

**Colin Harper RIP:-** The Commodore opened the meeting with a moment of reflection for the loss of our dear friend and colleague Colin Harper who passed away on the 23th March. Rarely a day passed that he did not go into the club to attend to those little unseen jobs which we all took for granted. Colin, and his late wife Kath, joined RCC in 1975 and they immediately contributed to the club in many ways. Colin was an Officer in the late 70.'s & our commodore in 1981. In the following 35 years he has served on Main Committee for many of them, Bar & Social Committees for 10 years & He was our Membership Secretary for 15 years .Colin will probably be most remembered for his service to our Clubhouse being Fabric Committee Chairman, he will be sorely missed by all of us .

**1:- Attendees:-** Richard Blackburn (RB), P Bennett (PB), M J Briers(MJB), Don Flannery (DF), Richard Freeman (RF), John Gallagher (JG), R Jarman (RJ), K Lawton (KL), M Lemman (ML), D Miller (DHM), M Oldroyd (MO), J Rawcliffe (JR), A Robins (AR), A Walls (AW).

**2 Apologies,** P Pollock, A Walker, A Williams, C Butler, R Hoad, S Redfearn.

**3:-Minutes:** Mike Lemman asked that he be added to the attendees with this amendment the minutes of the March meeting at draft 2 were approved, proposed by MO seconded by ML.

#### **4:- Arisings:**

**4.1 Clubhouse Lease extension:-** MJB agreed he will pursue FBC during April.

**4.2 RYA Cruiser Forum feedback:-** MJB highlighted 2 items from the Cruiser Forum:- 'First Aid' kit recommendations, & the control of unattended fishing gear.

**4.3 Mussel Tanks:-** RME informed MC of his progress with the Civic Society's architects & possible RCC commitments. RCC is currently proposing a gate accessing the Mussel Tanks. RME says he will press that RCC will procure it, but we may have to let them to procure it. As well as the cost of the gate we will be liable for BCA Landscape's fee on our part of the works. .RME estimates a total cost of £2750 to £3000, maybe £600-750 plus VAT for drawing the gate up, £500 for the hole in the wall, and £1500 for the new gate and frame. RCC will also have some works on it's side to resolve levels. After much discussion it was agreed that subject to a ceiling of around £3000 we go ahead with this emergency exit, proposed by MJB seconded by JG, there were 4 against the motion & 1 abstention.

**4.4:-Log:-** RB thanked everyone for their inputs providing the basis for an excellent log which went out with the handbooks, special thanks to RME for compiling it & fitting it all in !!!.

## **5:-Correspondence:-**

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**5.1 Marine License Application:-** MB informed MC that we had received from MMO via RYA NW the Marine License application (MLA'2017/00071) for Main Drain & Liggard. Comments were required mid April for submission to RYA in Hamble by 28<sup>th</sup> April. KL informed MC that he was also currently penning a letter to The Environmental Agency which would include RCC concerns. The Environmental Agency were however proving difficult to get info from KL said he would expect them to resolve our concerns before we agreed privileged access to our site.

**5.2 Training Forum:-** MB informed MC that the RYA Training Forum was to be relaunched on 25<sup>th</sup> April with 3 to 4 sessions per annum. RJ will be RCC rep he will also review whether the associated briefing ' Rig Tuning & Sail Controls' was a candidate for RCC Tuesday talk.

**5.3 Invite to Manchester Cruising Association:-** MB informed MC of an invite to a talk at Manchester Cruising Association on 6<sup>th</sup> April. The talk will be ' Sailing Accident Investigation'

### **5.4 RYA 'In**

**Brief' & Cruising News:-** RYA briefings included 'impact of Brexit', Project Kraken where members are asked to inform of suspicious matters, Scottish Wind Farms, Push Boat Out.

### **5.5 Thanks**

**from B&FYC:-** RB informed MC that we had received a thank you from Tony Roe Vice Commodore B&FYC, which congratulated RCC on restoring old traditions between us

## **6.0 Treasurer's report**

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**6.1 Monthly payments:-** MC reviewed and approved the monthly payments in March which totalled some £7593. DHM commented also that RCC had already received some £17,500 in subscriptions, close to the budget of £18,500.

**6.2 Direct Debit;-** RB informed MC that RCC was considering a direct debit scheme, Dev Committee discussions were ongoing, RME & AB were actively involved. The current proposal would need £175 set up plus £0.50 per transaction. It was seen to offer advantages to RCC in terms of admin work & member retention however it was recognised that Dock Berthing was a little different. Also RCC may have to offer an incentive, Electric companies offer 5% discount. Discussions in Dev Committee would continue before a firm proposal would be made.

