



AGREED MINUTES OF MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2016

Present: Richard Blackburn (RB), Mike Briers (MB), Andrew Walls (AWa), 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), Martin Oldroyd (MO), Simon Redfearn (SR), Pauline Betts (PB), Alan Betts (AB) .

Apologies: Tony Walker (TW), Stuart Hodgkiss (SH), Don Flannery (DF), Peter Pollock (PP)

1.0 Minutes

It was agreed to correct a minor error in the minutes of the December meeting, para 6.1 FBC changed to B&FYC. 2 changes were proposed to the draft minutes of the January meeting, to correct that Pa & AB were present & to delete the reference in para 3.3 to any RYA agreement. With these changes the minutes of both meetings were agreed, proposed by PB, and seconded by MO.

2.0 Matters arising

2.1 Club Handbook:- , RME confirmed good progress on Club Handbook, adverts, programme , membership lists, Committees & Rules all underway. He reminded Sub-committee chairs their Bye Laws needed review.

2.2 Robert Marsh:- Further to last meeting, MJB informed MC that he had replied to RM with a short letter on 15th January, letter indicated that RCC MC had no wish to enter into a dialogue, no reply is expected. However KL informed MC that the Dock Committee had received a letter from RM which will be discussed later, para 7.8

3.0 Correspondence

3.1 RNLI Correspondence:- MB reported 2 letters received from Martin Jaggs and Gary Bird, both Martin & Gary were honoured to receive Honorary Membership of RCC & were happy to accept. Both of them indicated that they would be coming to our Burns Supper.

3.2 RYA Cruising [News](#):- MB reported on new 'RYA Cruising News' circulated, this month indicated a good national response to the 'Coating Survey' & included details of a proposed 'Severn Lagoon amongst other articles

3.3 Other RYA correspondence includes: RYA Affiliation Certificate received and posted on notice board, RYA Cruiser Forum on 9th March which needs advertising, and Regional Conference for Race Officers was announced.

3.4 RORC Seminar, MB reported that RORC would hold a seminar to discuss IRC Handicapping at B & FYC on 10th Feb, MB will attend.

3.5 Marine Conservation Zones:- MB confirmed that RCC was now included in consultation re next tranche of MCZ's.

3.6 Talk at Liverpool Sailing Club:- MB reported that LSC was to hold a talk, 'Scotland to Faroes in a Wayfarer' by Bill Brockbank on 18th March. Posters were up.

4.0 Treasurer's Report

4.1 Bank Balances & expenses in January: DM circulated a report indicating RCC's total bank balance was £86,687.97 & detailed RCC expenses in January of some £4200, these expenses were approved by MC & included some £1566 clubhouse rent to FBC which includes backlog, Dock & Clubhouse rates to FBC totalling £1876, & RYA Affiliation fee of £580. .

4.2 Budgets :- DHM presented a budget proposal for this Club Year, he had circulated this previously to MC members, this is summarised in the attachment at end of minutes. He reported that a successful meeting had been held on 18th Jan of 'Budget Holders' and major progress had been made both on Revenue & Capital budgets. The Budget he now presented he recommended to MC, individual Sub Committee budgets were all generally satisfied now & RCC revenue account showed a small deficit of some £1780. He noted that this revenue account included some £7997 for depreciation which was of course retained in RCC bank balance. He also commented that the Dock revenue account included the sale of the Tractor at some £4000 but that it had been agreed that NO increase in Dock Berthing fees would be applied this club year but that it was expected that dock fees would be increased in 2017. There was a long discussion after which the revenue budget was approved by MC unanimously proposed by RB & seconded by MB.

David went on to outline the proposed Capital Budget for 2016 covering some 4 items, winch, Tug Store & trailer for Dock at £12500 & £3500 for Sailing Committee. This was proposed by RB & seconded by MB, MC approved this budget with one abstention.

4.3 10 Year Plan:- RB presented a draft of an updated 10 year plan developed by The Development Sub-committee, this is attached dated 1st Feb at draft 3. RB described this as a working document and asked MC to review it and ensure we had included everything. MC reviewed the plan especially the upcoming years and were in broad agreement at the items & investment levels. The replacement of the roof was especially noted at £20,000, MC indicated that RCC should be looking at having better security on the lease of the Clubhouse before such a major investment became necessary. Dev Comm were actioned to approach FBC with regard to a new lease on the clubhouse for say 50 years as previous from say 2017. It was proposed by RB, seconded by MB, that this draft 3 10 year plan be adopted as a working document. It was also noted that the implication of this plan was a continual annual capital expense of circa £13000, it was agreed that Dev Comm should now look at how to fund this level of investment in RCC's future.

