

Ribble Cruising Club

Draft 2Minutes of 64th Annual General Meeting on 27th Nov 2015

1: Present:- The Commodore and 55 members.

Opening remarks:- The Commodore opened the meeting with a few quiet moments to remember with thanks the sad passing of several key members of RCC this year. They include Arnold Broxup a founder member, Bob Totten a Trustee of RCC, David Ashcroft an ex Commodore, Peter Tuck & Brian Blake both active members with long membership. We also lost several old friends, Cyril Fitton, an ex Commodore & founder member of RCC, Harry Yeadon a keen Kestrel sailor, John Seger, and Eileen Marsden. They were great friends to many of us.

1: Apologies:- SM Briers, B Marsden, JDA Walker, N & J Lyon, S & M Hodgkiss, P Sanderson, R Freeman, M Lloyd, R Sharp, M Knott, R Downing, L Robins, P Balmforth.

2: Approval of minutes of last AGM:- The members agreed unanimously to accept the draft minutes presented as a record of the 63rd AGM, proposed by Mr R Hoad seconded by Gary Woods.

3: Commodore's Report :-

Richard Elsdon , our Commodore reported on the highlights of this club year:-

Training:- Richard opened by reporting that RCC had now passed it's final inspection by the RYA & was awarded RTC for dinghy practical training course. He thanked the small band of members actively involved. He also thanked Andrew Smith who continued to provide RYA Theory courses through the winter, including First Aid & VHF training. He commented that these activities were very beneficial to RCC as a whole, but had taken a lot of effort by a really small group. He concluded by commending the new pool of Instructors at RCC, an important new strength of RCC.

Membership:- Richard reported that a stable overall membership continued, noting that our 'Try Sailing' and other training activities had attracted a considerable group of dinghy sailors, especially youths & juniors plus a large family contingent, all thanks to our small group of training volunteers.

Sailing:- Turning to general sailing Richard commented on a good dinghy season, with one incident during May, and several cruisers now turning out to race as well. Richard was pleased to report that Fylde Borough Council (FBC) had awarded RCC 'Community Club of The Year'. This was in recognition of the club's efforts providing Try Sailing and training at Fairhaven Lake. RCC continues to work with FBC to discuss how to improve facilities at Fairhaven.

Volunteering:- Turning to internal affairs Richard made a heartfelt plea to the membership to step up & support RCC through undertaking roles & tasks. He explained that RCC as a 'volunteer' led club was very dependent on the members & the band of helpers was getting smaller & older!!!! Help was needed across the board from Try Sailing & the Dock, Social & the Bar, to PR & Media. We especially needed youngsters to help retain the young people & families joined this year.

Thanks:- He went on to thank the team which had supported him through the club years, commending Mike Briers for his untiring secretarial efforts, Simon Begley, Richard Blackburn as Officers alongside him. He thanked Paul Ainsworth who as Treasurer was standing down & thanks to his efforts our VAT was now untangled & Gary Woods who was also retiring after many years on Main Committee and as an Officer of RCC. He commended all the Committees acknowledging the many long hours worked resolving RCC issues.

Legal matters:- Richard then turned to inform members of a very difficult issue which had tested RCC & it's Officials this year. He explained that on the 13th December a 'breach of club rules' had occurred which had only been finally concluded in the summer. He intentionally made no reference to the personalities involved, nor the cause & outcome of the incident. He assured the members that the entire activity was carried out strictly in accordance with the RCC Disciplinary Procedure but explained that the reason he was speaking about it was the not inconsiderable expenditure on legal fees of some £6776, which the members could note in the Accounts.

He assured the members that this had not been entered into lightly, he said that a number of Officials spent a lot of time & effort agonising over the correct course of action throughout this activity. He explained that it was a complex case, legal support was essential at several key stages of the procedure & that having taken legal advice it was not in the club 's interests to proceed without it. He went on to inform the members that throughout the activity all the parties involved had a legal representative and that legal support became more important once the Police Authority Legal Team themselves became involved in the enquiry. He concluded by requesting that members accept his explanation & that there is no further discussion of the matter. Finally he did point out that if there was a lesson to be learnt it was that RCC would NOT have to expend such costs if all the membership acted & abided by The Club Rules which we had all signed up to.

