

Ribble Cruising Club

Draft Minutes of 66th Annual General Meeting on 1st Dec. 2017

1: Present:- The Commodore and 53 members.

Before opening meeting:-

The Commodore expressed concern that a member was apparently planning to record the AGM. When asked, Robert Marsh (RM), confirmed that was his plan. He asserted that he only wanted to record his own words so that he would be able to replay them. There was an open discussion where it was apparent the meeting was not happy with this as the recorder would undoubtedly record the whole meeting. Initially RM would not agree to switch off his recorder the meeting even agreed that if he would not turn off his recorder, then he would be asked to leave. At this juncture Mike Briers (MJB) and Andrew Baker both assured him they would write down RM's words and with this assurance he agreed to switch off his recorder.

1: Apologies:-

Allan Williams, SM Briers, B Marsden, JDA Walker, S Hodgkiss, M Hodgkiss, L & A Richardson, R Rosser, C & L Robins.

2: Opening Remarks:- RB asked the meeting to give a few quiet moments to remember with thanks the life of Colin Harper who had sadly passed away this year. Colin was an absolute stalwart member of RCC, an Officer and Commodore in the 70/80's, on Main Committee for most of his 35 years, serving on most committees. He will be most remembered for being ever present at RCC, Colin was at the heart of RCC.

RB also noted the loss of 2 ex-members, George Booth a keen cruiser racer in the 80's and Chris Lane a member from 1970 through to 1993 and our Secretary and Assistant Secretary for some 7 years.

3: Approval of minutes of last AGM:-

Robert Marsh (RM) requested the following changes to the Minutes presented at draft 2:-

- Para 2; delete in line 3 after 'correct' to 'after this discussion'.
- Para 7 proposal 1 was seconded by John Bourne
- Para 7.2 in explanation of the rule change, rewrite to clarify RM was proposing 'member's proposals' be binding on Main Committee but delete the reference to advice from RYA. He said he had not said that. **Alan Slorick (AS)** requested para 3 be clarified 'the meeting was told that it was part of the RYA Policy & together with our Public Liability insurance gave cover if RC C was sued by a 3rd Party'.

Keith Lawton (KL) requested that para 12 matters arising be clarified, RB had requested a Berth Holders Meeting, KL agreed to hold a Dock Development meeting if the majority of members requested it.

With these changes the members agreed unanimously that the minutes were a correct record of the 65th AGM of RCC, proposed by Andrew Walls (AW2) and seconded by Richard Elsdon (RME).

4: Matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM:-

Re para 11 Clubhouse Lease Extension:- RM asked if the members should decide whether we should extend the clubhouse lease. RB replied that such a matter would be agreed by Main Committee including The Trustees as it was a 'Club Management matter'.

5: Commodore's Report :-

Richard Blackburn (RB) opened his report by expressing his gratitude for the support of the whole team at RCC. He said he continued to be amazed by the amount of time and effort put in by so many people. RB briefly summarised the club activities not wanting to steal the thunder of the later reports:-

Sailing:- He commended the cruiser fleet for being both visible in the river and venturing further afield this year with Sissy too, Syrian Prince, Raffles, Flambouyant and Lady Cinders to name a few. 'Try Sailing' had once again been a great success but required a remarkable logistic effort with a superb team of volunteers. RB noted that the RYA itself had now followed RCC's lead in calling their May 'Push The Boat Out' efforts 'Try Sailing'. Saturday sail training was also commendable, contributing to the general buzz on the river.

Training:- RB commended Rob Jarman (RJ) who continued to develop and extend the 'Training Team'. He noted a breezy double weekend of 'Instructor's Training' and now a fully subscribed winter Theory Course for RYA 'Day Skipper'

Dock :- RB commended KL and the dock team for the way he had kept RCC dock going from strength to strength despite the works for the Environmental Agency under BAM going on around them.

Social:- He commended Richard Freeman (RF), the Burns Night was noted as the most theatrical yet, the film nights and tasty menus sped on the winter and the season ended with RCC at the Clifton Arms organised by Jackie and RF.

Membership:- RB was delighted to report that overall membership had increased from 240 in 2016 to 259 now. Despite losing 16 members, we had some 35 new members. RB noted that 17 came through our Training and Try Sailing initiatives and 7 by members' introductions with about 4 through berthing enquiries.

