



Ribble Cruising Club



Main Committee Meeting Minutes

Agreed Minutes of Main Committee meeting

9th January 2017

Those Present:

Richard Blackburn (RB),
Keith Lawton (KL)
Mike Briers (MJB)
Martin Oldroyd (MO)
Peter Benett (PB)

Rob Jarman (RJ),
Richard Freeman (RF)
Richard Hoad (RH)
Chris Butler (CB)
Mike Leman (ML)

Richard Elsdon (RE),
Don Flannery (DF)
Andrew Walls (AW)
Tony Robins (TR)
David Miller (DHM)

1.0 Apologies

Peter Pollock, Allan Williams, Tony Walker, John Gallagher.

2.0 Minutes of December Meeting:- Don Flannery requested that item 8.4 be amended to include the dates of the 2nd MBSA Cruiser Regatta, with this amendment Draft 3 of the Minutes of 5th Dec 2016 Main Committee meeting were agreed as a true record, proposed by DF, seconded by PB.

3.0 Matters arising:-

3.1 **Clubhouse Lease extension:-** There is still no response to FBC regarding lease extension MB agreed to pursue this matter in 2017. **Action MB**

3.2 **RYA NW Cruiser Forum,** re 2018 Forum, agreed RCC would be too small so no action

3.3 **AGM post mortem:-** RF reported that Pauline Betts wished to relinquish this post but his partner Jackie Rawcliffe had agreed to take on the role. MC thanked RF for this and ratified Jackie Rawcliffe as Social Secretary. It was agreed that Dev Comm should review the suggestion by MB that at the next AGM we consider a 'rules changes' to require a member wishing to propose a 'Rules Changes' would require signatures of support from 30 members **Action RB**

3.4 **Log:-** RB thanked all the contributors to the December Log, especially RE who edited & copied it.

3.5 **RYA NW Training Forum:-** Agreed that RJ would inform Louise Halliwell that RCC thought training forum unnecessary now with Instructor Days & modern media. In addition there would be no RCC attendance at the RYA Swindon conference **Action RJ .**

4.0 Correspondence

4.1 **RYA 'In Brief':-** MB highlighted that Carbon Monoxide continued to be an issue, a video was now available. 2 copies of new 2017/20 RYA Racing Rules purchased.

4.2 **RYA Cruising News:-** MB commented that this included 4 North Irish Conservation Zones which included areas around Rathlin Island, Belfast Lough, Carlingford Lough, & Strangford Lough. A new initiative was announced 'Project Kraken' to assist border control

4.3 **Wind Farm & Eskmeals Range:** MB continued to forward these 'Navigation Notices'. Access is denied to North of both Burbo Bank & 2 sites around Walney Island, there is no range firing.

4.4 **Fairhaven to Church Scar Marine License Application:-** MB informed MC that RYANW had highlighted this application & requested comment from RCC. MC agreed that since it was mostly sea wall build & repair it would have little impact, but MB agreed to stress the need to retain the 2 slipway access points at Granny's Bay & Church Scar to allow emergency recovery of RCC safety boat, casualties & damaged boats. DF reminded MC of his 'Fairhaven proposal' but this would need following up through FBC. **Action MJB**

4.5 **Seminar on '2017 Racing Rules':-** WLYC had issued an invite to RCC to attend the Seminar on 12th Jan 2017, chairman was to be the chair of RYA Racing Rules Committee, DF to attend.

4.6 **Andrew Yates BEM:-** RB noted that Andrew Yates had been recently awarded BEM for his work at to sailing in Solihull & Oulton Mere. In his biography he recognised his start in sailing at RCC apparently aged 9 in 1970's.

4.7 **Andrew Pickering:-** RB highlighted correspondence from Andrew Pickering claiming he was wrongly charged the 20% surcharge. It was agreed there would be 'no action'

5.0 Treasurer's Report

5.1 **Bank Balances:-** DHM highlighted the monthly payments circulated previously by e-mail, MC



Ribble Cruising Club



Main Committee Meeting Minutes

approved the spend of some £3159 in December. RB also noted that RCC's bank balance was some £92,837.55, this included £1006 transferred on closure of RCC's Scottish Widows account. DHM noted that some £1500 subs had already been received. He also noted that Susan Heath, RCC's cleaner, had been awarded a pay rise to £10 per hour, her first for several years.

5.2 **Classified Directory:-** DHM highlighted a request from BT for a payment of £245 for RCC to be included in the 'classified directory'. MC agreed that this was unnecessary most enquiries were now through the web site & by e-mail etc.