Concluding remarks:- Richard said he was looking forward to the new season where a packed programme of Sailing & Social events were being planned. These were to start off with the ever popular New Year's Eve Party at RCC & the resurgence of a celebration of Burns Night . The members responded with applause, there were no 'matter's arising'

4: Hon. Treasurer's Report and adoption of The Accounts

Paul Ainsworth reported that RCC's finances are in very good shape. He commented that the strength of the Club's finances continued to be a credit to the decisions, hard work and dedication of the committees and members. He summarised the financial results for this year:-

Income:- Members Subscriptions fell by £116 to £16,385, income from berthing fees rose by £42 to £31,357 and Bar profits rose by £777 to £2,936.

Expenses:- Overall expenses had risen by £26,992, Dock expenses were up by £4,759 to £27,938, Fabric expenses are up by £6,492 to £18,679, Sailing expenses up by £2029 to £7812 and Admin expenses up by £13291 to £17850. .

Capital:- Major capital items included:- a roller shutter door (£1790), Bar Cooler (£722) and 2 dinghies a Laser 2000 (£1750) & a Topper Magno (£1650).

Balance Sheet:- Bank and Cash balances fell by £15803 to £91,611 (14.7%), Net Assets & Reserves fell by £20,771 to £174,249. He explained that, as last year, these Accounts have been reviewed by Bishops, and he was happy to recommend that we retain their services.

Expenses:- He went on to explain some of the expenses, whilst the £6776 in legal fees had already been covered by The Commodore, he said that some £6,200 was for the ladies changing rooms & some £5,981 in 'irrecoverable VAT'. The latter figure however included £712 from the previous year, £1355 in respect of the legal fees & £750 on Dock expenses.

VAT:- He explained that David Miller, representing the Trustees, & himself had reviewed the VAT situation thoroughly with Bishop's. After discussion & with Main Committee approval RCC has decided to make a lower claim of VAT on our expenses in future. He estimated that this decision may have an annual cost to RCC of around £3,000 per annum but that the team were looking at ways to reduce this but indicated that 'partial exemption' was complex.

Concluding remarks:- He was pleased to conclude again, that RCC is financially in a great condition and with good planning and investment, will have a very prosperous future. He explained that this was his final year as Treasurer, largely due to work pressures. He said that it had been a privilege to have been involved with RCC management & wished the club every success.

Richard Elsdon Thanked Paul for his efforts as our Treasurer since 2013, he had really brought RCC into the modern world with 'quik book' recording, monthly statements, and bringing his financial & business insight into RCC. He has provided our link to FBC as well as supporting our Sail Training, which we hope he will continue.

Matters arising :- Robert Marsh (RM) asked how insurance costs were allocated, Alan Slorick gave clear explanation which informed RM that Insurance Company supplies a break down which allows appropriate allocation across the club activities.

RM then asked how club subs were worked out, replies indicated they were largely historical, we looked at other local clubs. But RCC has only 2 income streams to fund WHOLE club activity but we largely preserve the dock income & expenditure as an independent stream.

David Barrow (DB) asked what major Capital Expenses were planned, MB explained that we were 3 years into a 10 year plan with, Ladies Changing Rooms, garage doors etc but looking

ahead in short term we had a Winch to completely refurbish & Flood protection to provide for dock equipment totalling around £15k. It was agreed to provide DB with a copy of 10 year plan.

Adoption of The Accounts:- Paul Ainsworth proposed that The Accounts for this Club Year, 2015, be adopted. Seconded by David Miller, carried by all members present, one abstained.

5: Election of 'Reporting Accountants':- Paul Ainsworth proposed that Bishops Chartered Accountants be elected Independent Reporting Accountants for the ensuing Club Year. Seconded by Mike Briers this was carried by the majority of members, with 1 abstention.

6:- Consideration of proposal to increase Club Subscriptions

Mike Briers (MJB) introduced the Main Committee's proposal to increase the annual subscriptions for membership of RCC. He explained that the members, as required under Club Rule (VI) 1 and (VII) 5 had all been notified of the proposal 14 days before this AGM. He reminded members that the Subscriptions may only be altered by a 2/3rds majority of the members present at this AGM. MJB asked the Trustees present to act as Tellers.

He then formally proposed the following increases to club subscriptions:- Family Membership to £100 (was £90), Ordinary Membership to £75 (was £64), Associate Membership to £30 & Out of Port Membership to £30 (both were £25). He explained that Junior membership would remain unchanged.

