



AGREED MINUTES OF MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th DEC 2015

Present: Richard Blackburn (RB), Mike Briers (MB), Paul Ainsworth (PA), Andrew Walls (AWa), Don Flannery (DF), Richard Hoad (RH), David Miller (DM), Allan Williams (AWi), Keith Lawton (KL), Peter Benett (PB), Richard Freeman (RF), Tony Robins (TR), Rob Jarman (RJ), Mike Leman (ML), Richard Elsdon (RE).

Apologies: Tony Walker (TW), Stuart Hodgkiss (SH), Pauline Betts (PB), Simon Redfearn (SR)

Opening Remarks: The Commodore welcomed everyone to the 1st meeting of RCC Main Committee for the new season, especially new Officers, Peter Bennet, Martin Oldroyd & David Miller, and members, Simon Redfearn, Mike Leman & Peter Pollock. The Commodore pointed out that, as Martin Oldroyd had been elected Rear Commodore, there was a vacancy on Main Committee for a member to serve for 1 year. The Commodore proposed that Alan Betts be invited to fill that vacancy, This would improve the Dock representation on Main Committee & give AB as Berthing Master an important insight into membership status. This proposal was passed unanimously by Main Committee. RB agreed to keep in touch with Mike Lynch with regard to co-opting him in the future.

1.0 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were agreed. Proposed by MB and seconded by AW.

2.0 Matters arising

2.1 RB commended to Main Committee Richard Elsdon for 3 excellent years in the chair at RCC.

2.2 Clubhouse rent negotiations; MB formalised the e-mail proposal that RCC accept the last FBC offer that the ground rent for the Clubhouse increase to £1600 per annum, this was confirmed unanimously. Bensteads have informed FBC of our agreement & a 'Rent Memorandum' is being prepared for both parties to sign. MB suggest that in setting budgets & allocating costs to each RCC activity that £1000 of this expense be ascribed to Clubhouse & £600 ascribed to sailing. The Sailing Committee have already agreed to increase boat parking to £50 to recover some of this cost & House Committee agreed to review clubhouse rents.

2.3 RYA Briefing: MB and DHM attended an excellent RYA briefing, 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. MB reminded MC that to gain access to these services Affiliated Club members go on RYA website & on club section, type in club name & password which is 566316. RH will put this in the member's area of our website. This gives access for instance to:- Information & advice, Affiliation Benefits, Promotion & Communications, Racing Services, Training & Development, Coaching & Support, Cruising & Legal Services, Club management, Safety, Regulation, Planning & Environmental services, safeguarding, & membership services

2.4 Fylde award: RB reported that RCC had been awarded the Fylde Community Club of Year 2015 at a recent event, pictures were in LSA Express. This resulted in RCC being entered in the Lancashire Award but this honour went to a Hockey Club.

2.5 Club Handbook: RME reminded everyone that in January we will have to actively prepare inputs to Club Handbook. Draft programme was underway & Harry Taylor was reviewing the Boat List, RE would put out an action plan to remind everyone of their actions. MB informed MC that the RYA recommended that the behaviour & conduct of members was best managed by appropriate 'codes of conduct'. MB suggested that in the 1st instance RCC Bye Laws be amended to refer to these possible 'codes of conduct' which could be developed for each element of RCC activity, see item 11.

2.6 RCC Subscription notice: RME to put out RCC subs notice between Christmas and New Year. With this mailing a Log will be prepared, all to note, inputs required by 20th December.

3.0 Correspondence

3.1 MB reported that: the latest RYA had issued a 'Blunt warning' on use of portable generators on boats, it was agreed that we should extend this to our dock.

3.2 RYA Affiliation details, MB reported that he had removed Paul Ainsworth and added DHM.

3.3 Other RYA e-mails: Xmas gift ideas and RYA 'In Brief'.

3.4

Bob Totten: A letter has been received from Christine Totten thanking RCC for all their help and assistance.