RB informed members that Main Committee had unanimously awarded Harry Taylor Honorary Membership of RCC citing that Harry had been an outstanding member of RCC 'man and boy'. In his prime Harry was an active cruise crew racing all over the Irish Sea with many RCC legends. In the 1970's Harry was very active in building RCC dock and had been a key worker ever since. He has served as berthing master for many, many years. He had such a fund of knowledge that he was able to write the 'Dock History'. On membership RB noted that Andrew Yates had been awarded BEM for services to sailing. He now sails at Olton Mere SC near Solihull but in his mini biography mentions he owes it all to RCC having started sailing here in the 1970's at 9 years old. .

Concluding remarks:- RB concluded that he felt privileged to have served as Commodore, he owed an enormous thank you to the entire team but specially his fellow Officers, Peter and Martin, and his Hon Sec.

Richard Elsdon (RME) extended thanks, on behalf of the Committees and members, to RB for the exceptional way in which he has managed RCC over this past 2 years. He noted RB had achieved a significant membership increase and was ever present both in the clubhouse and on the water. He was always available to meet and greet new members and take them sailing, a great ambassador for RCC. RME noted especially that RB led the way, always out on the river ahead of everyone with many deciding whether or not to sail by the angle of heel of RB's Whammel.

The Members responded with applause.

Matters arising: None.

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

David Miller (DHM) opened by informing members of some changes regarding club accounting and that RCC had deregistered for VAT. He commented that 'partial exemption' was no longer viable largely due to reduced bar sales. 'Quik' Books, introduced by Paul Ainsworth (PA), was now used regularly with great success.

RCC was now using Electronic Banking regularly, no cheque payments were being made and he asked members to use it for their payments as well as it simplified his job.

Prepayments and accruals had not been done, payments not being apportioned over the club year.

He thanked everyone who collected and managed income on behalf of RCCA

ACCOUNTS:- DHM presented the Club Accounts noting an overall surplus of some £4640 but commenting that this was only because some dock work (New Winch etc) had been delayed.

He was concerned that the Bar Profit may be incorrectly represented on page 2 and noted that Insurance was high on page 4 in Administration due to a 'prepayment'. In overall terms he referred members to page 3 where the current assets of RCC included some £109,000 in the bank mostly thanks to the inputs from the dock.

Matters arising:-

Robert Marsh (RM) asked DHM what happened to the Dock Surplus he identified. DHM replied it is retained in RCC's Bank Account and is then available for whatever use Main Committee would put it to.

RM questioned the amount of Club Insurance commenting on the total being some £5700. **Alan Slorick** replied, from the floor that, as DHM had explained, this total included some £700 prepayment. He explained that the accounts on page 4 detailed the apportionment of Club Insurance to each of the sub committees, Admin, Dock and Sailing.

He assured RM that the £1324 in dock was for insurance of dock items

Adoption of The Accounts:- David Miller (DHM) proposed that The Accounts for this Club Year, 2017, be adopted. Seconded by Andrew Rosser (AR) - carried by a majority with 1 abstention.

RB thanked DHM for his efforts sorting out our club finances and presenting them monthly, with thanks again to PA for getting us into QuikBooks.

7: Election of 'Reporting Accountants':-

David Miller (DHM) proposed that Bishops Chartered Accountants be elected Independent Reporting Accountants for the ensuing Club Year, seconded by Alan Slorick (AS), this was carried unanimously by the members.

8:- Consideration of proposals to change club rules:-

RB explained there were no Rule Changes or Subscription rises this club year. He commented that members however should expect an increase in subs next year, as insurance alone had risen by some £600

9:-Election of Officers and Main Committee (MC):-

The Hon. Secretary, **Mike Briers** (MJB), explained to the members that the nominations matched the number of vacancies. He therefore announced that the following club members were duly elected.

Commodore:- Dr Peter Benett, **Vice Commodore:-** Mr Andrew Rosser, **Rear Commodore:-** Mr Andrew Walls, **Hon. Treasurer** Mr David Miller, **Hon. Secretary:-** Mr Mike Briers,

Main Committee; Alexander (Sandy) Drysdale, John Keaskin, Mrs Jeanette Richardson, who will join Chris Butler, John Gallagher, and Andrew Walls on MC on the members' behalf with one year left to serve. MJB noted that Andrew Walls election as Rear Commodore will be considered at the first MC meeting.