In support of the proposal Mike said that it was some 5 years since Membership subscriptions were changed, since that time annual inflation has increased the cost of purchases & services to RCC. In addition VAT refunds are now significantly lower (circa £6000). RCC is also having to pay for more outside services due to a reduction in 'volunteering' and expected next year some major expenses like repairs to the winch & flood protections at the dock. Currently RCC reserves were reduced, we had some £96k in bank but £60k is the agreed contingency & £11k the dock stage fund. He also stated that RCC was the cheapest club in the North West eg ordinary membership at B&FYC was £95, BLCC some £96, WLYC was £163/116, Southport SC some £135.

After some discussion the members voted in favour of the proposal with 47 members in favour, 8 against & 1 abstention. Mike thanked the members for their support.

7:- Election of Officers and Main Committee

The Hon. Secretary, **Mike Briers** (MJB), explained that as nominations matched the number of vacancies, he declared the following Officers duly elected.

Commodore:- Richard Blackburn, **Vice Commodore:-** Peter Bennet,

Rear Commodore:- Martin Oldroyd, **Hon. Secretary:-** Mike Briers, **Hon. Treasurer:-** David Miller.

MJB then informed the meeting that Mike Leman, Simon Redfearn, & Tony Robins were also duly elected to serve on Main Committee on your behalf joining Stuart Hodgkiss, & Andrew Walls who had one year left to serve. MJB also thanked Gary Woods who was stepping down after many years on Main Committee both as an Officer & Dock Chairman. Richard Sharp was also stepping down, MJB thanked them both for their input to committee discussions.

MJB continued by informing the members that there were several other non elected positions on Main Committee such as Social Secretary, Committee Chairmen etc which were filled by volunteers & MJB thanked them on behalf of the members for agreeing to undertake these roles. They are:- Past Commodore Richard Elsdon, Hon. Sailing Sec. tbd (post meeting note Peter Pollock stepped forward to take this role), Hon. Social Sec Pauline Betts, Hon. Membership Sec Richard Elsdon, Hon Communications Secretary Richard Hoad

Chairmen of Sub Committees:-

Sailing Committee Don Flannery, Development Committee Richard Blackburn

House Committee Richard Freeman, Dock Committee Keith Lawton, Training Rob Jarman.

There was a vacancy for Fabric Committee volunteers were needed for this role.

8: Investiture of New Commodore:-

Richard Elsdon commended the new Commodore Richard Blackburn with great pleasure & some relief. He explained that Richard was a long serving member of RCC, ever present on several

committees during recent years. He had done sterling work on various strategic issues with his business head on & goes out sailing most days in his Whammel come rain or shine. In fact he said the dinghy sailors used Richard as a decision maker re whether to sail or not, his tan red sails giving good guidance by their angle to the sea. Richard is also very active in the training group & ever willing to take novices for taster sessions. Finally he pointed out in being named Richard, as the 2 previous incumbents, he must conclude that RCC would be in good hands. At this he handed to our new Commodore his Flag, tie & tankard and the club applauded.

Richard Blackburn replied thanking the members for the honour of electing him to Commodore, and Richard Elsdon for the Compliments. He promised to do better than the original Richard the Third and avoid getting under car parks. He commended Richard Elsdon for his 3 long years at the helm of RCC. He was ever present despite working away most of the weeks, his commitment & support to RCC was exemplary. In addition to all these roles he found time to join the band of instructors in the Training group, The Club applauded as Richard B handed Richard E his Ex Commodore's flag and tie which was accepted with great relief.

9:-Approval of Document Signatories:-

It was formally proposed by Mike Briers (MJB), seconded by Allan Williams, that the Commodore, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretary, become the official signatories for Club documents and cheques. Cheques of £500 or below would require one signature only. Those above £500 would need 2 of the above signatories.