3.5

Robert Marsh: MB tabled a letter from Robert Marsh (RM), the content of the letter was reviewed, after much discussion MB was instructed to reply to RM in the following terms :-

-- Remind RM that management of RCC is delegated by the members to the Main Committee.

--- Correct misunderstanding of recent RCC legal costs which were £6776+vat as reported in The Accounts.

– Inform him that the timeline he requested will not be circulated to the members. It was prepared under 'attorney client privilege' for the use & information of Main Committee members only.

– Thank him for his thoughts re subscription fees & dock fees, confirm that these have been raised with MC members who could if they agree raise them if they wish in future discussion but MC has no wish to pursue them.

--- Also confirm that RCC MC has no wish to enter into a dialogue with RM on such matters in the future and consider the Disciplinary matter concluded last year, & the topics raised by RM in his letter 4th Dec 2015 closed.

3.6 FBC letter re rate relief:- A letter from FBC re RCC charitable status & rules was passed to DHM for reply.

4.0 AGM

RB indicated that in overall terms this year's AGM had been a good meeting, with average attendance, some 55 members, with no real issues raised. A new committee had been elected with some new faces (Messrs Leman, Pollock, & Redfearn), the subs increase had been approved by a majority of members, and the Disciplinary Matter managed through 2015 recognised and its associated costs approved. MB reported that some feedback from several members indicate Top table may seem, dogmatic, set in its ways & unwilling to accept criticism. MC did not concur with this view thinking that it was actually a minority view but it should be borne in mind for future AGM's MB circulated a note with the key issues raised, see attachment.

5.0 Treasurer's report

5.1 Bank Signatories:- DM reported he was making progress re changing the signatories re RCC banking. Once this has been accomplished he was proposing to review RCC bank accounts in particular the Natwest & Scottish Widows accounts.

5.2 Bank Balances & expenses in November: DM circulated a report prepared by PA, this identified that RCC's total bank balance was £81274.37 & detailed RCC expenses in Nov which totalled some £6700, these were reviewed and approved by MC.

5.3 Budgets & VAT: DHM requested that each sub-committee prepare a draft budget covering its income & expenditure for the forthcoming club year. These should be submitted ASAP. There was a discussion on how we should view VAT in these budgets, it was agreed that they should include VAT.

6.0 Sailing Committee Report

6.1 DF reported that the Winter Series race was cancelled on 15th Nov, but a successful working party was held in the dinghy tanks on the 14th Nov, general tidying up was completed and loose rendering on the garage walls removed. The Last sailing events for 2015 will be Eskimo Race at FBC and the Annual Christmas Cruise on 28th Dec.

6.2: RCC have identified some issues on the jetty structure which were a major concern, FBC have been contacted by RH & DF.

6.3 Tasks already identified for next year include, studding the garage wall, improving drainage across garage door, ODM issues.

6.4 MBSA AGM was attended in November,

6.5 DF reported that most of current sailing committee had agreed to continue with a new member, John Gallagher, joining.

6.6:- Dinghy Parking Fees:- It was agreed that dinghy parking fees would be increased to £75 per space per annum, discounted to £50 if working parties were attended. It was agreed that following 'dock practice' dinghy owners should be informed of the 'surcharge' but no surcharge would be applied in the first year until a record of attendance at working parties was established.

6.7: Race Officers, with the loss of BT it was agreed that extra help will be required in the race box. Several volunteers have offered to help plus appropriate training will be organised before the season starts.

6.8:- A draft sailing programme was already in circulation for 2016, and a Training Programme will be discussed at the next sailing committee meeting.

7.0 Training Report

7.1 Fairhaven development: RJ reported that RB, RME, & himself had met FBC, Ian Brookes, along with representatives of the Sea Scouts, FBC are developing a 'wish list' for the shed & possible dinghy park. RCC & Sea Scouts are requested to develop an input which will allow them to scope costs & seek funding.