RB commended Martin Oldroyd for his support through the club year commenting that he was invaluable in the 'engine room' of the sailing committee sorting and maintaining anything mechanical.

RB also commended Richard Hoad (RH) who was retiring from MC and latterly in his new role as Hon. Communications Secretary. RH had been responsible mainly for our web site and weather station but many years ago with Don Flannery he introduced electronics into the race box, an innovation that has really stood the test of time. RB extended our thanks to Richard.

MJB continued by informing the members that there were several other non-elected positions on Main Committee filled by volunteers and MJB thanked them on behalf of the members for agreeing to undertake these roles. MJB then informed the members of the following nominations for other non-elected positions.

Past Commodore Richard Blackburn, **Hon. Sailing Sec.** Peter Pollock, **Hon. Membership Sec** Richard Blackburn, **Hon. Comms Sec** Richard Elsdon, **Sailing Committee Chairman** Don Flannery, **Development Committee Chairman** Peter Benett, **House/Social Committee Chairman** Richard Freeman, **Social Secretary**, Mrs Jackie Freeman, **Dock Committee Chairman** Keith Lawton, **Training Committee Chairman** Rob Jarman, **Fabric Committee Chairman** Mike Leman.

MJB agreed that these nominations and appointments would be ratified at the first MC of the new club year.

MJB highlighted the issue of RCC Bar, David Beach as Bar Chairman was extremely short of volunteers, the old guard was not getting any younger and there was a serious risk that the bar would have to close if sufficient support from members was not forthcoming.

10:- Investiture of New Commodore:-

David Miller commended Peter Benett for agreeing to be our Commodore, he looked forward to a new man at the helm of RCC and expressed his pleasure at handing over the Commodore's tie and Burgee. At this point he handed to our new Commodore his tankard to the applause of members.

Peter Benett replied thanking members for the honour of electing him as Commodore and David Miller for the compliments. He explained that as a proud Yorkist he was especially pleased to depose Richard the Third ie Richard Blackburn. He commended RCC's excellent clubhouse and berthing facilities commenting they only happen by hard work of members. He welcomed the new members explaining that they should just join in the fun, they should not be afraid of making mistakes someone has already been and made bigger ones. Looking ahead in his view he said we should pay attention to the young members and concentrate on using the winter months fruitfully thus retaining our influx of new members. He recognised the Theory Day Skipper Course about to start. He thanked Andrew Rosser for agreeing to come back and support RCC as Vice Commodore and welcomed Andrew Walls to the Rear Commodore ranks, improving the focus on Dock issues in Officers' meetings and Offshore sailing. He concluded by reminding us all that leisure pursuits should be fun either on the water, in the water or beside the water.

He finally handed over to Richard Blackburn his ex-commodore's tie and burgee which was accepted most thankfully!

11:-Approval of Document Signatories:-

It was formally proposed by Mike Briers (MJB), seconded by Mrs Diana Slorick 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 to sign.

12:Development Committee Report :-

Richard Blackburn (RB) presented the Development Committee report. He reminded members of the wide-ranging remit looking mainly to the future and to issues Main Committee (MC) needs to address. It acts as a 'fact finder' devoting time to address issues and making recommendations to MC and supporting informed decisions by MC.

He explained that over the last year the following issues were reviewed:

RYA Survey:- RYA offers feedback from the Club's Survey, Dev Comm review this for lessons and ideas.

Mussel Tank Development:- RB explained that there had been much discussion about RCC's support to The Civic Society project next door. It was finally agreed that RCC will pay for the provision of a gate through to Mussel Tank which RCC will use as an Emergency Exit.

RCC was pleased to play this part in the improvement of what was an eyesore next door.

10 Year Plan:- this is currently being updated in line with the budgets for the upcoming year.

Membership matters:- Dev. Comm. were very active in looking at the level of Club Subscriptions and will continue through 2018 also looking at how subs are collected. The Rules were reviewed resulting in a 'no change' decision this year. The Welcome Pack for new members is now complete and available,

RB introduced Data Protection as a new subject following RYA recommendations re the new GDPR

Dev. Comm. also reviewed the level of insurance and recommended increasing third party liability element.