5.0 Sailing Committee Report

5.1 OOD training:- RME reported that an OOD training session would be held on 13th Feb, list was up.

5.2 Try Sailing:- RJ reported that Try Sailing was going to start on 4th May for 4 weeks, sailing committee were seeking an 'organiser' for these events to separate them from new training initiative.

6.0 Training Report

6.1 Training Plans:- RJ reported that a Powerboat Level 2 course would be held 13/14th Feb at B & FYC, 5 RCC instructors are booked in. "instructors are also booked on an RYA Senior Instructor Course running at West Kirby SC between 7th & 10th April.

6.2 Club Boats:- RJ said he was looking forward to the expansion of Club boats as now agreed under 2016 Capital plan. In particular this would allow Advanced sailing Courses to be run at RCC under Martin Knott who has RYA Advanced Instructor qualification.

6.3 Provisional dates for 2016:- These are still as RJ previously stated:- 3&4 April Fairhaven, assessments for youngster stage 1 or 2, 23 & 24 April, Clubhouse for tidal assessments, 1 & 12 June New adults beginners from 2015 'Try Sailing', 25 & 26 June New beginners course at Fairhaven.

6.4 Fees:- MB reminded RJ that there had been a discussion re fees item 7.1, MC supported RJ's view that RCC should charge some fees but these should be appropriate in this 1st instance, try & cover operational costs but not a full revenue stream.

7.0 Dock report

KL reported on a Dock Committee meeting held in the clubhouse on Tuesday 12th January 2016

7.1 Dock Working Party: It was agreed only one more general WP needed this winter on Feb 21st main Jobs include, steelwork on new 16' pontoon, creek inspection, pot-holes in road, garage tidy and raise items off floor, sort and cut barrels for opposite bank, and other assorted tasks.

7.2 Future Working Parties :- It was agreed that some small working parties would be held to replace some creek chains when water levels reduce and creek perches when weather permits. Next Winter working parties agreed for: Sunday October 23rd 2016, Sunday November 27th 2016

7.3 Tractor: KL reported some interest but major stumbling block seems to be transport. DVLA unable to locate a record for it.

7.4 Capital Projects:- KL reported that named committee members had taken responsibility for key capital projects. KL – Winch, SB – Road, drains, creek-bed, AT – garage, AW – perches, & JK – Trailer.

7.5 Berthing: KL reported a successful handover of berthing records from Harry Taylor to AB

7.6 Treasurers Report: KL reported that Alan Slorick had prepared a final 2015-2016 budget for discussion at 18th Jan meeting (post meeting note this was agreed but did include sale of tractor). Dock Committee recommended that Dock fees should be held at current levels for 2016 but that we should increase in fees in next year.

MC agreed this proposal.

7.7 Other items:- Other items included Health & Safety & appointment of a 'Hardstanding Officer' monthly

7.8 Letter from Robert Marsh:- KL reported that The Dock Committee had received a letter from Robert Marsh (RM). The letter mainly concerned berthing fees with RM expressing his objection to Club policies which were used to derive berthing fees. In the letter however he suggested RCC Committees were behaving irresponsibly, with a lack of openness and honesty, wasting such fees. KL will draft a reply & agree it with Dock Committee (*post meeting note this has now been sent*). It was suggested that KL include an objection from MC about the tone of RM's comments.

8.0 Fabric report

8.1 Garage repair:- DM reported that the repair to the walls in the garage & the drain are nearly completed, it was a good outcome with a vent included from the ladies changing rooms as well. He asked DF to put the lights up.

8.2 Boiler Service:- DM reported boiler serviced had been serviced by Chris Walker , Tony's son, he found it in good order despite it's age. Fabric committee were considering replacing room heaters with conventional radiators. MB requested that Fabric Committee considered re-fitting a thermostat in Lounge, modern wireless units possibly.

8.3 Damp:- DM reported several issues with damp ingress during the recent heavy rain, these included galley, committee room, as well as bottle store & bottom of cellar steps.

8.4 Race Box access: DM agreed to work up a proposal for a Ships Ladder with handrail to access race box.

9.0 Social report

9.1 Social Events:- RF reported that the Burns night will held on 30th January 2016 was a great success with some 45 attending, looking ahead was a 'Curry Evening in Feb, The Sherry Evening is already planned for Sat 12th March, and Fitting Out Dinner in April. Looking longer term RF indicated that the 'Push the Boat Out' weekend could see a Commodores Lunch & that the Laying Up Supper may be held at The Glendower Hotel. His objective was to get several teams involved so that it was not always the same people 'doing' events.