7.2 FBC Community award:- A small select group attended the award ceremony for the FBC Community Club of the year. RME & RJ also attended the Lancashire Sports Awards on behalf of RCC. RJ reported both evenings were a pleasure to attend & be 'lauded' plus we have a 'Glass Memento' & 2 framed certificates to record our success.

7.3 Powerboat 2 training:- Over the winter a Power Boat level 2 course is planned to increase our team of qualified safety boat drivers, this will be run by Alan Jones from the RYA at B&FYC. Race Officer training is planned to expand our cadre of Race Officers following the loss of Bob Totten. RJ reported that The Training Committee's next job was to plan the training for 2016.

7.4 Corporate Branding:- RJ reported that The Training Committee was considering a 'corporate branding' exercise which could result in Fleeces Clothing being available with RCC & RYA training logos

8.0 Dock report

KL reported from a Dock meeting convened on Tuesday 10th November:-

8.1: Dock Working Party:- The main item was planning for dock WP on 15th at which approx. 45 – 50 people attended. Poor weather meant an early finish, but reasonable amount of work achieved including continued refurbishment and new build of pontoons, old pontoon dismantling, assembly of new top marks, walkway battening & a general tidy up all round.

8.2 Other items:- KL reported no progress on the plinth. The proposed contractor has been injured. SB has identified a possible alternative. AB is in contact with DVLA to try and get replacement V5 which may improve our ability to sell the tractor. Re the

purchase of a trailer, they are still looking for a suitable item as a possible item was no longer for sale. The Creek Topmarks have been assembled. Rebuilding the perches will commence as tide allows.

8.3 Winch Replacement: KL reported this was still ongoing, but a decision has been made to get frame construction plans drawn up by structural engineer.

8.4 Budget:- Dock Committee confirmed that they have noted request from Main Committee to reconsider berthing fees for next year. This will be considered when dock budget is finalised.

8.5 Dock committee changes:- Alan Betts is now confirmed as berthing officer, Jon Keaskin is joining the dock committee & Garry Woods is retiring. Other new members being sought

9.0 Fabric report

9.1 DM reported that 2 prices had been obtained to 'dry line' the walls in the garage & to do the drain, quotes range from £850 to £1250. There was some discussion re the need for a 'bucket drain', this was agreed, MC authorised DHM to go ahead & instruct the reasonable quote to go ahead but include the 'bucket drain'.

9.2 DM reported that the carpet will be cleaned after Christmas.

9.3 It was agreed that DM would sell off the surplus slide projector but would wait until mar to sell the overhead projector as it may be needed for Feb's Tuesday Talk

9.4 The Trophy Case & bookcase would be included in the 2016 budget, MB requested that they also consider recovering a few more chairs.

10.0 Social report

10.1 RF reported that looking ahead it was hoped to pull together a new & bigger group for the Social Committee allowing the team to be split into teams to lead events. Looking ahead there will be a Christmas Party & Housewarming on 12th Dec, an informal catered New Year's Eve event, and Andrew Baker is organising the Christmas cruise on Monday 28th December. In 2016 a Traditional Burns night will be held on 30th January 2016 & The Sherry Evening is already planned for Sat 12th March.

10.2 RF reported that he was working with a small group to get some 'junior & Family' events planned.

10.3 MB reported that the November talk, Chris Tattersall Skye and back in 1970 in his Dad's Eventide, was extremely well supported again with many old friends coming back into RCC again.

11.0 Development Committee

11.1:- RB reported that Dev Comm had not yet had a meeting but would start 20th January. Dev Comm would be looking at updating the 10 year plan and requested inputs from each sub committee. Other topics to be considered include land acquisition & an informal approach direct to the Wildfowler was envisaged.