Sailing:- Dev. Comm. continue to review and develop how to improve race box access. They are liaising with interested parties with the aim of providing a mooring mid river and also with FBC about Jetty repairs.

Berthing:- Dev. Comm. are very active regarding berthing charges and also how to improve Debt Collection, both of Club Subs but also Berthing fees.

Clubhouse:- Dev. Comm. continue to review how best to use the Lower Ground Floor but would aim to agree a longer Clubhouse lease with FBC before such investments were made.

Concluding remarks:- RB concluded by saying the above list was not exhaustive but gave a good range of the issues covered.

Matters arising:-

Robert Marsh (RM) asked what role Dev. Comm. played in Dock Development. RB replied Dev Comm looked at mainly long term issues. KL added that they also were custodians of 10 Year Plan which integrated club long term investments.

RM continued by asking what progress had been made re land on East Side of dock. RB replied that the historic documents have now been gathered and confirmed the disputed land area on the East side.

Diana Slorick asked about the 10 year plan, RB informed her it was a rolling plan, simply where RCC major projects were set out and relative priority agreed.

13:- Dock Committee report:-

Keith Lawton (KL) reported on behalf of the dock committee, he opened by commending the Dock Committee to the members for their stalwart efforts through the year organising the operation and maintenance of the Dock on behalf of the berth-holders and members.

Working Parties:- KL reported that several working parties had been held with around 40/45 attendees. A number of new pontoons were constructed, however, it is noted that deterioration of our timber structures is beginning to outstrip our rebuilding rate. The foul drain works have been completed and a new electrical cable laid under the slipway. A trailer has been purchased to aid transportation of tools and materials around the dock and the hard-standing seriously tidied but there is concern regarding old trailers, abandoned dinghies and other debris in the car park area.

The Hardstanding:- The Officer of the month system has continued and is working well. The use of more prescribed launch and haul-out dates has reduced the onus on the plant operator volunteers and ensures more help is available to members. Members should adhere to these dates, rather than expect individual attention.

Safety improvements:- These continue to be implemented, electrical safety certificates are required by our insurers, all club-owned electric appliances have been PAT tested. Use of personal electrical equipment is still permitted under the control of the owner, but these must not be left on club premises, and must not be left connected and unattended on Dock premises. We will be initiating further safety awareness training of winch and tug operators in the coming year.

Environmental Agency Dredging:- KL reported that a major activity at the dock this year has been the dredging and culvert works undertaken by the Environment Agency. To minimise the impact on our moorings and operations, RCC has agreed that the Contractor's site cabins and parking could be located on our premises. A large area has been cleared and once the work is completed, RCC will be left with additional concrete hardstanding and hardcore areas for boat and trailer parking and anticipated additional useful areas are to be created. The works were originally planned for completion in November but following delayed start the site will not be cleared until January 2018. KL advised berth holders to expect some delays but asked members to be patient. He commented that overall our relationship with the contractor has been very good, RCC was able to influence areas of our concern, particularly with regard to dredging. They have been helpful to us in other areas and been respectful of our operations.

Dock Surplus and future plans:- KL explained that overall the dock returned a surplus for the year of around £9000, largely due to the deferral of two main items; the resurfacing of the approach road and delays to the main winch refurbishment. He assured berth holders that these items were included in next year's budget, which has been prepared for consideration by the new main committee. This shows a potential break-even over the two year period. In addition to the Winch refurbishment, access road clearing projects include assessment of new stern mooring system, repair / re-establishment of Main drain and Liggard pontoons, main Jetty refurbishment.

Concluding remarks and concerns:- KL expressed two major concerns of dock committee:-

It is noted that there is a continuing increase in unused boats at the dock. KL told members that the dock is a club asset to support its objectives of promoting sailing and other associated water sports.

KL asserted it was not cheap boat storage facility. There are now around 40 vessels at the dock that have not been sailed or worked on for over 2 years, many for considerably longer. He recognised the significant short term revenue, but was concerned about increasing the workload of the club's volunteers.