9.2 Junior Events:- RF informed MC that Simon Redfearn & Mike Lynch were currently planning junior events, ideas range from events in RCC to outdoor events in summer like Barbecues & camping weekends at dock.

9.3 Tuesday Talks:- MB reported that the last Tuesday Talk was a great evening Clubhouse was full talk by Peter Shakeshaft, 'Port of Freckleton', was absolutely superb & the members responded by raising some £100 in a collection for 'Christies'. Looking ahead MB said he now had 8 talks firmly agreed & ready for handbook, next talk 23rd Feb was Ian Dibdin & Adrian Denye on ' Sand Yachts & Record Breaking on St Annes Beach'.

9.4 What's On:- MB asked that everyone review his draft What's On' it would be going out with the handbook in March.

10.0 Development Committee:- RB reported on the Dev Comm meeting held on 19th January:-

10.1 Budget agreements:- Dev Comm reviewed & confirmed the budget agreements of the previous evening, making sure items were not left out etc.

10.2 Jetty issues:- Jetty problems still present, loose bolts around 2nd passing place allowing jetty to move up & down. FBC have been informed but Gary Sams needs pushing more, MB agreed to try.

10.3 Land Aquisition:- MB had reported contact with Wildfowlers proposing an informal meeting, no reply as yet.

10.4:-Poor payers at Dock:- There was some discussion re debtors at dock, several boat owners had outstanding bills of £200+. It was thought that RCC should have a consistent policy for berthing fees as subs, ie 2 months notice then +20% increase with debtors after 3 months being faced with leaving dock. It was also suggested that an external agency could collect outstanding dock fees, avoiding need for members to be confronted personally. It was agreed that AB would discuss with KL this matter, MB to review Club Rules KL would need to amend dock bye laws.

10.5 Membership:- It was thought that RCC should consider introducing a student membership to cover those over 21 but in full time education. MB said most local clubs offered this and agreed to look over Club Rules. In addition there was a view that the title 'Associate Membership' should change to 'Social Membership', on this matter it was agreed that RME would seek the views of current Associate Members .

10.6 Welcome Pack:- RJ announced that this was now complete & ready for printing but would need to be in colour, increasing costs.

10.7 10 Year Plan:- Discussed earlier see item 4.3.

10.8 Clubhouse Lease:- Dev Comm had discussed Clubhouse Lease which had only 21 years to run. It was agreed that MB should approach FBC & try and get a new 50 year lease. It was though good timing now as RCC was currently on a 'high' with FBC as Community Club of Year, and that looking ahead in 10 year plan we had significant investment to maintain clubhouse like roof replacement and a major refurb necessary longer term, see also item 4.3

11 Communication report:- RH informed MC that the Web Site was now almost completely updated with new photos, welcome pack, membership form etc. There was now a Training page which RJ was populating, & social events were always up on front page. He also said that James the web site designer was now back in harness & should get the software update resolved.

12.0 Membership report

12.1 Membership Status:- RME informed MC that to date some 98 subs had been received, but 5 members had resigned, Messrs Crowall, Montgomery, Slade, Webb & Rowlay.

12.2 New Members:- RME put forward to MC the following applications for membership of RCC:-

Mr & Mrs Gradwell proposed for Family Membership by John Marshall, seconded by Eddie Freear.

John had written that he had known the couple for over 3 years & found them honest & pleasant. RME informed MC that he had met Andrew & Patricia Gladwell in the bar the previous Friday & was happy to recommend them for membership. MC voted on the proposal & agreed unanimously that they should be invited to join RCC.

Mr Donald Stein, proposed for Ordinary Membership by Dave Morrison & seconded by Russell Wignall

David Morrison wrote that he had known Donald Stein for many years both in river & out in Irish Sea. No member of MC however could recall meeting Mr Stein & it was though he actually had not been in Clubhouse yet. It was agreed to defer this application until Officers & members had the opportunity to meet the applicant. RME should write & invite Mr Stein & Dave Morrison to attend a new members evening & meet Officers.

12.3 Honorary Membership:- see correspondence item 3.1, both Gary Bird & Martin Jaggs gratefully accepted Honorary Membership.

12.4 Membership Forms:- RME informed MC that he thought the membership form need more explanation of roles & volunteering opportunities. It was also agreed to reinstate & update the RCC Information sheet which had previously been attached to membership applications..

13 Any other business:- There was no other business.

Prepared by M J Briers 23rd February 2016