10:Development Committee Report :-

Richard Blackburn (RB) presented the Development Committee report, on behalf of Richard Freeman, He outlined the purpose of the Committee in considering ways of improving membership, enhancing club facilities & ensuring the sustainability of RCC for future generations. The Development Committee, he explained, investigated & analysed opportunities & needs, then reported the findings & recommendations to Main Committee for debate & decision. Main Committee itself used Development Committee to undertake specific analyses on critical issues. He described the principal tasks of Development committee over the year :-

Emergency exit & Disabled exits to clubhouse:- He was pleased to report that jointly with the Civic Society we had identified a 'win win' situation. An improved emergency exit can be provided in our west corner as part of their 'Sensory Garden' when that went ahead. With regard to Disabled Access, we had concluded, after taking professional advice, the only viable solution seems to be access at the west end over the dinghy tanks to the galley or an additional entrance by the pool table. There may be opportunities within the Civic Society plans to achieve this MJB & David Miller (DHM) would continue to press Civic Society re this opportunity.

Clubhouse rent: RB explained that the clubhouse which has a lease from FBC to 2037, currently has a rent set at £300 per annum which having run for the last 7 years was up for review this year. MJB had been very active supporting Bensteads of Lytham as they negotiated with FBC. A rent of £1600 had been agreed after a long negotiation, FBC started at a figure around twice that agreed, pointing out that the rent should have gone up to £1000 some 7 years previous FBC were adamant at getting a market rent for their property. Bensteads had to undertake 3 different valuations before finally agreeing with FBC at £1600 per annum. The recommendation to increase the rent was agreed in Committee by the Trustees.

Land Acquisition:- RB informed the members that extensive discussions had been held, with professional legal assistance, to explore the possibility of further land acquisition at the dock. It was however concluded that we were more likely to conclude this satisfactorily through informal negotiation. Richard Freeman thanked Richard Blackburn for his many hours work on this task.

Ladies Changing Rooms:- RB informed the members that a successful collaboration between Development, Sailing & Fabric Committee had considerably upgraded the ladies changing rooms over this club year.. It was hoped that the gents could see a similar improvement.

Membership Classes & fees: RB explained that it was in the Development Committee that the ground work had been undertaken to assist the Membership Secretary in review of membership

classes & subscriptions. As a result 'Transitional Membership' had been introduced and the revised memberships subscriptions proposed this evening developed.

Concluding remarks:- RB concluded on behalf of Richard Freeman by thanking the members of Development Committee for their efforts through the year & commended RB the new chairman

Matters arising:-

Andrew Baker requested more explanation asked about the Land Acquisition, RB explained that it was about land on the East Side of Main Drain & that both RCC and Wildfowlers have a conveyance allegedly giving title hence the difficulties experienced in the discussions.

Robert Marsh asked about 10 year plan, can members see it. RB assured him it will be available to members. It was however a 'rolling plan' continually reacting to issues and priorities, Development Committee always maintained a current one but will supply the latest version.

11:- Dock Committee report:-

Keith Lawton (KL) reported on behalf of the dock committee that several formal & informal working parties had been held constructing a number of new pontoons and tidying the Hard standing. New projects included a new garage door.

Trinity House:- KL informed the members that Trinity House had identified deficiencies in our marking & lighting & had issued a 'non-compliance notice' on RCC which required renewals to be completed in one year. The work would need to rebuild of most of the club perches & replacement of all the lights. All the materials were now purchased and work would commence asap.

Tractor:- Keith informed the members that the dock committee had decided to sell the tractor, it needed some costly repairs and in future hiring appropriate equipment was agreed as the way ahead. Keith also noted that in line with Main Committee policy safety awareness training had been carried out for both tractor and winch operation. He explained that only those trained were authorised to operate these equipment & that lists were maintained & available in the dock cabin.

Dock development meeting:- KL reported that a successful Dock Development meeting had been held jointly with the Development committee on 22nd January. This meeting had identified a number of facility & operational improvements, and a summary of these had been published along with considerations from the Dock Committee. He informed the members however that further improvements require careful consideration of the cost & more importantly the effort to implement and maintain them. He expressed concern that unless sufficient volunteers came forward to organise & maintain our facilities & operations then our 'self-help' model would be challenged with more work being done by professionals. This would of course impact on berthing fees.

Major items:- KL identified the following major items which would be commenced in the next club year, completion of winch refurbishment (a DIY refurbishment was now planned), tug plinth construction, access road resurfacing, foul drain works, & creek perch refurbishment.

Dock finances:- KL reviewed dock finances explaining that income from berthing fees of £28k balanced total expenditure of around £28k ex VAT. This spend was over budget due to back charges for unmetered electricity (see also para 15), & unplanned purchases to replace the creek marks. He thus noted a small surplus coming from the 'member joining fees of around £3k. He said however that next year would see increased expenditure due to both the impact of VAT changes and major items planned & it may be necessary to increase in berthing fees as a result.

