



**Steering Group Meeting, followed by a board meeting at RYS
14.00 Friday 5th September 2025**

MINUTES

1. Welcome all steering Group members

The chairman welcomed the attendees:

Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore DL (Chairman)
Bob Trimble (CWL)
Mike Greville (CTWT)
Leigh Pragnell (ECTC)
Anni Adams (CTC)
Charles Egeton-Warburton (CWL)
Gary Hall (CHC)
Trisha Lewington (RYS)

Apologies: Graham Barnettson (Finance Officer)
Shelley Jory-Leigh (Powerboats)
Andrew Greening (App)
Bruce Huber (RYS)
Daniel Jehan (CYH)
Lora Peacey-Wilcox (CTC)
Stuart Ellis (CTC)
Tracey Reardon (ECTC)

2. Mins 25th July meeting (attached)

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July were noted and agreed.

3. Matters Arising (not covered in the body of the agenda)

- Neither JNL or GH had received response from Mel Walsh and so this option is not being pursued.
- The business plan, although in a draft format, now required a series of meetings with stakeholders in order to finalise.
- Waverley Caravan park was now under new ownership and the future was uncertain. However, since some of the caravans were under long term leases it was considered unlikely that it would be used for development purposes.

4. Cowes 200 Ltd Update

It was noted that Andrew Green was further developing the app which was on course. There was to be a meeting with stakeholders, both Island and mainland, after which a formalised proposal of services to Experience Cowes would be presented. Following a day spent with Bob Trimble during Cowes Week Andrew felt there was potential to use the existing Cowes Week app, connecting it to the payments/data platform, along with increasing the functionality. This would reduce costs and increase the familiarity being built with the existing app. His previous presentation will be circulated to those who had not previously seen it, due to its confidential nature.

5. Bicentenary of Cowes Week Proposed Programme

Bob Trimble reported that there was an ambitious plan in draft form, but even with a trimmed down, more cost achievable plan he felt it would be a very good celebration of the bicentenary. It was hoped that entries would be up on the previous years. The week would open with a parade of sail, which would include all types of vessels, not just racing yachts. It was hoped that the Red Arrows would perform on this evening – possibly spelling out ‘200’ in vapour trails which had been deemed possible. It was felt that by beginning the week with such a great display this would garner national press interest in the event. It was hoped to organise a Bicentenary Ball during the week. It was also hoped to bring back the firework display on the final Friday, noting that this would not be a Cowes Week event but possibly funding via a crowd funding appeal. It was agreed to speak to the IWC regarding the I W Act (this states that events at which more than 5000 spectators are likely to be present would mean that mainland policing and road closures would come into effect, doubling the cost of the display) in case this was no longer invoked. Charles Egerton-Warburton agreed to progress Crowd funding and discussions with IWC on behalf of Experience Cowes and would report on progress at the next meeting.

It was still hoped for Royal support and under the guidance of the I W Lieutenancy bids would be put in by each of the interested stakeholders in order to put together a programme for HRH which included her I W patronages, some civic events on both East and West Cowes as well as Cowes Week specific opportunities. It was hoped that THV PATRICIA and an RN guardship would both be in attendance.

6. Any Updates regarding ‘on the water’ programme

- a. Sailing events - the RYS programme was now well populated (draft attached) but it should be noted that some of the proposed regattas were still tbc on the dates indicated. Mike G will forward the RORC programme for 2026
- b. Power Festival weekend - Shelly Jory-Leigh had sent in a brief report. The Ultimate Power Festival was coming along well and developing legs. Progress was being made with the round the Island race in 25 – 26 July. She hoped to attend the next meeting and report more fully

7. Cowes Harbour Commission update

Gary Hall reported on progress. The pontoons were being built in Ireland and shipped to E Cowes. These were each 15m x 6m apiece and each weight 90 tons. The piles would be 800mm dia. Dredging

would be commencing in late September, with an expectation that 90,000 cu m of spoil would be removed to Nab East, taking some 16 weeks.

8. CTWT/CYH update

Mike Greville had nothing to report at this meeting.

9. East Cowes – update

East Cowes town Council, represented by Leigh Pragnell, had nothing further to report at this meeting.

10. West Cowes – update

Anni Adams, representing Cowes Town Council reported that they had set up a working group to look at family activity on the Parade. Anni would take this forward with Charles Egerton-Warburton with the idea of a Youth Zone.

11. Discussion on the Name going forward (previously circulated)

Charles Egerton-Warburton reported that he had discussed the name with several organisations and the consensus was that there should be separation between this organisation and the bicentenary of Cowes Week – there was widespread confusion about this. A new name was under consideration, Experience Cowes, and some suggested logos had been circulated. The name was agreed and the logo would be reworked by a small sub group comprising Trisha Lewington, Gary Hall and Charles Egerton-Warburton.

It was agreed that the domain name Experience Cowes and Experience-Cowes in .co.uk, .com and .org formats should be purchased, with a view to adopting the .org version and setting up email addresses for those who would prefer to have these for Cowes 200 business.

12. Future Meeting Dates

- Friday 3rd October 13.00
- Friday 7th November 13.00
- Friday 5th December 13.00
- E.g. First Friday of each month