 per month on the Family Sailing Subscription.
- Review 2027 training dates, instructor availability, course structure and training pricing.
- Progress planning for a replacement five-metre Humber safety boat over winter.
- Develop a class-based annual club boat-hire proposal and move away from the current model, subject to final numbers and member communication before renewals.
- Continue progressing hot-water and changing-room plans while managing the electrical upgrade dependency.
- Proceed with boat-park remodelling plans and the proposed new hedge.
- Use shorter, more informal facilities communications and visual updates rather than a large strategy document at this stage.

Items To Carry Forward

- Final 2027 training programme and course pricing.
- Final subscription and associated fee schedule for renewals.
- Class-based boat-hire proposal, pricing and communications.
- Electrical upgrade, meter dependency and hot-water/changing-room sequencing.
- Rules, member behaviour, incident reporting, evidence and possible security measures.
- Recruitment for vacant committee roles.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed for 30th September 2026 at 19:30.