



# Ribble Cruising Club



## Main Committee Meeting Minutes

Agreed Minutes of Main Committee meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

### Those Present:

Richard Blackburn (RB),  
Keith Lawton (KL)  
Tony Walker (JDAW)  
Mike Briers (MJB)

Rob Jarman (RJ),  
Richard Freeman (RF)  
David Miller (DHM)  
Martin Oldroyd (MKO)

Richard Elsdon (RE),  
Don Flannery (DF)  
Peter Benett (PB),  
Tony Robins (TR)

Item	Action
1.0 <b><u>Apologies</u></b> Alan Betts, Pauline Betts, Peter Pollock, Martin Oldroyd, Andrew Walls, Allan Williams, Stuart Hodgkiss, Richard Hoad.	
2.0 <b><u>Minutes</u></b> MB agreed to add Tony Robins to 'apologies' otherwise Draft 2 of the minutes of the Main Committee meeting held on 5 <sup>th</sup> September were agreed, proposed by JDAW & seconded by RJ	
3.0 <b><u>Matters arising</u></b>	
3.1 There is still no response from FBC to Bensteads regarding the lease extension, MB agreed to pursue this matter.	
3.2 Re Civic Society, MJB reported that he had attended a coffee morning and informed Civic Soc. of our view & budget limitations. After discussion Civic Society informed us that if RCC wanted a gate & 'screen' we will have to provide it, current thinking is to make brick wall higher & more decorative & add an arched emergency gate, we await contact from Architect,	
3.3 RB reported that Car Park wardens employed by FBC continued to check on cars and post warning stickers, but noted that cars with stickers were also being issued with a warning.	
4.0 <b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	
4.1 MB reported circulation of RYA Cruising News which included excellent articles on Piracy & new LED navigation lights.	
4.2 RYA NW have informed local clubs of a major theft of outboards & other club equipment from Glossop SC. MC discussed need for additional security equipment, a way ahead was agreed and Dev Comm. would pursue matter .	
4.3 MB reported that a safety bulletin had been received from RYA, 2 major concerns were identified, runaway boats with no 'Kill Cords' & ineffective lifelines. It was agreed MB would try & get some posters to highlight these lessons, safety bulletin should be put on web site & sailing and training groups agreed to review their arrangements (see item 7).	
4.4 MB informed MC that the RYA NW had organised another 'RYA Affiliate Club Conference' on 29 <sup>th</sup> October, it was agreed that RE, RJ & RB should go.	
4.5 MB reminded MC of the RYA NW Cruiser Forum, talk on 8 <sup>th</sup> November by Tom Cunliffe	
4.6 MB reported that the RYA NW was organising another 'Cruiser Forum' on 30 <sup>th</sup> November. MB & DHM went to last it was a worthwhile event, MB would circulate advertising.	
4.7 MB informed MC that The RYA AGM was to be held on 18 Nov, RCC attendance unlikely	
4.8 MB reported a request from RYA re 'Club of Year', a nil return was agreed.	
4.9 MB tabled a letter from Robert Marsh (RM) received that day. MC noted the thanks from RM for their efforts but he also raised issue with lack of MC minutes on web site. MB apologised & would resolve this with RH. Finally RM raised a long standing issue re dock fees, MC had already responded to RM re this suggestion, informing him that MC would not enter into further correspondence on the matter	



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therefore MC agreed to remain silent on this latest letter as well.

### 5.0 **Treasurer's Report**

The September 'Treasurer's report' had not been circulated prior to meeting (*post meeting note this was circulated to MC on 10<sup>th</sup> October by e-mail*). DM reported an overall balance of around £100,000 and indicated a small overall surplus on club year

