

Upton Warren Sailing Club AGM 4th March 2026

The AGM was attended by 15 full members, 2 honorary members, and 10 guests.

1. Apologies were received from Viv Brookes, George Fiolka, Daniel McDonnell, Karl Dix, Alan Pearson, and Tom Davenport
2. The Commodore opened the meeting by saying that the officers' reports and accounts had been circulated to the members about two weeks ago and so it was expected that the AGM business could be completed fairly quickly. There was, however, some new information to be put before members.
3. **2025 minutes** were approved by Ian Chapman and Dave Crowther
4. **Matters Arising**
 - a. The club comet 790 has now been sold to a club member. It was sailed very little in the last two years. John Bowen's GP which needs a lot of remediable work, has also been sold to Gareth Brookes for £50. We are sure that John will be pleased to see it being sailed. The Club does not now own any boats of its own.
 - b. The Club spent some time this year setting up a new membership category for SUP members and recruited our first member. Unfortunately, Aztec have recently decided that we cannot offer SUP membership as they are concerned that it competes with their own offerings. But more on this later.
5. **Treasurer's Report** – circulated before the AGM

This is the second year of our increased adult membership fee of £70 and our subscription income is a little down. What is very apparent is a fall in our number of juniors. We have had a few older WYSA members do one or two duties (for which we are grateful), race once or twice, but then not join the Club. Clearly we need to engage with them to understand what might make the Club more attractive.

For many reasons some sailors, particularly WYSA members, were late in paying for storing their dinghy in the boat park. Since the accounts were closed, we have received some more payments which will be forwarded to Aztec, making our total boat park payment for 2025/2026 year similar to that for 2024/25. In round numbers Aztec receives about £3,000 from the Club annually for use of the site and boat park.

Alan Pearson has just moved our membership database to WebCollect. This means that records of subscription fees and boat park fees paid will be more transparent to individual members and to the committee. Members will also receive automated reminders of fees due. This should be more satisfactory for everyone.

Selling the Club's last comet donated many years ago by Harvey, raised £720. I am sure that Harvey would be pleased to see it now regularly sailed by a Club member.

The £30 is residual income for our presentation evening in 2024.

The underwriter for our insurance with Gallagher has changed and we now pay annually, not monthly. The fees we paid in 2025 are consequently for 16 months, not 12 months; our fees in 2026 should be more similar to those for 2024.

The bank is now imposing a monthly charge for our current account plus extra fees for some transactions such as paying in cheques. It also offered us an instant access saving account. Moving the bulk of our funds to that has given some interest to partially offset the fees.

At the end of the year our cash balance (reserves) was £4273.78, an increase of £366.72. Without the one-off increase in insurance fees and funds generated by the sale of the comet, I judge that the Club would have just broken even this year, with subscription income balancing routine expenditure.

6. **Commodore's Report**- circulated before the AGM

With just a few weeks remaining, the 2025/26 season has gone well and with the addition of the summer monthly Social Saturday more people are enjoying time on the water enjoying time on the water.

As you will have heard from Mary the changes made to member subscriptions along with disposal of elderly and little used club boats has had the desired effect. We are covering our costs and as such keeping our head above water.

The Social Saturdays, suggested and lead by Tom Davenport, have been a great success with members friends and families joining in. During the coming year we will structure this activity a bit more formally and try and convert some guests to members.

Those members participating in the regatta enjoyed racing in windy conditions. Closely fought battles on the water, friendly banter on the land, the final outcome very close indeed. The older members need to up their game as the youngsters are coming through.

During the year Dave McGuinness stood down as Membership Secretary and handed over to Alan Pearson who added this to his existing role of managing duty allocations through the duty man system. Many thanks to David. However, he hasn't escaped entirely as he still remains a committee member.

There have been no safeguarding incidents during the year.

As subscriptions are coming due for the coming new club year, you will have noticed that we have now adopted the Web Collect system. Alan, with the help of Mary, has worked tirelessly to bring into fruition. This will bring about a significant improvement managing subscriptions and having a clear understanding of membership.

There has been in a disappointment in that our expected inflow of SUP members did not happen. We had expected to be able to advertise this new activity via Aztec and in practice this was not possible. We will relaunch again this year.

We are in discussions with WYSA about how we can work closer together and encourage their members to join in our club activities. Initially this will involve the Saturday club sessions.

The major problem facing the sub is one of membership. We have relied over the years of members coming via Aztec and before that UWOEC. This is drying up and may cease

should Aztec discontinue adult training. As a club we are not set up to train to RYA standards and unable to take on novice members. The committee has a number of ideas that we will discuss with Aztec and try to find a way to unblock this restriction in gaining members.

It remains for me to thank members of the committee for their support and hard work.

7. AOB

Just 5 days before the AGM, the Club together with other Upton Warren User Groups, received an email from Aztec saying that they were changing usage agreements so that all groups will pay an annual fee (which the club already does) and that all contracts will be revised. The new contracts will be implemented on 1st April 2026. A subsequent email indicated that the site usage fees for the Club will more than double and that all groups / clubs will not be able “to offer activities or tuition that are seen as conflicting with Aztec Adventure products.”

