



NOMINATIONS SCHEDULE AND PEN PORTRAITS 2022  
CHICHESTER YACHT CLUB LTD

I wish to propose **Simon Benson** for election as Commodore for the above club at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Tony Mobbs

Seconder: Gavin Crick

**Simon Benson**

My wife Alison and I have been active club members for over 10 years, sailing our yacht 'Misty Blue' on many club cruises and attending club social events. I have served in various roles, including Rear Commodore Yachts, Vice Commodore, and most recently Rear Commodore Membership.

I am the owner of a small electronic security company, and prior to operating my own business have had management roles, such as Operations Director and Quality Manager, in companies of a comparable size or larger than Chichester Yacht Club.

I am people focused and wish to see Chichester Yacht Club continue to thrive, by helping the team, and member volunteers further develop an improving service and enjoyable experience for our members, and a rewarding environment for our staff. Whilst ensuring the club remains financially resilient.

I wish to propose **John Lake** for re-election as Rear Commodore Yachts for the above club at the Annual General Meeting held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Paul Simmonds

Seconder: Kerry Jackson

**John Lake**

I have been a member of CYC for over 20 years. I didn't start yachting until we moved to Chichester, so rather later in life than many CYC members. My family had no idea that I was to become the "born-again yachtie" that I am now! As a result, I often seek crew – and that in turn has given me an interest in the club members who do not own a boat, and how best the club might meet their sailing aspirations.

Before becoming RC last year, I was YS Racing Secretary from 2016 to 2020. In those five seasons, I feel I managed to sustain – if not slightly increase – interest in this form of cruising.

I semi-retired from the automotive industry in 2011, but kept working on interesting engineering projects until 2018, when I finally decided that I would rather do other things, like sailing. In that very year, I was able to crew on a longer passage – from Falmouth to the Azores – & thus qualify for membership of the Ocean Cruising Club.

My intention remains to be to keep an eye on the changing demographics & levels of boat ownership in the Yacht Section – and how best to provide for all levels of interest in our fascinating sport & pastime.

I wish to propose **Digby Armstrong** for election as Rear Commodore Motors for the above club at the Annual General Meeting held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Gavin Crick

Seconder: Caroline Crick

### **Digby Armstrong**

I have been a member of the Motor Section since joining the club and have served on its committee over a number of years in various capacities.

I have always been drawn to water whether it be lakes, rivers or the sea and love being both on and by the water. My boating experience started with a Heron dinghy at Colemere in Shropshire and then moved on through other dinghies, various white water kayaks, to a small bilge keel family cruising yacht and in the last 10 years to motor boats.

I am a solicitor, and although still a consultant, retired from full time work nearly four years ago. I have been a member of the club since moving to the area in 2009. I live in West Wittering with my wife, Claire, and we are both active in the Motor Section and enjoy its many and varied cruises.

I wish to propose **Karen Cheeseman** for re-election as Rear Commodore Dinghies for the above club at the Annual General Meeting held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Tony Mobbs

Seconder: Lucy Apsey

### **Karen Cheeseman**

I have been RC Dinghies for the past year and during that time I have also been part of the harbour environment forum looking at ways to help CYC become more sustainable, and recently I have been looking at equality and diversity within the club.

It has been a good year and I have very enjoyed working with the team. I look forward over the next few years to being able to build on the great foundations that we now have and getting as many people as possible of all ages and abilities out on the water.

My background is in data protection regulation and law, so club activities give a welcome break from the rules and regulations of my day job!

We have been family members of CYC since 2018, my daughter sails a Laser and is a dinghy instructor at the club and I sail a Byte, you can usually spot me in the slow fleet, sail number 3726. I have been sailing on and off for many years in both dinghies and yachts and together with my husband we restored and sailed a Norwegian Folk boat called Fiorda. Although we no longer have Fiorda family holidays still tend to be spent on the water just having fun with family and friends.

I look forward to continuing to support supporting the dinghy section.

I wish to propose **Helen Green** for re-election as Rear Commodore Training for the above club at the Annual General Meeting held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Karen Cheeseman

Seconder: Simon Benson

### **Helen Green**

I started sailing at the age of 12, sailing with my sister in a Mirror Dinghy. I sailed a variety of dinghies for the rest of my teens and early twenties. In 2008 after a break from sailing, I joined CYC with my husband Mark and two children – none of whom could sail. We actively chose CYC for the friendliness combined with the facilities on offer. We have taken advantage of the many aspects of the club as a family, Adult Training, 2TARTS, WOW, Youth Training, Honda RIB Challenge and all the social events. I can be found regularly racing our 2000 Dinghy throughout the year. I am a Dinghy Instructor and for the past couple of years have co-ordinated the Training at CYC. When I get a chance I can be found big boat sailing – mostly in warmer waters.

When not sailing I work in an Engineering company managing an International team.

I would like to work together to ensure that this friendly club is the best it can be for all members.

I wish to propose **Steve Cray** for election as Rear Commodore Membership of the above club at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Simon Benson

Seconder: Tony Mobbs

### **Steve Cray**

Sailing since my childhood, I have been fortunate to sail boats from 17 to 72 feet. I joined CYC in 2007 having been crewing in Yacht Section races for my next-door neighbour on his 20' Hawk. From 2012 to 2017 I served on the YS committee as Race Secretary and Media Secretary as well as on the GC in 2021.