### 6.0 **Sailing Report**

- 6.1 DF opened by commenting that Sail Training on Fairhaven finished mid June, but we continued to introduce sailing on the river for people who decided to join the club. We have in fact not sailed on the lake since the end of June and all the Club Boats are now in the Club Tanks
- 6.2 DF reported that the Big Race had been held on 18<sup>th</sup> September and although there was little wind a successful event was held with our Commodore achieving line honours. It was noted that a temporary race mark was successfully employed to suit cruisers & weather conditions
- 6.3 DF reported that the Autumn Series had attracted some 6 dinghies but little wind again. The cruiser fleet went off down-tide.
- 6.4 DF reported that the toe board repairs were ongoing and further jetty repairs were required, he would inform FBC.
- 6.5 DF reminded MC that the Trafalgar Race would be held on 16<sup>th</sup> October.
- 6.6 DF reported Martin Knott (MK) had recently won a Phantom Open Meeting and come 15<sup>th</sup> in their National Championship, a creditable achievement in a competitive class.

### 7.0 **Training Report**

- 7.1 RJ reported that the 'instructor group' had now all been vetted by the DBS (Disqualification & Barring Service) in line with the requirement from the recent RYA inspection. RJ reported that a meeting was planned with Alan Jones from RYA soon, RB & RJ would represent RCC.
- 7.2 RJ reported that Coastal Skipper & Yachtmaster Offshore theory training had now commenced with Andrew Smith instructing. RJ reported that 4 of last year's Day Skipper students had returned for this course with 5 other club members attending, making 9 in total, excellent.
- 7.3 RJ reported continued success with Saturday Training sessions on river. Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> was reported as ideal for such training, and in particular noted that the use of 2 safety boats allowed one to be employed simultaneously to provide 'coaching' afloat.
- 7.4 RJ reported that shore-based training would continue at RCC this winter, with 1<sup>st</sup> Aid & SRC Radio course, but was having some issues confirming instructor availability. It was noted that several of RCC team needed 1<sup>st</sup> Aid & they would be given priority on course attendance.
- 7.5 RJ noted the RYA safety bulletin and would review RCC practice re Kill Cords & other matters. It was noted that the 8hp outboard was using rather a long Kill Cord.

### 8.0 **Dock Report**

- 8.1 KL reported on 20<sup>th</sup> September meeting, noting that it was their 1<sup>st</sup> since April. KL informed MC that a Letter from Trinity house received following inspection of marks. All was well with our lights except that one light was extinguished.
- 8.2 On maintenance KL reported that an electrical fault on the dock yard supply has caused damage to the distribution box. This has been repaired. The cause was traced to a wiring fault under the concrete, further works and expenditure will be required to replace the cable. The work party dates for the winter have been fixed and notices displayed & timber for two new pontoons has been ordered.  
He also noted that 3 creek perches (one lit) still require replacement and several pontoons in the main drain (Liggard end) are now damaged and unusable due to the changes in the channel. These are to be made secure but will be left unrepaired and unused until we have clarity on the proposed dredging works by the Environment Agency.