**6.3 Insurance:-** MB explained to MC that through Alan Slorick our current insurers offer a 10% discount in return for a multi year commitment. MB proposed, seconded by RF that this RCC agree to insure through Gallaghers to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 , MC agreed unanimously . .

**7 Sailing Committee:-** DF reported on behalf of Sailing Committee:-

**7.1 Sailing :-** DF thanked RME for compiling the Sailing programme & getting the Handbook out on time. 2017 season started on 26<sup>th</sup> March with 4 dinghies & 2 Cruisers & 7 dinghies out on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Sail training also made a good start with 5

boats participating in the first event on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Full Easter programme was planned including a Cruiser trip to Piel Island, weather permitting.

**7.2 Training** :- DF reported that several RCC instructors & trainers had attended a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid course & that Myerscough College had now trained RJ & MO in the operation of the Mini Tractor to such a level that they were now qualified to assess RCC members who wished to operate it

**7.3 Working parties**:- DF reported that the recent working party had been limited due to weather to inside jobs. Despite the weather the club flag pole base & fittings were inspected & found OK, annual inspection was recommended. A 2<sup>nd</sup> was planned for 9<sup>th</sup> April aimed at getting RCC boats ready for Fairhaven season. He asked for volunteers to support this activity.

**7.4 Maintenance**:- DF reported that Safety Boat 2 engine had gone for servicing to Garstang. He also noted that the race Box needed some attention possible a new compressor.

**7.5 Jetty**:- DF commented that sailors had noted some toe rails missing on the jetty & that grass was growing through the surface. FBC will be informed of both these issues, the grass being a serious concern, it was grass would clog up the water flow & result in mud accretion onto jetty.

**7.6 Radio License**:- MB reported that the racebox radio license was renewed, valid to 31/03/18

**8 Training Committee**:- RJ reported on Training activities:-

**8.1 First Aid**:- The recent 1<sup>st</sup> Aid course was full & very successful. RL noted clear training on emergency protocols & procedures with lots of thoughts re application of our defibrillators.

**8.2 Advanced Sail Training**:- This course is now also full & the RYA Vagos were confirmed.

**8.3 Instructor Training**:- RJ, RME & Martin Knott had attended a successful Instructor Training Day at Tower Hill on Windermere.

**8.4 Sail Training**:- RJ reported that both the boats & instructors were now geared up for an active 2017 season. The Magnos had new trapeze gear aboard & the Laser 2000's were ready. The season started on April 1<sup>st</sup> with some 5 participants. An inspection of RCC buoyancy aids, undertaken in preparation for the annual RTC inspection by the RYA, several were disposed of

**8,5 Try Sailing**:- RJ noted that the RYA had decided this year to use 'Try Sailing' on the front of their Push The Boat Out (PBTO) flyers, RCC's PTBO efforts this year will be limited to 17<sup>th</sup> May. .

**9 Dock Committee**: KL reported that there was little to report on this month beyond the Environmental Agency activities see item 5.1. No progress on the resurfacing, or drains. There was no take up on the mast crane ?, but the replacement electric wire was now connected.

**9.1 New owner for Picalo:-** KL reported that the Paul Forrest, the new owner of Picalo, was now a Transitional Member, see item 12.2 & would be sent a bill and application form for Temporary berthing.

**9.2 Electric supplier:-** MB agreed to negotiate a new deal for electric supply to RCC dock he would review the rates ML had achieved for the clubhouse.

**9.3 Seamus Devine:-** MJB no progress on Seamus Devine, the RYA recommend that the club try all efforts before resorting to 'legality'. MB agreed to visit Seamus but this was unlikely in April. MB asked if there were any other debtors now that RCC membership was completed.

**10 Fabric Committee:-** ML opened by reiterating what a loss Colin Harper would be, it happened so suddenly that he had been unable to get a proper handover but general maintenance & cleaning matters were all in hand.

**10.1 Clubhouse Electric Supplier:-** ML reported he had taken on a new supplier for clubhouse electric & had Gas in hand. From 28<sup>th</sup> April we would be paying 14p/day + 12.79p per kw hour.

**10.2 Carpet cleaning:-** MC noted the successful carpet cleaning in the clubhouse & hoped muddy sailors would respect this.