Conclusion:- KL concluded by thanking on behalf of the members, the dock committee & volunteers who had given their time & effort through the club year in managing & maintaining the dock & its facilities. He said that this year a number of the more senior berth holders were wishing to reduce their involvement, and that the Dock Committee was always on the lookout for new volunteers especially from the younger berth holders. He announced that Harry Taylor was retiring as Berthing Officer & this role would be undertaken in future by Alan Betts.

Matters arising:- Ian McCreith asked about Tractor sale and how much would be raised ? He indicated that hire fees could be high & there could be 'proficiency issues' with RCC operators. He suggested it might be better to repair our old tractor. **KL** replied that Tractor needed lots of work, welding, & new tyres etc which was though not cost effective. He indicated that the sale might raise £5000 but that we could hire more appropriate equipment from Braithwaites on the few occasions we needed it.

Robert Marsh asked how many Dock working parties do you have to do to avoid the surcharge' ?.

KL informed him that the answer was 'enough'. He went on to explain that It varied from year to year & took into account peoples personal circumstances. He also expounded that there was a view that stating what the number was would actually result in less attendees at Working Parties as frequent attendees would stop.

12 Social Committee report:-

Mike Briers (MJB) reported on behalf of David Beach (DB) & the social/bar team. He explained that events had been run very much on an ad-hoc basis however the small team were successful in running the 2 major Commodore's evenings, The Housewarming & the Sherry Evening, but the Fitting Out & Laying Up Dinners were cancelled. Thanks to Pauline Betts 'post race buffets' had been held after each regatta, a new concept which provided an excellent backdrop to prize giving & post-race chatter. Friday evenings saw 'Quiz Nights' thanks to DB.

Tuesday Talks:- MJB reported that over the 2015 some 7 'Last Tuesday' talks had filled the club with 50/60 attendees. Topics covered in 2015 included Modern Coastguarding, Sailing to the End of the World, Lancaster Canal, Scotland by Land and Sea (a tribute to the late Ian Sims), Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, The Design & building of Wooden Boats, and finally a 'Skye Odyssey' Mike thanked all the club members who had really put themselves out to prepare & present these talks. He was pleased to announce that Clare Thorpe & James Boyce had been awarded the Culpin Trophy for the best talk in 2015.

Bar:- MJB reported on behalf of DB that an increase in bar takings from £5827 to £7258 gave a healthy profit of some £2936. This was swelled by an increase in Clubhouse hire revenue & income from Social events, all these combined to give a net income of £2600 to the clubhouse.

Concluding remarks:- MJB thanked everyone, on behalf of David Beach, for their support to the bar & social committee, but extended his plea from last year, members keep clubs running and RCC desperately needed volunteers for Social Committee & bar work. These were essential if RCC was to continue running a bar, a clubhouse & having social events as above. Looking ahead David was looking forward to Richard Freeman taking up the chair & Pauline Betts as social Secretary. A good start had been held this Autumn with 2 talks & 9 bookings for the club with circa £300 income. DB went on to remind members of the upcoming Social events, Commodore's Housewarming on 12th Dec & New Years Eve on 31st Dec

13 Sailing Committee report:-

Don Flannery (DF) reported on behalf of the Sailing Committee:- He noted that unlike 2014 which was the warmest summer on record, 2015 was subject to strong winds & flooding.

Cruiser sailing:- Due to this weather most cruisers remained on the hard however Graphix made it to St Kilda, Super Mouse cruising from Ardfarn, Andrew Baker cruised North Wales & Colin Bromage made it to PortPatrick. River sailing was also popular with several cruisers notable Cindy Lady, Andrew Walls in his Prawner, Mike Knotts's converted Enterprise & Richard B's Whammel.

Dinghy sailing:- DF noted that several early season race sessions were called off but several Saturday training sessions were held successfully. The June Regatta was mainly a dinghy affair but later in the year dinghy & cruisers were out for the September regatta. The Big Race & Trafalgar Race were quite successful where dinghy & cruisers were racing together.

Training:- DF noted that RCC was now a recognised RYA Training Centre able to run dinghy training course thanks to the dedication of the small training group. He also reported that RCC now had quite a fleet of training dinghies to allow this training.