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- The trees around the entrance need removing, a contractor will be hired.
- 8.3 KL reported following progress on Capital Projects:-  
Garage storage. Materials to raise the cupboards have been ordered. Replacement cupboards are being sought, once complete, tug storage in the garage will be resolved.  
Over the summer little progress had been achieved on the new trailer, road resurfacing, drains rebuild or winch replacement.
- 8.4 KL reported that the Dock Committee had, without conclusion, discussed Berthing and whether there was a need to maintain a waiting list. This will be discussed at next meeting together with berthing fee increase strategy. KL indicated that as there are more boats than berths, may be worth considering separate charging for storage and berthing. MC discussed the matter concluding that a separate fee structure for Berthing or Storage was a good idea. MC indicated a need for a transparent fee structure with incentives. It was also noted that there were some sensitivities particularly around “long term-storers” who thought that they were entitled to claim a berth. It was noted that Dock Fees do need to increase this year as well, as a rise was postponed last year. It was agreed that Dev Comm. would consider these issues as well & report to KL.
- 8.5 KL reported a recent break-in which had caused damage to Cabin. Dock Committee were introducing additional security measures.
- 8.6 With regard to the Environmental Agency proposed Main Drain Works KL reported that no further correspondence has been received. However a method of providing temporary stern buoys will be considered to limit chain damage during dredging. It was thought that a barge would be utilised to remove spoil as there was no real access to the dredging area. KL will write again to The Environmental Agency reminding them of the need to liaise with RCC & also express concern over their ‘rights to navigation’.
- 8.7 MJB reported making some progress with debtors.  
John Bosson’s family have now joined RCC, & agreed to pay outstanding berthing. MB asked KL to confirm that RCC had billed them for berthing 2016/7 with no surcharge. MB confirmed that no further action was to be taken with Mr Theobald.  
Seamus Devine - he confirmed that Seamus had signed for ‘recorded delivery’ re: RCC demands but without a reply to MJB. MJB proposed to visit Seamus in Warrington to see if everything was OK with him, but also draft a follow-up letter using RYA advice.  
It was agreed that ‘boat impoundment’ would only be used in extremis.  
KL is in contact with Eric Whitworth & is hoping to resolve the debt by selling the cradle. .
- 8.8 MJB asked if ‘temporary berthing fees were being applied to the new Transitional Member, Mr Geoff Gorman, who had bought Douglas Robin from Andrew Baker.
- 8.9 KL expressed some concerns about the use of personal electrical equipment in the dock shed & cabin. He was thinking of asking that they all be removed. DHM said that he thought PAT testing may be a way forward & Colin Harper may be able to do the test.
- 8.10 There was some discussion about the ‘new winch’; KL said that work would restart now that everyone was back in harness.  
It was agreed that the new winch would be treated as a ‘capital’ expense since it was fully depreciated & the work was a complete renewal of most of the components.
- 9.0 **Fabric Committee**
- 9.1 There was no Fabric report but DHM mentioned the crack in the sea wall which would be taken up with FBC (post meeting note MJB has noted FBC are repairing sea wall up in St Annes). The flickering light in the ladies changing room was still under investigation.
- 9.2 Race box access was still an active item & needed progressing, action Dev Comm.
- 10.0 **Social Report**
- 10.1 RF confirmed that RCC had lost its booking for the Laying Up Supper at The Glendower Hotel & the event was to be cancelled.  
Pauline Betts was organising a small informal alternative Dinner probably at Lorenzo’s in



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- 10.2 Freckleton. (Post meeting note she has now circulated an invite with details)  
RF thanked RCC & members for the donation to RNLI collected at the recent Tuesday Talk by Derek Sheppard. This donation would go towards the new lifeboat at Lytham St Annes.
- 10.3 MB reported he now has 6 more talks in place, Oct & Nov 2016, Jan & Feb, Mar & April 2017 . In March a talk on the history of Wyre & the Port of Poulton was now arranged.  
MC thanked MJB for his efforts arranging these talks.  
MJB indicated he was actively looking for a 'successor', however thoughts now were on next winter in order to get them into Handbook in New Year. Ideas ranged from Bluebird to possible Northern Olympic champions, he would approach Graham Knox at Hollingworth re possibility of McGovern brothers & Stuart Bithell coming.
- 11.0 **Development Committee**
- 11.1 RB reported on a Dev Comm meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. most of the matters had already been discussed. He mentioned that the RYA were keen to come to RCC & discuss the latest membership survey, this would be arranged
- 11.2 RB handed over to MJB to review preparations for next AGM:-  
MB explained that the key AGM key issue were to agree rules changes to introduce Student Membership, confirm the fee to be proposed for Student membership, confirm AGM format, & review progress on assembling a team for 2017:-  
**Rules Changes:-** MB tabled a draft letter which proposed 3 separate rules changes to introduce Student Membership & revise the Junior Membership age. MC agreed to the content of this proposed rules change, presented at end of these minutes but asked MB to put them together as one proposal. They are all interlinked & should not be taken independently.  
The content of the rules change agreed by MC was as follows:-
- Student Membership be offered from age 18 to 25
  - Student members will have no share in the property of The Club and no entry fee shall be payable, consistent with Junior Membership and Associate Membership. .
  - Student members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.
  - Agrees that Junior Membership be for young people under 18 and that the following sentence be added to the end of paragraph 8 consistent with Student Membership:- *Junior Members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.*
- Student Membership Fees:-** MC confirmed a previous agreement that Student Membership be £30 per annum consistent with Associate Membership.
- AGM format:-** MC agreed to continue the AGM in the format as previous years with the business off the meeting first before the break followed by reports from Sub Committees.
- RCC team for 2017:-** MB was pleased to propose that RB would continue as Commodore in 2017, explaining that Peter Benett our Vice Commodore would prefer not to step up to Commodore this year. Proposals for other Officers were well received, MB & RB would approach them. Looking to MC itself MB expressed a suggestion that we try & get new members in, Stuart Hodgkiss, Andrew Walls, K Lawton & Alan Betts would retire this year. MC agreed with the ideas presented RB & MJB would approach the candidates suggested.  
There was some discussion re the need to elect Sub Committee Chairmen, MJB reminded MC that the rules state that several Officers & Chairmen are appointed by MC but not elected. He also explained that at each AGM he announces these 'non-elected' posts to the members particularly to allow any objection. It was agreed that it was the job of Main Committee in managing RCC to appoint these personnel and at the first Main Committee after the AGM MC should ratify these non-elected appointments.