**10.3 Next project:-** ML informed MC that their next project was improving the racebox access RME is working with an internal, straight, ship's ladder/stair option. The steps will start in line with the gents toilet door reveal and run up to above the window. The new elongated opening stops short of the racebox equipment, but in order to get access space we'd need to reduce the width of the worktop. The pitch of the stair/ladder is likely to be about 50 degrees close to a domestic stair of approx. 42 degrees.

**10.4 Defibrillator maintenance:-** MJB & RB informed MC that during the month Pauline Betts had identified an urgent need to replace both the pads & batteries on both defibrillators. This has now been done but will cost around £200 which was approved by MC retrospectively.

**10.5 Porch Window:-** DF asked whether the bottom window in the entrance hall could be clear glass to allow notices to be read outside. DHM agreed to look into it.

**11 House Committee:** RF reported on behalf of House Committee:-

**11.1 Winter social events:-** On 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Sherry Evening RCC entertained The Worshipful the Mayor of Fylde Councillor Christine Akeroyd along with The Commodore & Dinghy Captain from WLYC & Vice Commodore from B&FYC. It was an excellent event, wonderful spread provided by the members. All the guests commented on how well they had been entertained. RF thanked Jontie, Pauline Diana & Sue for organising the buffet & Emma Audsley for running the bar, expenses were only about £100. .

**11.2 Next Event:-** RF reminded MC that the next social event was on the following Saturday 'Fitting Out Supper', an Italian & Film evening was planned at £10 per head. JR said there had been no more club house bookings.

**11.3 Last Tuesday Talks:-** MB reported that the last Tuesday talk 'Port of Poulton' had been excellent with a great turnout of 50+ attendees. Our final talk of this season was on 25<sup>th</sup> April 'Tales of a 'Masterwinchman & his Helicopters , Looking ahead to autumn MB informed MC that he already had 2 talks booked, 26<sup>th</sup> September ' The Stars are ours' by Don Kurz UCLan . On 28<sup>th</sup> Nov Stephen Musgrave has agreed to do a Talk 'Heroes of the Waves' Stephen has agreed that any proceeds go to St Annes Shannon Appeal.

## **12 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE-**

RB reported that most of Dev Committee matters had already been discussed. For Mussel Tank progress see item 4.3, Direct Debit progress see item 6.2, Dock debt collection see items 8.1 & 8.3. Other items discussed included:-

**12.1 10 Year Plan:-** RB reminded Committee Chairmen & budget holders that MB had circulated an updated 10 year plan. This was a working document but inputs were needed to progress it & allow further financial planning to be put in place once the level of Capital spend was scoped .

## **13 COMMUNICATION SEC;-**

**13.1 Facebook pages:-** RME said RCC was making good progress with 2 'Facebook' pages on the go. RME has his own & RCC was planning to 'capture' the other site.

**13.2 Website;-** RB reported that the web site was improving considerably & had links now to 'Facebook'. The Obituary notices were now on page 2 although he did note several members asking why RCC flag was at half mast ???.

**142 MEMBERSHIP. :-** Mike Briers (MB) reported on behalf of Richard Elsdon:-

**14.1 New Membrs:-** MB put proposed the following membership applications:-

a) Helen Lewis living near Southampton has applied for Out of Port membership. Proposed by Richard Freeman and Seconded by RME. RME informed MC that she was Rodger Audsley's daughters. Well known to RCC & a useful connection to Rooster, she's provided prizes in the past.

b) Damian and Joanne Dugdale have applied for Family membership, proposed by Russell Wignall seconded by KL. RME said that Damian was originally from Lytham St Annes & was moving back. Several MC members reported they had met Damian & were happy to support his application.

MC agreed that both these applications be passed.

**14.2 Transitional Membership:-** MC confirmed Paul Forrest be accepted as a Transitional membership. MB explained on behalf of RME that he was the new owner of Chris Blackburn's boat Picalo, & that his form had been correctly signed up & his payment banked .

**14.3 Non Payers:- MB presented on behalf of RME** the following list of ‘non-payers:- Mr BM Atkins, Mrs H Austin, Mrs E Byrne, Miss A Cole, Miss R Cole, Mr J Cunningham, Ms M Gibbs, Ms M Hodgson, Ms A Lee, Mr P Reid, Mr & Mrs Schofield. RME said that he was sad to see so many juniors, & he noted that The Schofield’s had not been seen last year & were slow to pick up sailing. He will follow up Mandy Lee & Hilda Austin. DHM noted that Hilda was a very old lady now & probably had simply forgotten. Dock Committee were asked to check there were any berth holders no longer members.

15 Any Other Business:- There were no items of AOB

Next meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017      Minutes prepared by M J Briers 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017