Concluding remarks:- Don concluded by recording his personal sadness at the sudden loss of Bob Totten. Bob had run the race box himself for several years & will be a great loss to RCC & a hard act to follow. He then took the opportunity to thank all the members of the Sailing Committee for the dedication and effort. Finally Don was pleased to announce that as a result of the earlier appeals for help Peter Pollock had agreed to become Sailing Sec.

14 Training Committee:-

Rob Jarman (RJ) opened by commending Paul Ainsworth, he explained that only a few years ago we had welcomed Paul as our only RYA Senior Sailing Instructor. Since joining RCC he has worked tirelessly with the RYA & FBC to bring practical dinghy training back to RCC.

Despite stepping back now from active training his legacy continues as RCC now has 1 more Senior Sailing Instructor & 4 Dinghy Instructors.

RYA Certification:- RJ explained that the early part of 2015 was spent working with the RYA to achieve certification to offer practical dinghy training. Success meant that by May & June RCC was back giving RYA approved training again. He also highlighted that this success also brought many new members to RCC & their friends, anticipating that this will always be a feature of RCC.

Theory Courses:- RJ thanked Andrew Smith for once again running the RYA Theory Courses at RCC. His Day Skipper course is oversubscribed & it alone is bringing another group of faces into RCC membership. This success extends beyond training & 2 trainees are already active at the RCC dock bringing new enthusiasm & energy. He commented that RCC could offer RYA Radio course & First Aid if there was a demand, interested parties should contact him. He also noted the success of the 'Tractor' safety awareness course bringing a new 'care & sense' to operation of RCC machinery. He noted the strength of the Web site in publicising the training opportunities.

Try Sailing & river training:- RJ noted that many people were gratified to see the number of RCC boats out on Fairhaven & on the river during training events. RCC now has 2 safety boats to provide the necessary cover & coaching opportunities. He considered that setting this spectacle was the best advertising RCC could do.

Concluding remarks:- RJ concluded by thanking publicly the small number of volunteers who give unstinting amounts of their time to support all the training activities. This included not only the instructors & trainers but also those who prepared the boats and provided refreshment. He hoped their stamina would remain high & keep RCC at the top of its game in Training.

He thanked Main Committee for their support to Training, without the investment in training courses for members & training facilities & boats RCC would not have achieved such success. The investment he saw would enhance one of the main aims of RCC by encouraging safe & knowledgeable use of the Ribble.

Matters arising:- Ian McCreith asked if adverts for the various Training Course notably 1st Aid, could be posted in Dock Shed. RJ agreed to put up such notices but stressed that they were advertised in Clubhouse & on Web Site.

Brian Clarkson drew to the attention of The Training Committee the excellent training course run by Greg Norris & wondered if there was a benefit if RCC & Greg got together. After a discussion RJ agreed to consider the suggestion & see if there were any appropriate gaps in RCC capability.

15 Secretaries report:-

Mike Briers (MJB) opened his report by explaining that he will only try & capture those things others have not covered. .

Membership:- MJB confirmed that RCC membership was stable, 248 compared to 2015 at 252. Over the club year some 28 members were lost but 24 new members joined. MJB pointed out that these come mostly from our training initiatives, with about 25% cruiser owners seeking berths. We also had one 'Transitional' member who became an Ordinary member. MJB concluded that without 'Try Sailing' & our other training offerings, we would have seen a significant reduction in membership, more than 10%. At a recent RYA briefing we heard that in the NW club membership is generally increasing circa 8% with 16,000 members in 70 clubs but RCC's 'churn rate' at 8% is half the national. The RYA recommend the keys to membership are to make sailing easier plus Taster events, Training, facility investment & local marketing, most of which RCC is doing. .

