Royal Ocean Racing Club

Dear members

As we approach our AGM on Monday 7 December at 1800, we would like to take this opportunity to share some additional information about the Flag Officer and Main Committee nominations up for election. You should have now received the formal notice of the AGM and supporting documents and your first reminder, including details on how to attend. If you have any questions about the AGM or the nominations, you can email info@rorc.org or submit a question here.

AGM | Flag Officer Role Nominations

Derek Shakespeare (nominated for Commodore)



Derek Shakespeare joined the RORC in 2005 and served on the Main Committee from 2008 to 2010, as Hon. Treasurer from 2011 to 2024 and as Vice Commodore in 2025 and 2026. He actively campaigns his J/122 *Bulldog* in the RORC Offshore Series and won this year's RORC Season's Points in IRC2. He runs a Corinthian campaign and is committed to giving opportunities to younger sailors.

When not sailing, Derek has enjoyed a 35-year career in investment banking and is currently on secondment as Director General of the UK Takeover Panel.

Andrew Tseng (nominated for Vice Commodore)



Andrew has been a passionate supporter of offshore racing since his first RORC race in 2016. After several seasons as a regular on the J109 Mojo Risin', he brought his 1971 Camper & Nicholson 55, *Quailo III* (with her own place in Club history, *Quailo III* was commissioned by former Commodore and Admiral Don T Parr), back to the offshore circuit and for the last four years has won the Freddie Morgan Trophy for best Classic Yacht. In 10 years of RORC campaigning Andrew has started five Fastnets (finishing three), and this year on *Quailo III,* he completed the 50th anniversary RBI Race. Andrew advocates creating sailing opportunities: his crews regularly range from students, professionals to retirees, with an increasingly balanced gender mix. Andrew joined the Main Committee in 2022 and has been one of the Club's Rear Commodores for the past three years. Professionally, Andrew is a senior technology veteran with over 30 years in the financial sector. Through his angel investing he also gives companies technology and strategic advice and mentors their founders. He is married, with a five-year-old son.

Jean-Eudes Renier (nominated for Rear Commodore)

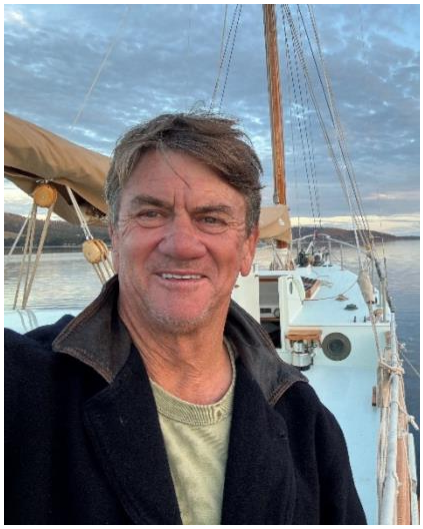


Jean-Eudes Renier joined the RORC in 2005 and served on the Main Committee in 2016 – 2019 and again in 2023 – 2026. He has raced RORC as well as Transatlantic races both fully crewed and double handed, and is currently campaigning his Pogo RC *Midnight Blues*.

This year he finished third in the Cap Martinique double handed Transat and won the Channel race and Cowes Cherbourg double handed.

Jean-Eudes is also a keen mountaineer and has enjoyed a 35-year Investment Banking career. He is a Partner at Moelis and also sits on the IRC Board.

Sean Langman (nominated for Overseas Rear Commodore)



A lifelong sailor, Sean Langman is one of Australia's most versatile and dedicated offshore racing personalities. His passion for the water ranges from high-speed 18-foot skiffs and record-breaking ocean multihulls to modern grand prix yachts and his beloved 1932 gaff-rigged cutter, Maluka, on which he won his division in the 50th Rolex Fastnet Race.

Having competed in over 35 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Races, Sean remains deeply engaged at the forefront of competitive ocean racing. He is currently campaigning his modified GP42, Back 2 Black, in the CYCA Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore series and has committed to returning to the Solent with the boat for the 2027 Admiral's Cup. A passionate advocate for youth development, he spearheads the Noakes Youth program and actively partners with national organisations to provide young sailors with high-performance racing experience, technical mentorship, and career paths within the marine industry.