It is also noted that we need to be aware that with our ageing demographic and reduced active involvement the 'self-help' model of operation may need review with a consequential reduction in our 'in-house' capability and increased costs in future years. Budgets and plans may need to be reviewed.

Conclusion:- KL finally thanked the dock committee and others who have given their time and efforts throughout the year in managing and maintaining the dock. He noted that this year saw two long standing dock committee members retiring, Harry Taylor and Alan Thistlethwaite, and he took this opportunity to thank them for their many years of efforts and support in the development and running of the dock. We owe them both a great deal for the facilities we enjoy at the dock today. He welcomed three new members to the committee, Peter Hardman, Chris Butler and James Lawton. We are always on the lookout for new dock committee members particularly from the newer and younger members in order to pass on the knowledge to the next generation of Dockers.

Matters arising:-

Winch refurbishment:- RM asked KL how far had the winch refurbishment actually got. KL replied that the old winch was now fully serviceable, new estimates were being prepared and it was hoped that the Winch refurbishment would be complete by Spring 2018.

Contact details of Dock Committee:- RM asked KL for e-mail addresses of Dock Committee members, KL said they would not be provided, but that he was always available.

14 Social/Bar Committee report:-

Richard Freeman commented that the 2016 - 17 club year again saw a very active social calendar catering for most interest groups within the club. The ladies and gentlemen of the House and Bar committees continued to work as tirelessly as ever throughout the year to keep the social scene alive, be it for sailing events, the fixed calendar functions, less formal social events, club nights or 'Last Tuesday Talks'.

Bar:- RF noted that bar profits are up a little on the previous year, reflecting both those efforts and the higher numbers of members socialising at the clubhouse on Friday nights. He did however reiterate RB's request for volunteers to help with the bar.

Tuesday Talks:- RF commended MJB who had again provided a full and varied calendar of 'Last Tuesday Talks'. In January we 'Cruised to Turkey' thanks to Hilary and Howard Boswell. In February we welcomed Clare Thorpe and James Boyce back who took us to the Arctic in a 'borrowed' steel ketch. In March Dr Graham Evans told us all about 'The Port of Poulton and The Wyre 1600 to 1850', and we concluded with a new member Alan Pook telling us of his life as a 'Master Winchman' in the RAF Air Sea Rescue helicopter. September saw the winter's season start with a bang 'The Stars are Ours!' Don Kurz from University of Central Lancashire came to RCC - and what a talk. We learnt how the early astronomers worked out where we were in the universe, including Jeremiah Horrocks from Much Hoole. On 28th November Stephen Musgrave told us about the 'Heroes of The Waves' a history of lifeboating through the ages and donated proceeds from his talk to the Lytham St. Annes RNLi Shannon Appeal. 2018 season will continue on 30th January with Oliver Shaw from Liverpool Sailing Club telling us all about 'Trailer Sailing' in the North West. 27th February will see us back ashore finding out all about 'The River Lune and its Ports', by Dr Michael Winstanley. On 27th March the topic will be 'Safety at Sea' a combined talk by Andrew Smith (RCC) & Saul Mendelssohn (RNLi) which will review and discuss all aspects of Safety at Sea from preparation to 'what to do when the worst happens'. Finally, the 29th May will see local raconteur Pat Ascroft come and tell us all about sailing on 'Tall Ships'.

Social Events:- RF commended the Social and Bar team plus members themselves for their support to the many social events through the year. Events started with the 'Commodores Housewarming and Christmas party' on 10th December which was very well attended and one of RCC's renowned twice yearly 'Jacob's Join' events.

Music and entertainment were as ever provided by Andrew Baker, and Father Christmas. Christmas was concluded with our Christmas Cruise when Andrew Baker was in action again, leading the singing of Christmas Carols and songs at Preston Marina. Andy Walls has volunteered to be the organiser of this year's Christmas Cruise which I believe will take place on 23rd December.