11.2 MB informed MC that the RYA recommended that the behaviour & conduct of members was best managed by appropriate 'codes of conduct'. It was hoped that common wording could be developed RJ agreed to circulate wording that had already been developed to manage the RCC Training activity. MB suggested also that 1st instance RCC Bye Laws for the handbook be amended to refer to these possible 'codes of conduct' which could be developed for each element of RCC activity.

11.3:- MB suggested that Dev Comm also review our approach to legal costs, should we insure against such costs or should we consider affiliation to CIU or similar organisation.

12 Communication report

RH reported that the web site was up to date. With regard to the suggestion that the club consider having a Facebook page however RH reported it was complicated. It would need a 'private page', and a moderator to manage it, we should seek a youngster to help us.

12.0 Membership report

RE reported that there was 1 resignation, Peter Sanderson & 5 new members to consider:-

Edward Russell is proposed for Junior Membership by MB seconded by DF. Ed is already a member of SWSC a keen & competent RS200 sailor, his application was passed unanimously

Rebecca Cole, is a friend of Ed Russell, & is proposed for Junior membership by Andy Jones, seconded by Peter Pollock. She is also a member of SWSC, and a keen & competent dinghy sailor, her application was passed unanimously

Andrew & Elizabeth Libberton are proposed for Family membership by RJ, seconded by AWa. They have been on our Day Skipper course, sailed mostly in Greece, but are keen to develop their skills in UK. Their application was passed unanimously

Peter & Sarah Hardman are proposed by AWa, seconded by Mike Lynch, they have been friends of AWa for over 40 years.

Currently their Sadler 32 is in Freckleton Creek and are hoping to berth in our dock, their application was passed unanimously.

David Menzies is proposed for Ordinary membership by Ricky Lowcock, seconded by AWa. He has purchased Calisay, a Westerly Nomad, and has been on our Day Skipper course. He is now known by Dock Committee and several dock members, his application was passed unanimously.

13 Any other business

13.1 RME is to circulate a set of letterheads & document formats for RCC general use, RB will copy some A4 in the interim.

Issues raised & Resolutions passed during RCC's 2015 AGM

1 Treasure's Report

- a) RM asked how insurance costs were allocated, Alan Slorick gave clear explanation which told RM that Insurance Company supplies a break down which allows appropriate allocation
- b) RM 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 recognise Dock actively preserves it's independence.
- C) David Barrow asked what major Capital Expenses were planned, We said 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. We agreed to provide David with a copy of 10 year plan, MJB 1/12/15

2 Subscriptions.

MJB proposed club subs increased to, Fam= £100, Ord=£75 & Ass + OOP =£30, club members agreed by 47 votes to 8 against with 1 abstention.

3 Dev Comm:-

- a) Andrew Baker asked about the Land Acquisition issue, RB explained that it was about the land on the East Side of Main Drain & that both RCC and Wildfowlers have a conveyance allegedly giving title hence dispute.
- b) RM asked again about 10 year plan, can members see it, we assured him it will be available to members but before that Dev Comm will have to update it.

4 Dock Committee: In Keiths report berth holder's were informed that 'Next year will likely see increased expenditure due to changes to the clubs VAT status and increase spend on maintenance and it may be necessary to consider an increase in berthing fees, which have not seen an increase for several years'. Issues raised include:-

- a) Ian McCreath asked about Tractor sale, 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, sale might raise £5000. KL indicated we could hire more appropriate equipment from Braithwaites on the few occasions we needed it.
- B) RM asked ' How many Dock working parties do you have to do to avoid the surcharge' ?. He was told that the answer was 'enough'. It varied from year to year & took into account peoples personal circumstances, there was a view that stating what the number was would actually result in less attendees at Working Parties as frequent attendees would stop????

6: Sailing Committee :- It was announced that as a result of the appeal for volunteers Peter Pollock had agreed to be Sailing Secretary.

7:- Training Committee:-

- a) Ian McCreath 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.
- B) B 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 Greg could fill.

M J Briers 3rd December 2015