## 12.0 Communications



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RH reported some website issues but that the new Web Site was almost ready, trials were underway.

### 13.0 **Membership**

13.1 The following membership application was approved unanimously:

Richard Johnson's application for Family Membership, proposed by Jeanette Richardson and seconded by Rob Jarman. The introduction letter informed MC that they were keen sailors, liked outdoor pursuits & were Scouters. .

13.2 MB noted that Geoff Gorman had been granted 'Transitional Membership' in September as he had just bought 'Douglas Robin' from Andrew Baker. MB said that Geoff may join RCC, when he came to RCC he was most surprised by our facilities & welcome, largely down to Andrew who clearly explained that berthing was not a right & Geoff would have to apply if he wanted to stay, see item 8.8 re temporary berthing fees.

13.3 Re Lazy Bones it was noted that the potential sale to Dennis Lowe had not gone through.

### 14.0 **AOB**

14.1 Don Flannery noted that Chris Miller had passed away.

Chris latterly ran Preston Marina and had been a great supporter of all things sailing in North West. MC expressed their condolences to David, his younger brother MB said he had written to Chris's widow & the family on behalf of RCC expressing our condolences.

14.2 DF reminded MC that new members should be expressly invited to our Christmas Party & Commodore's Housewarming, RME & RB noted this.

Next meeting Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Prepared by Mike Briers 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016





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Attachment Draft 1 of **RULES CHANGE PROPOSAL**

**This is Rules Change Proposal tabled at 3<sup>rd</sup> October Main Committee meeting**

### **Proposal 1**

--- It is proposed by your Main Committee that in Rule (IV) a new paragraph 8 be added, with the words presented below:-

*--- Student Membership is available to persons over the age of 18 but under the age of 25 who are in full time education or full time training. Each Adult Student Member shall have no vote at any **General Meeting**, nor any share in the property of The Club and no entry fee shall be payable. Student members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.*

### **Proposal 2**

--- It is proposed by your Main Committee that the current paragraph 8 of Rule (IV) be renumbered paragraph 9 . In addition the following other changes are proposed:-

--- It is proposed that in line 1, the words '**and under 21**' be deleted, & replaced by '**and under 18**'

--- It is proposed that the following sentence be added to the end of paragraph 8:-

*Junior Members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club & use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.*

Thus Rule (IV) Paragraph 9 will then read :-

*9. Junior membership is open to persons between the ages of 13 and under 18. The mode of election and nomination shall be as hereinbefore provided except that the written nomination of a Junior Member under 18 must be endorsed by a Parent or Guardian, with permission to sail. A Junior Member shall not vote on any matter relating to the Club nor have any share in the property of the club. No entry fee shall be payable. Junior Members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.*

### **Proposal 3**

It is proposed by your Main Committee that in Rule IV the current paragraphs 9 to 16 be renumbered in sequence 10 to 17, thus paragraph 9 will become 10, through to paragraph 16 becoming 17.