



## **RYA North West Regional Committee Chairman's Report to the 2018 AGM**

### **Committees and Forums**

The Cruiser Forum continues to provide an opportunity for those of us involved in cruising to share knowledge and experience. It was decided not to have a Spring meeting because we were running a Cruising Conference in March – of which more below. However there will be an Autumn meeting on 21 November at The Mount, Orrell.

The Cruising Conference was held in Warrington in March and attracted over 60 people. The headline speaker was Tom Cunliffe but there was a broad range of other contributors. Overall the feedback was good but there were comments that some speakers had too long – while others not long enough. The venue was good and the food excellent. With support from sponsors, the financial aim was to break even. In fact we made a profit of just over £3. Thanks to my fellow conference organisers: Tony Halliwell, Mike Briers, Oliver Shaw and Simon Temple.

The Training Forum was a long-standing event in the North West programme. However, the numbers attending had steadily declined to just a handful by the end of 2016. After a review, an attempt was made to resuscitate the Forum as a Training and Development meeting but, as 2018 progressed, it became apparent that it would be better to hand over the activity to the RDO and for it to form part of his programme.

We set up the Environment, Planning and Navigation Group under the Chairmanship of Tony Halliwell as a means of supporting him in his regional role as Planning, Environment and Coastal Navigation Support Network Member.

Tony also chairs our Triage Group which sorts out and redirects marine licence applications. Altogether the Chairmanships make for a taxing role – not least because of the steady flood of matters requiring attention by the Triage group – and it's a pleasure to thank Tony for his sustained efforts on several fronts.

### **Communications**

David Helme stood down as manager of the regional website and Mike Moore volunteered to take on the role. It remains a significant challenge to maintain a user-friendly, current and informative regional site.

The Regional Newsletter has been produced quarterly this year. It focusses on issues discussed at regional meetings (including evolution of the governance arrangements following decisions at last year's RYA AGM), briefings from RYA staff and from other Committee members. This is sent to our list of club contacts and we encourage them to distribute it further.

We have continued our long-standing system of identified Liaison Officers for each club but have kept it under review and plan to make some changes to improve visibility of the Committee. A significant step in this is a Workshop to take place at the Affiliates Conference in December.

We spent some time discussing and implementing the changes required by GDPR and I would like to thank Richard Hemingway (with the sterling support of Stephen Bristow and Judy Leese) for his efforts in this

complex (and frustrating) area.

## **RYA Council**

I have attended the meetings of the interim Council this year.

Much of the discussion has centred around the work towards a gold-standard Engagement Strategy promised at the last RYA AGM.

I was invited to join the Steering Group for this and have taken part in most of the telecons associated with it. While there have been some interesting ideas discussed, the work has so far led to no very concrete proposals on management arrangements. The future of Council itself remains in some doubt and the role of the regions stays uncertain.

One consequence of these uncertainties is that the terms of reference of the Regional Committees are still not finalised.

## **Congratulations and Thanks**

I would like to congratulate all those individuals and clubs who have won national and regional awards and all those talented and determined people who have had success in racing and other endeavours in boats. They are too numerous to mention here but I hope they all feel that their achievements have been recognised by the RYA.

Of course, they are just the tip of the iceberg (to adopt a slightly inappropriate metaphor in a nautical context) and it is the hundreds, if not thousands, of people who turn out regularly in the region and sustain our sport and recreation who need thanking. Thank you, that is, to the volunteers.

It's a pleasure to thank all the Committee for their contributions over the year and particularly David Helme, our (retiring) Treasurer, and Peter Hadfield, our Hon Sec. Peter continued to run the very successful Junior Travellers but is now standing down and handing over to a new organiser, Carren Bell.

Dave Woodhead has continued to organise the very competitive Senior Travellers Trophy.

I would also like to recognise the efforts of two Committee members who are standing down. Paul Flower has been a member of the Committee for ten years and we will miss his advice on many areas, particularly that associated with property matters and local authorities. Judy Leese is standing down after a year in which she helped pilot us through GDPR.

Finally, I'm delighted to thank my Deputy, Louise Halliwell, for her thoughtful advice and assistance on countless matters.

Geoff Meggitt  
Chairman  
RYA North West  
23 October 2018