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AGM | Main Committee Nominations

James Ainsworth (nominated for Main Committee)



James is a lifelong sailor who completed his first Fastnet Race in 2019, aged 21. He has since become a regular in RORC racing, competing in a further two Fastnet races, and the Caribbean 600. He was part of the winning crew of the 2023 De Guingand Bowl and has spent the last three seasons racing on *Quailo 3*, becoming watch leader in 2026.

Professionally, James is an ICAEW ACA trainee. Whilst at University, James served as Vice-Commodore of the sailing club, chairing committee meetings, contributing to selection and training events, and helping to establish introductory sessions for less experienced sailors. During university summers he worked as an RYA Cruising Instructor and yacht charter skipper, which sparked a passion for introducing and developing both new and experienced sailors. Having discovered offshore racing young, James is keen to draw on his instruction and club organisation experience to help more people enjoy the same opportunities.

Chris Hanson (nominated for Main Committee)



Chris has over 35 years of offshore and inshore sailing experience, accumulating ~45,000 racing miles and competing at all levels from Solent and Channel racing through to major international offshore events. Member of JOG, RORC and the UK Double Handed Offshore Sailing Group, in 2026 he launched his first season as owner of the Sun Fast 3300 Rockit, focusing on double-handed offshore racing and achieving multiple race victories, including overall wins in the JOG Double Handed Championship, RIOW Double Handed Race, Round the Island Double Handed Race & the RCYC Double Handed Triangle Series.

His offshore resume includes the RORC RBI, RORC Transatlantic Race, NYYC/RYS Transatlantic Race (2nd place), four Fastnet campaigns and numerous RORC and JOG events, sailing in key roles including skipper, navigator, watch leader, bowman and offshore helm aboard a wide variety of yachts. Recently retired from Computacenter, where he led the business transformation function, Chris held various other roles over 29 years, to campaign Rockit & support a local RYA Sailability club.

Inka Lührs (nominated for Main Committee)



Inka grew up sailing aboard the family's classic 45ft ketch *Socorro*, spending her childhood on a three-year voyage through Europe and the Americas. As a teenager and through her twenties, she was racing and instructing in the Baltic, including aboard the JV/52 *Haspa Hamburg* with Hamburgischer Verein Seefahrt and as skipper at renowned sailing school Hanseatische Yachtschule.

After Switzerland, she relocated to London in 2022 and immersed herself in the Solent racing scene, joining the inshore series on *Elaine Again* (JPK1010) before a Fastnet campaign on *Lord of the Dance* (SF 3300) and most recently co-owning *Zanzibar* (SF 3200 R2) with her partner Richard Bretherton. 2026 brought a big first double-handed season: winning Celtic Triangle and Class 4 of the RORC Season's Points Championship, taking the boat to Brittany with the DRHEAM-Cup and completing the RBI Race. Beyond racing, she is involved as skipper, trainer and committee member at the Little Ship Club. A qualified Swiss lawyer, Inka also holds an RYA Yachtmaster Offshore.

Nuala Sellwood (nominated for Main Committee)



For the past two years, Nuala has been part of the RORC Griffin Project, an opportunity that has been hugely influential in her development as a sailor. During this time, she co-skippered the Round Britain and Ireland Race, skippered three RORC races and competed in the Il Giro. Outside Griffin, her experience includes the Fastnet Race and winning her class in the 2026 North Sea Race.

Alongside sailing, Nuala is studying Maritime Engineering at the University of Southampton and currently undertaking an industrial placement at Lateral Naval Architects. She has also worked for several years as a senior sailing instructor in Cornwall.

Nuala is passionate about making offshore racing more accessible to young sailors and creating opportunities for the next generation. Having benefited enormously from the support and generosity of others in the sport, she would love to give something back by representing younger sailors on the RORC Main Committee.