New Year was celebrated at the clubhouse with the traditional RCC New Year's Eve Dine-In, a delicious meal provided by the House Committee and a light-hearted quiz with friends. On 28th January we ran our annual Burns Night, some 60 members and guests enjoyed traditional Fayre with the haggis piped in and addressed in traditional manner. A Film and Curry evening on 25th February helped to warm a winter's evening with an Indian meal whilst watching 'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. 18th March saw the second of our two 'Jacob's Join' events the 'Commodore's Sherry Evening' at which the Club's Officers entertain the Mayor of Fylde, visiting Commodores and heads of other local organisations. Once again the event was well supported by club members and The Mayor, Christine Akeroyd enjoyed the evening so much that she was one of the last to leave. The Annual Fitting-Out Supper this year took the form of a Film Evening this time with an Italian Theme the house committee provided a range of Italian dishes which were consumed by the assembled audience of 'The Italian Job'.

On 27th May, we held a 'Commodore's Lunch' provided by the house committee. This event is planned to coincide with RCC's annual 'Try Sailing' and provides an opportunity for potential new members to see and use the clubhouse facilities, to meet club members and to enjoy RCC hospitality by way of a free lunch.

On the weekends of 10th and 11th June and 23rd and 24th September the season's main sailing events – the Regattas - were held. The house committee were on hand to provide breakfast baps and hot drinks before proceedings started on each day.

An extra event was slotted into the RCC social calendar on 1st July – brilliantly organised, catered-for and hosted by Andy Walls and Emma Phillips, the decades rolled back at RCC for a '60's and 70's Night' which was a huge success. The 4th November saw a welcome return to the Clifton Arms Hotel for our 'Laying-Up Dinner'.

80 RCC members and guests enjoyed a great evening with good company, an excellent three course meal with wine and dancing to a live band 'Cherry Valentine'.

Conclusion:- Richard concluded that altogether a busy social year had been made possible only by lots of hard work from a relatively small number of people. He explained that they had hoped to provide social activities for our junior members in the last club year but was afraid that other priorities delayed this, however we hope to have some movement on this front in the very near future. In the new club year we would continue to prioritise support for sailing and recruitment events. In addition we would try to provide events of interest to those who are no longer able to sail as much as they did and to programme a 'Black Tie' event.

He asked if anybody feels they can commit the time to support the bar or house committees to please contact him.

In closing RF recorded his thanks to the members of the house and bar committees for their unwavering support and advice and secondly to all those club members and their guests who make the effort to attend RCC events.

The first social event of the 2017 – 18 club year will be the 'Commodore's Housewarming and Christmas Party' on Saturday, 16th December.

Matters arising:- Jontie Miller thanked Jackie and Richard for their personal efforts through the club year and the members applauded to support this vote of thanks.

Christmas opening:- David Beach informed the members that the club would be closed 15/12/2018.

15 Sailing Committee report:-

Don Flannery (DF) opened by reviewing the RCC sailing scene:-

Cruiser sailing:- Cruiser sailing began in June, said Don, when five club boats went to The Isle of Man to watch the final week's TT racing, the crews were surprised to be accompanied by 'Bottle Nosed Dolphins' off Blackpool. This was sadly the only real venture outside but Andrew Walls is promising to plan better cruises in 2018. Boats like Lady Cinder, Wendy Woo, Blue Jalma and Whimbrell however are noted for their 'ever-presence' on the river.

Dinghy sailing:- DF noted that 2017 overall was wet and windy, the season started with a 'shakedown' sail on 26th March and a three day Easter series. Weather then caused several events to be cancelled including the June Regatta.

On July 2nd club boats represented RCC at the annual MBSA Regatta held at Roa Island SC.

Willy Crichton went south to the Osprey Nationals at Poole.

Try Sailing:- DF told MC that Try Sailing was a great success in 2017. Over 6 weeks some 140 people were invited to 'Try Sailing', a massive feat for a dedicated group of about 20 volunteers. He noted that some 17 new members have applied to join RCC and go on to a Training programme. Don expressed his personal thanks to the dedicated small training group.

Fairhaven Open Day:- RCC was asked to support the Open Day at Fairhaven 2 dayboats were provided by RB and Adrian Denye and these were able to give a 15 min sail to about 60 people in total, the FBC team thanked RCC profusely for their support. It was noted that Mark Yeadon a keen Kestrel sailor from RCC in the 1980's was spotted on one trip.

Christmas Cruise:- Don invited members to join the RCC Christmas Cruise, Sat 23rd December. Please contact Andy Walls. Peter Pollock invited hardy sailors to join him dinghy sailing in the last event.