John Everard and Mary Starkey have had two meetings with Aztec to discuss this further and achieved some reduction in the proposed fees. Our new contract has still to be drafted; Aztec agreed to a new deadline of 1st June to allow further discussions. We pushed the point that if the Club closes, Aztec loses £3000-£4000 in revenue.

The biggest concern is the impact that the proposed changes could have on the future of the club, given that we need to grow our numbers. We will not be able to offer membership to standup paddleboarders and sailing members will no longer be able to use Aztec SUP's. We will not be able to run our own Powerboat 2 courses, so it will be very expensive for members to gain a safety boat qualification. Aztec has no intention of improving or replacing the red classroom which is becoming increasingly derelict.

The Club is facing the decision as to whether we can continue to sail at UW or should move to another club.

Various points and comments were made by attendees

- Would there be a reduction in fees if we reduced the number of our sailing sessions? John said possibly; Aztec had indicated that shutting the site during some winter months could save some £500 in heating and water and they were willing to pass a little of that saving on.
- The boat park raises funds for Aztec but they would like to use it as a car park.
- Many people come to the site to socialise with other members as well as to sail and this social aspect has been much reduced ever since we lost use of the café area.
- The Club has been going for 48 years; it would be sad to see it close.
- We should secure the future of the club for another year to give time to review the situation (It was pointed out that we cannot properly secure the Club for any period as we are dependent on Aztec Adventure continuing to operate at UW).
- Could we merge with WYSA? That would mean that we do not need to pay two lots of insurance which would make money available for Aztec with no additional cost to ourselves (that point had already occurred to the committee).

It was concluded that all ideas should be discussed and options on ways forward be identified and put before the membership for voting or comment, possibly at an EGM.

Mary as Treasurer noted that our constitution states any change to subscriptions must be approved at an AGM and so strictly subscriptions cannot be increased until next season.

9. Election of Officers

All officers must stand down each year. All current officers had agreed to stand for re-election, and no other nominations were received.

Our Honorary President, Jack Francis stepped forward to manage the election of the Commodore. Maurice Troman proposed John Everard, which was seconded by Chris Doran. John was elected unopposed.

John then chaired the election of the other officers who were elected en-masse, proposed by Andy Harding and seconded by Dave Crowther.

Position	Name
Commodore	John Everard
Membership Sec	Alan Pearson
Treasurer	Mary Starkey
Sailing Secretary	Mick Quickfall
Welfare Officer	John Teuwen
Committee member	Dave McGuinness

10. Election of Auditor

John proposed that Carol Dowell be once again appointed as auditor for the next set of accounts. It was noted that Carol is Mary's daughter which is a potential conflict of interests but in reality, has probably ensured closer scrutiny. Nominated by Ian Chapman and seconded by Andy Harding.

11. Date of next AGM

Agreed as the first week of March 2027

Upton Warren Sailing Club
Income and Expenditure for year ending 31st December 2025

	2024	2025
<u>Income</u>	£	£
Adult Memberships	2,105.00	2,117.50
Junior Memberships	479.00	200.00
Student Memberships	70.00	55.00
Joining Fees	60.00	50.00
Boat Park	1,885.00	1,560.00
Boat Sales	1,100.00	720.00
Use of club boats	15.00	
Regatta entry fees	55.00	105.00
Donation RNLI		10.00
Presentation evenings	670.00	30.00
Interest from savings account		22.43
Total Income	6,439.00	4,869.93
Expenditure		
Aztec Site Usage Fee	1,050.00	1,050.00
Aztec Fuel Charge	150.00	150.00
Aztec Boat Park Charge	1,820.00	1,560.00
Boatpark fees club boats	65.00	32.50
Boatpark refund	65.00	
Insurance	942.68	1,243.60
IT Costs	141.28	112.50
RYA Subs	160.00	170.00
Bank Charges		43.34
Presentation evenings	617.67	
Boat Maintenance		44.80
Regatta expenses	65.15	47.00
Sundries	52.44	14.47
Kitchen refit	169.12	
RNLI donation		35.00
Total Expenditure	5,298.34	4,503.21
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	1140.66	366.72

Cash Statement as at 31st December 2025	2024	2025
Cash in CURRENT account as at 31st Dec 2024	4,045.23	3,891.89
Receipts as per Bank Statement	6,244.00	6,758.20
Bank payments made in 2024 to 2023 creditors	-1,289.00	
All other 2025 payments as per Bank Statement	-5,108.34	-9,938.94
Cash in CURRENT account as at 31st Dec 2025	3,891.89	711.15
Cash in SAVING account as at 31st Dec 2025		3,522.43
Cash in hand as at 31st Dec 2024	10.17	15.17
Transfer from Bank Account	5.00	
Cash Receipts	195.00	110.00
Cash Payments	-195.00	-84.97
Cash in hand 31 Dec 2025	15.17	40.20
Less current liabilities	0.00	
Net Cash Assets as at 31st Dec 2025	3,907.06	4,273.78
Change in Net Cash balance on year	1140.66	366.72

I have audited these accounts and confirm they are a true and fair view of the Club's financial activities for the year ending 31st December 2025

Carol Dowell

Reviewed and Checked by Carol Dowell (CGMA) 17/01/2026