

House Committee AGM Report – 2025

2025 has been a challenging year for the hospitality sector across the UK, harder than previous years however I am pleased to report that HISC has responded to this challenge resulting in an extremely good season in and around our clubhouse. This year has been a year of learning, adapting, and identifying exciting new opportunities for the club and for our members.

We have also, as is often the case on Hayling, been blessed with the weather which has been absolutely delightful, adding an extra touch of magic to the year.

Despite some headwinds, we've remained committed to supporting you—our valued members—across all areas of hospitality.

Although footfall has seen a slight dip, we've continued to provide services and events with unwavering dedication. The club may have felt quieter during what would traditionally be peak periods, but this has been offset by the successful championships and the tireless efforts of the hospitality team—led by our House Manager, Nick Griffiths who has an admirable work ethic, he is wholly committed and consistently goes above and beyond. Supported by Chefs, Martin, Sam & Billy who have delivered to a consistent high level all season. Sophie Vinell has excelled in her role as Catering Supervisor this season where she is key to delivering corporate entertainment & weddings. She is ably supported by Evie & Holly. Thank you, all and well done.

Bev, who heads up our excellent bar team has continued to deliver a prompt and friendly service. The dedication of the whole team, from Catering, Bar, Accommodation & Maintenance is amazing. On the voluntary side Estates – Peter Bannister, the Dunes gardening team ably run by Judith Williamson and all the other volunteers including Val Long, Jo Vickers, Judy Macdonald, Alistair Christmas, Sue Tulloch and of course the Archive team, lead by Leonie Austin, to name but a few we've continued to maintain strong momentum.

Members and visitors have enjoyed the excellent weddings we have hosted. The team seem to have excelled we have received some amazing feedback. George Charlton, with support from member Claire Davis, has done great work in marketing Corporate events which continue to grow in numbers & show a positive upward trend. The year will culminate in our Corporate Christmas Party in early December, which is already 75% sold, a fantastic achievement that highlights the enduring appeal of HISC for external events.

Here is some feedback from our Wedding goers;

'Just wanted to say thank you to you and well done, to you and all your team for such a fantastic day. Everything was brilliant. Your team were awesome.'

'We all had a great time and we have had some very positive feedback from our clients about all elements of it, from the good standard of food and the service of the staff, to the good organisation of the team getting us all out on the water and back in safely and on time. It really is greatly appreciated and I hope we can do something similar again next year'

‘My party was a massive success to all who attended with many comments on how good the food was and the outstanding service from all our staff. The bar, kitchen and waiting staff were as good as I have had in a 5-star hotel.

Key Achievements in 2025

Accommodation

We’ve completed a thorough analysis of our accommodation usage, identifying key areas for maintenance and improvement. This work will guide any future upgrades and help ensure better occupancy, especially during peak periods. Additionally, the Dunes accommodation has undergone a full refresh, bringing new life and comfort to all 10 rooms.

A big thank you to Sam who co-ordinates all the accommodation. We’re nearly there Sam!

Après Sail

An initiative introduced this year, Après Sail has already shown great results—driving increased bar takings during the early evening hours (4–7 pm). It’s been a welcome addition that aligns with the evolving social patterns of our membership and family groups.

Estates

We are continuing to help manage the HISC Estate by developing an updated and costed maintenance schedule. This supports our planned maintenance work helps us with more accurate budgeting of upcoming works. The main items covered this year have been the balcony joist replacement and plans to reclad the Stocker Block, noting the comments on this in the GC Report.

Following our briefing note in September 2024 and a decision to progress the balcony joist replacement on the north-west corner first, a start was made in April 2025 before the main sailing season started. Further areas have had to await the end of the main event season and work to the south-east corner is due to be progressed this Autumn.

Plans for recladding the Stocker Block following the recommendation in the annual Fire Risk Assessment have been ongoing. We have challenged our Fire Risk Assessors ‘best cladding option’ recommendation, but as it currently stands, a simple like for like replacement is not possible due to the requirement to upgrade insulation and improve fire stopping. This means we would need to engage Architectural services, so this debate is ongoing.

We have in our sights the need to carry out a number of items not least the dislodged causeway posts, the east stair sleeper steps, and a member suggestion for handrails to the north and east external staircases. We are looking to pick up momentum and re-engage with the HISC contractor supply chain now that our new General Manager is in place.

This Autumn we will arrange a couple of volunteer work parties to tackle some clean-up activities and minor works such as sealing the balcony handrails and removing the posts and rope barrier on the West dunes.

Dunes – Gardening Group

- Monthly Social Gardening Sessions and November Work Parties:
 - 26 member who have volunteered on monthly sessions.
 - 28 members who volunteered for the November 2024 work party.

- 414 hours of work put in by those volunteers since last October.
- Work completed:
 - Maintenance of newly planted area around the half-balcony
 - Planting part of the area between the half-balcony and the slipway
 - New planting from plant donations and growing from seed from HISC site
 - Maintenance gardening of all the 'planted' dunes
 - Maintenance of the pots by the front entrance
 - Maintenance of the hydrangeas on the balcony

Archives

This Archive year from October 2024-25 has been as busy as ever, including attendance at the Christmas Fair 2024 and a visit to the National Archives in Kew in July to further research The Bosun's Hut. Cabinet Displays include the Thursday Club, a history of Chichester Harbour Race Week, an example of Archive filing and trophies that have been found and restored. HISC Club House Redevelopment Filing has been done, with final referencing and storage planned. Trophy history at HISC is continuing, to result in an evergreen, knowledgeable archive. Members have kindly donated HISC items which have been carefully recorded, along with Members Memories and there is a COPP event this year, in October

Thank You

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to two members of the House Team, : Mark Darling and Anna Wells who, after five years of dedicated service, have decided to step down from their roles. In my early days, your support was invaluable and without it, House wouldn't be where it is today. Your time, commitment, and passion have truly made a lasting impact.

Looking Forward

HISC remains a place where members want to be. By embracing change and listening to your feedback, we're in a strong position to shape the club's future—together. With continued creativity, resilience, and community spirit, we look forward to building on this year's foundation for an even more successful 2026.

Sophie Costard

Vice Commodore House

1.10.2025