Concluding remarks:- In conclusion Don thanked all members of the Committee for their dedication and effort.

16 Training Team:-

Rob Jarman (RJ) opened by commenting that 2017 had seen significant changes to our RCC training.

Instructor Training:- Onshore training started in March with a First Aid course and with the help of RYA's, Alan Jones, RCC has now successfully run a Dinghy Instructor Training Course creating four of our younger Instructors, all under 30. This now gives RCC a range of age, ability and gender to match training candidates.

Theory Courses:- RJ thanked Andrew Smith for once again running a successful RYA Day Skipper Theory course at RCC and he commended all Instructors for their dedication.

RYA Sail Training:- RJ noted that this year Try Sailing was extremely successful (see sailing committee) and most of those transferring to the Wednesday evening training were adults which meant the club's 2 Laser 2000's and Martin Oldroyd's Wayfarer were all used extensively. RME with Martin Knott and Simon Begley concentrated on initial and intermediate training whilst Peter Pollock catered for the needs of a lively group of youngsters actively engaged with club Toppers. As the season progressed Saturday morning sessions on the river also became popular. Behind all this RJ commented, was a group of committed RCC volunteers. They prepared boats, packed and unpacked, loaded and transported them to and from the club as required and RJ thanked them profusely.

Two Advanced Courses were run, 'Performance Sailing' with Martin Knott and 'Sailing with Spinnakers' with our new Chief Instructor RME. These provided a brisk opener to the sailing season, despite the weather interfering.

Powerboat Training:- RJ said that now RCC had 3 Powerboat Instructors with possibly, a 4th.

With these newly-qualified Instructors he was now hoping to organise and run Powerboat Level 2 courses at RCC. Potentially these could open them up to the local community making a return on RCC's investment.

Safety Boats:- RJ said that RCC had successfully acquired a Jeanneau Rigiflex Powerboat with an 8hp Honda outboard to support sailing at Fairhaven. He commended the design as excellent for the peculiar sloping sides of Fairhaven Lake, where it was already proving its worth.

Concluding remarks:- RJ expressed his pleasure that many of the newest members of RCC came through the Training efforts, it was, he thought, a clear reflection of the value of our combined and extensive efforts, that these new members can now be seen out and about around the clubhouse. He expressed even greater pleasure when seeing them starting to support committees and really joining in the running of RCC. He is very pleased to see RCC training continuing to engage increasing numbers who join us and to extend their enjoyment when spending time on the water.

Matters arising:- Mike Briers expressed a vote of thanks to Rob Jarman, describing him as a 'Shining Light' leading RCC Training. He expressed his own pleasure to see, under Rob's tutelage, such an effective and friendly training group putting RCC back on the map. He remembered when Don Flannery and he set out to get Training back on RCC's agenda in the mid 1980's and that it is a hard trail. Well done Rob. The members concurred with Mike's view with loud applause, RJ was speechless.

17 Secretary's report:-

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

Fabric Committee:- Our new Chairman, Mike Leman, together with six other members, have over the last 12 months maintained and improved our Clubhouse. It has included updating the clubhouse lighting to LED, fitting in the porch a notice board to allow posters and other notices to be displayed outside the clubhouse and installing a remote computer operated system for the clubhouse central heating. Looking ahead they are looking at improving Race Box access, a new ships stairway is proposed. Mike would like to thank everyone who has supported him and particularly the Fabric Committee members and he looks forward to their continuing support in 2018. This year Bernard Worsfold has decided to step down, so thanks again to him for many years of quiet service.

Communications; Richard Hoad tells me that the year has seen a lot of activity on the website trying to keep members fully informed and up to date with RCC, RYA, interesting news items as well as navigation info regarding Wind Farms, Range Firing etc. Richard hopes the new formats and organisation of the data provides an accessible route to the events and information of note for Club members and their devices as well as Desktop computers. Thanks go to the volunteers now trained and loading data straight into our website. We now have 2 facebook pages moderated by Richard Elsdon, many Try Sailors come to RCC through it with members participating with their own content and some excellent photos. The Webcam still has about 40 viewers per day and overall our website has around 150,000

visitors a year - awesome. The weather station is popular and our thanks go to Clive Openshaw for keeping that rolling - a few calibrated knocks were required this year. Looking ahead Richard tells me he is suggesting an update to the projector, now over 10 years old and out of date but MJB said he was sorry to tell you all that Richard Hoad has decided to hang up his boots this year. We are indebted to Richard. He has been a member for over 40 years and has served MC on and off for many years, latterly in our new role of Communications Sec for 7 years. MJB remembered in the 80's Richard, with DF, brought electronics into our Race Box, MJB expressed many, thanks Richard, the club applauded. MJB announced that Richard Elsdon has agreed to be our Hon Comms Sec