MJB also welcomed Paul Little who as Chief Sector Officer of the Local Coastguard has been awarded Honorary Membership of RCC. This honour recognises the significant efforts that the local coastguards undertake on our behalf. MJB concluded membership by thanking Alan Betts on your behalf for his stalwart efforts as Membership Secretary over last 5 years. The Club applauded, MJB thanked Richard Elsdon who had agreed to undertake Membership Secretary

Fabric Committee:- MJB reported on behalf of the Fabric Committee, who have continued to undertake general clubhouse repairs & maintenance through the year. This year they had two major projects the garage has been enlarged by the installation of an electric panel door and lights and refurbishment of the ladies changing room. Looking ahead they noted that the Main Porch would need attention soon, On behalf of the members MJB thanked David Miller and the Stalwart members of The Fabric Committee for their sterling work,

Communications; MJB explained, on behalf of Richard Hoad, that this year has seen the website attracting even more visitors with an increase of about 20% in individual visitors and 30% increase in visits overall. The number of pages viewed has soared by 50%, the top five pages visited this year are the News, Weather, the Contact page, the Photo Gallery and then the Events page. Referrals to our site are mainly from Isacrewnews.org.uk which is actually the RNLI website for St Annes. Incredible! Other top referrals are from RYA sites, Sailing Links uk, Yachts and Yachting and now from Facebook! 90% of users are using Google to find us. Many, many thanks to Richard Hoad & Clive Openshaw for keeping our web site & computer systems humming

Secretarial Challenges this year:-

Electricity Suppliers:-MJB explained that he had taken on both our Electricity suppliers. He got a £16k bill cancelled at clubhouse &, after resolving unread meters at the dock, got a £4600 refund because it had mostly been unbilled. Without this refund the dock would not have had a surplus.

Insurance Revaluation:- MJB thanked Alan Slorick who organises RCC insurance. This year RCC valuations have been updated to the following:- Clubhouse now £455,000, Dock Garage £35,000, Dock Fence £50,000. The insurance costs are now:- RYA Combined Policy £2,762 up £400 reflecting increased valuations Legal Protection £48 and Engineering Inspection £230.

HM Coastguard:-MJB informed members that since Liverpool Coastguard was now closed;- . Paul Little briefed RCC in January that 'Holyhead Coastguard will be responsible for the Coastal areas south of us & up to the Esk in Cumbria. 'Belfast Coastguard' will be responsible for the area around the IOM and the rest of the Irish Sea. Emergency calls to 999 continue as before.

RYA :- Cruising & Legal DHM & MJB attended an excellent RYA briefing by Gus Lewis & Stuart Carruthers at Blundell Sands in Oct . The RYA are very active with government & regulatory bodies, MJB highlighted some of the topics & issues

Trailers:- As part of general legislation The RYA spotted a line which would require an MOT for all trailers. After lobbying this was quashed by them.

On Flares the RYA are trying to remove the requirement to carry Parachute flares, on grounds of safety & disposal. Smoke flares are still recommended but alternatives are actively being sought . .

New buoyancy aid standards are coming out to improve safety & comfort,

Marine Navigation Bill has been passed as a Private Members Bill, this will give Port Authorities autonomous with more powers to make local bye laws. It will undoubtedly impact more & more Ports around UK, the RYA have a watching brief & there have already been conflicts!!

Marine Conservation Zones:- Tranche 1 now in place with 2 deep zones off shore in NW. Tranche 2 & 3 currently being debated, this legislation covers policy for sea bed & all aspects of sea & coast covering mooring, anchoring sailing everything !!!

Wind Farms, The RYA is very active, working behind the scenes, in the future wind turbines are seen to be less in number but bigger & further apart !! In the NW Rhiannon Field will not go ahead from Anglesey to Isle of Man due to geological problems !!!! Stuart Carruthers from RYA was very supportive of RCC's view put by David Miller that Navigation Lights around wind farms should be more noticeable & will take that up with Trinity House.

RYA North West Club Conference:- RME, DHM, & MJB attended this conference one of several being run round UK. The Conference welcomed the new National RYA chairman Dave Williamson. MJB explained that Dave is well known, he has been training in NW for many years and will be the first ever chairman from the NW. The club conference brought RYA officials up from the South along with colleagues from the RYA NW and reps from clubs in the NW. The objective was for the RYA team to get better connected to The Clubs and promote the support and services offered by RYA to affiliated clubs. MJB reminded the members that as 'Affiliated RYA members' they could go on RYA website & on club section type in club name & password which is 566316. This would give them access for instance to:- Information & advice from taxation to legal & facility design, benefits like boat & club insurance, safety boat packages, promotional material as well as RYA newsletters, racing services, training & development, coaching support, cruising & legal services, and membership services.

Mike concluded by thanking everyone for coming & supporting this AGM.

16:- AOB:- There was no AOB

Mike Briers

18th November 2016