As family members of the club, my wife (Louise) and I have had the pleasure of seeing our 3 children, Edward, Alexander and Josephine grow up as club members, taking part in club events from yacht cruises and races to dinghy racing and the Commodore's Cup. Although our "kids" are now aged 22, 20 and 17, they all still sail with us as and when their busy lives permit.

Our boating interests are broad - as well as our yacht Crayzee Feeling, we also enjoy using our RIB, sailing dinghy and kayaks.

Professionally, I come from an engineering and project management background and now deliver outsourced services in the telecommunications, IT and media industries.

I hope this combination of personal and professional experience will prove useful to CYC.

I wish to propose **David Pearce** for re-election as Honorary Secretary of the above club at the Annual General Meeting held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Simon Benson

Secunder: Philip Brown

### **David Pearce**

I have been the Honorary Secretary of the Club for the past seven years, also serving on the Board Sub Committee and, during the pandemic, on the Major Incident Committee. That the Club has weathered the crisis so successfully is largely down to its members (with a little help from government) to whom we are very grateful.

My background is in regulatory law but I am now retired. I am a qualified Trading Standards Officer who left local government in 1979 for a career with Tesco where I was responsible for managing the relationship with the many regulatory authorities as well as negotiating legislation with the UK Government and EU on behalf of the retail sector.

I and my wife Amanda have been members of CYC since the mid-1990s and are active cruising members of the Yacht Section. We live in Highleigh, just a few miles from the Club.

I wish to propose **Philip Ladds** for election as Honorary Treasurer for the above club at the Annual General Meeting on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Roger Marshall

Secunder: Gavin Crick

### **Philip Ladds**

I have been a member of the CYC since moving to Chichester with my wife in 2016; a member of the Motor Section more recently with responsibility for the Cruise Programme. In my former life I worked as a Finance Manager in several multi-national companies in the US, Switzerland and the UK, in the drug development and IT industries. Although retired, having been born an accountant, that's what I remain to this day, according to my wife. I am happy to follow in the footsteps of Roger and do my best to ensure that the Finances of our club remain both under control and in a healthy state.

I wish to propose **James Connell** for election as a General Committee Member of the above club at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Simon Benson

Secunder: John Lake

### **James Connell**

Having been the Racing Secretary for the Yacht Section for the past year, I have really enjoyed playing a more active part in the club through the race organisation, as well as meeting new people and encouraging them to take part in club events. I'm looking forward to the opportunity for expanding this across other areas of the club activities and to help continue to foster a friendly and inclusive club that is passionate about its community.

In my professional career I am the Production Director of a London based event production agency, where my role focuses on the practical and financial elements of company leadership, as well as

project management and delivery of a wide range of events and other projects in the UK and abroad. In my past I have also managed the hospitality functions within other membership organisations, understanding the needs of the membership and the commercial requirements to support those needs.

My wife Kate and I rejoined the club 5 years ago, me having previously been a member and dinghy sailor during my school days. Now we regularly sail our yacht on club cruises and races as well as take part in many of the social events. We live in Godalming but keep our boat in the marina so can often be found in and around the club.

I wish to propose **Louise Varley** for election as a General Committee Member of the above club at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Karen Cheeseman

Seconder: Helen Green

### **Louise Varley**

My career has been varied, initially in marine biology, then moving into management roles in this country and overseas. My husband Chris Hodge and I moved to Chichester in 1999, and were owner-managers of a yacht charter company, where I was responsible for finance and administration.

In 2014 I took over management of the office here at CYC, until my retirement in 2017.

I have a wide range of boating experience, from rowing as a child to driving power boats and sailing dinghies in my teens. I learned to handle yachts in my twenties, completing a circumnavigation as well as racing round the cans.

Chris and I have been members of CYC for over 20 years, and our children learned to sail here. We are active racers and volunteers in the Dinghy Section, and serve on its committee. We do not currently own a yacht, but enjoy chartering in warmer climates.

The management of the Club has coped admirably over the last 2 difficult years, and the growth in membership is encouraging. I am keen to bring my knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to the General Committee to assist in ensuring the continued success of the Club.

I wish to propose **Tony Moore** for re-election as a General Committee Member of the above club at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Simon Benson

Seconder: Karen Cheeseman

### **Tony Moore**

I am professor of biochemistry at the University of Sussex in Brighton who works on the design and synthesis of novel drugs to treat plant and human fungal pathogens. My wife and I have been a member of CYC for the last 4 years ever since we moved our Princess 430 from Brighton to Chichester. Initially our move was only temporary but both of us fell in love with Chichester harbour and the Club. We feel that the Club is very friendly and very open and we would like to repay that friendship by helping out in any way we can and standing for GC would be an appropriate way to help. In addition to being on the water both my wife and myself enjoy walking with our dog, nature conservation, ballet, opera & socialising.

I wish to propose **Martin Willard** for re-election as a General Committee Member of the above club at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 30th January 2022.

Proposer: Andrew Mill

Seconder: G Smith

### **Martin Willard**

I have been a member of the GC for the past year assisting with tracking the various major projects planned for the club. I have enjoyed my role on the GC and am keen to assist the club further going forward.

My background is in the management of businesses within the high-tech arena, mostly assisting them to achieve their maximum potential, holding a number of directorships and 2 company chairs. Until retirement, I was a Chartered Electrical Engineer and an "Approved Person" with the FCA. I and my wife Penny are members of the Motor Section and enjoy club cruising.

We live in Hunston close to the club.