What other Secretarial Challenges this year, well:-

RYA Activities:- The RYA continue to be very active on your behalf, members can access Safety Bulletins, In Brief, Cruising News. You might need our Password it is 566316 to get on to the Clubroom. This lot is well worth a read, coming next is the new 'Data Protection Act'. All this work goes on behind the scenes to ensure our hobby is 'legislation free and we are free to roam'.

HOWEVER in October we were informed by the RYA that at the 'upcoming AGM Nov 24th they would be proposing significant changes to the Articles of Association', RCC had 595 votes to place.

In short, the proposal reduced the elected members on the Board of 9 to only 3, stopped Members directing Board actions, increased the threshold for members (from 50 to 1000), or clubs (10 to 100), to request a 'General Meeting' and finally, reduced the effective votes of clubs by 50% (RCC to get 6 not 595 whilst a personal member gets 1 cf 45) The RYA told us that these changes are directly at the insistence of Sport England and other funding bodies and stem from revisions to The Code for Sport Governance published in Oct 2016 by UK Sport and Sport England who has threatened to withdraw funding.

RCC MC reviewed these proposals at two MC meetings and were extremely concerned, directing that RCC vote against the proposal. It was agreed that they were against any 'democratic principle' and the whole change should have been discussed more openly through the Members and to clubs through Council and regional organisations with the changes agreed in advance. At the RYANW MJB discovered we were not alone among 12 clubs.

As a result of that Geoff Meggitt, chair of RYANW persuaded the RYA Council to change their proposal such that to increase the Elected Board Members from 3 to 4 and board to 10. In addition they committed to have an elected RYA Board member on the Nominations Committee' which appoints the Board and are preparing an 'Engagement Strategy' involving The RYA Council and its regional leaders. To cut a long story short, I think the RYA have adopted these changes but I am not sure, we shall see how it all develops over the year. In the meantime, I am active on your behalf with RYANW and will keep you posted.

RYANW:- This is a small but effective group who meet regularly and organise Sailing Matters in NW.

Activities range across Performance groups, Travellers' Trophies, Training, Environmental and Licensing issues and Cruising matters amongst others. They publish a Newsletter, hold two 'Cruising Forums' annually and are organising a Cruising Seminar on 10th March 2018.

Marine Navigation:- MJB highlighted that the VHF channels for Safety Information and Medical advice have been changed. These are now channel 62, 63 and 64 instead of 23/84/86.

Wind Farms, Good news, wind turbines will be bigger and further apart, however they are still building sites with 'No Access', Burbo Bank is being extended to the south and two new areas to North and south of Walney are now being developed .

MOD Ranges:- Eskmeals Range: RCC is in regular contact with Firing Range and post on website monthly programme. They can be contacted on 01776 888741.

Marine Management Organisation:- There is now a local Officer but best influence is through RYANW and RYA. 2 licenses were forwarded to us:-

Fairhaven to Church Scar:- MJB explained that RCC had been active with FBC and the Environmental Agency during consultation period.

Dredging in Liggard Brook and Main Drain: RCC, MJB and KL very active so that RCC's six key issues were placed on the licence. After lots of interchanges, The Liggard has now been dredged and a satisfactory channel re-established to The Main Drain, The Main Drain work was also completed, a satisfactory conclusion due to a great effort from KL and AW2

Concluding remarks:- MJB hoped he had captured some extra items others misses and concluded by thanking everyone for attending the 2017 AGM and for their inputs.

16 AOB:

16.1 :- Willy Crichton requested MC review rules to try and manage AGM better

16.2 :- Flag Officer Duties:- RM asked what the duties of The Flag Officers, Hon Social Sec, Hon Sailing Sec were. PB proposed a written reply would be provided.