5.3 **VAT:** DHM had informed MC that RCC was now deregistered for VAT effective from 31st Dec 2016. He informed MC that he had been advised that any recovery of past VAT was unlikely but that RCC would have to retain it's VAT records for 6 years. The consequence of this deregistration he said was RCC would probably save some £600 & be able to have a much simpler accounting system which would allow future Treasurer's not to be accounting trained.

5.4 **Direct Debits:-** DHM & RB were reminded that MC would like to explore using Direct Debits for 2018 payments. RB commented that Coniston Moorings used Direct debit through Barclays.

5.5 **Budgets for 2018:-** DHM reported that to date he had only received budgets for dock and fabric but not training, sailing, house or admin. MC agreed that a budget meeting should be held Thursday 26th Jan with a view to MC agreeing RCC budgets at Feb meeting. Budget holders were requested to submit their revenue & capital budget proposals to him to allow prep for meeting on 26th.

6.0 **Sailing Report:-**

6.1 **Sailing** DF reported that the PP had analysed the 2016 dinghy racing, some 8 races had been held with Martin Knott winning 5 of them. Looking to 2017 a draft sailing programme was now available which included MBSA events, next Sailing Committee would agree this.

6.2 **Prizegiving:-** DF informed MC that it was proposed to reinstate 'Prizegiving', Friday 3rd March had been chosen with a Hot Pot supper to be organised, DF was to sort Trophies with MB. MB asked RB to judge the 'best Tuesday talk in 2016' in time for this, The Culpán Trophy was still being sought, RF thought it was last awarded in 2009. **Action MB**

6.3 **Maintenance:-** DF reported that repairs to the 2nd safety boat trolley were imminent, the safety boats also needed extended seat boards, and the VHF radios would need repair or replacing.

6.4 **Training:-** DF informed MC that 'Try Sailing' in 2017 would run from 6th April to end May, he requested general support from MC to advise & enthuse families ashore. He informed MC that in 2017 Training weekends would be given priority over racing.

6.5 **Jetty:-** DF informed MC of some issues with the Jetty toe rails, FBC have been informed.

6.6 **Dinghy Working Party :-** DF informed MC that at the next working party it was planned to drop the mast to check the rigging and halliards.

6.7 **Race Marks:-** DF reported some issues with the use of weighted rope, cf chain. The ground tackle was being fretted out & longer mooring lines were needed

6.8 **Christmas Cruise:-** RB congratulated Andrew Walls & Andrew Baker on a great Xmas event some 6 boats & 30 people had a great time, Preston Marina were notably welcoming.

7.0 **Training Report**

7.1 RJ reported on a meeting with RCC Training Instructors late Dec to collate experiences & lessons learned during 2016:- Outcomes included:-

- Need a 1st Aid course, now 12th March, £65, RCC Instructors to be given priority & full support.
- Assistant Instructors to be trained this year, current volunteers to be approached with a view to them going on with RCC support to full RYA Instructor Training.
- Powerboat Training, seen as a win win & possible RCC fundraiser.
- Performance Spinnaker courses to be run, 29/30 April & 13/14 May, expecting to go beyond basic level 1 to 3 instruction, a flat fee of £50 for both weekends will be charged.
- RYA Start Racing, Alan Jones of RYA is keen to incorporate this 'initiative' into RCC sailing prog. Through this it is hoped to combine race participation with learning & skill development.
- RCC buoyancy aids to be checked before season commences.
- Comms to be improved & wider use for training using web & facebook pages.



Ribble Cruising Club



Main Committee Meeting Minutes

--- PTBO from RYA was considered troublesome, only Weds in May will be incorporated.
--- PP was to organise a Creche Group for younger sailors from last years Try Sailing with support using Oppies & Toppers .

--- Re Boats, approval would be sought for a 'Rigiflex' safet boat for Fairhaven & 2 more Toppers
These additions would improve safety support to boats at the side of the lake and give a workable fleet of Toppers allowing special courses to be run at the Lake & on 'Try Sailing'

7.2 RJ also informed MC that there was some concern re the importance given to Obituaries on RCC front page web site. MC agreed it was important to recognise & acknowledge the passing of RCC stalwarts without whom RCC would not be in the position it was. However it was agreed that Front Page cover for these issues should be balanced with other matters & say 'one click' giving access to the full information & recognition.

7.3 **Fairhaven:-** RJ said he would be making contact with FBC (Ian Brookes) to see if any progress was being made re improving Fairhaven facilities (*post meeting note FBC have announced that they have won funding of some £160k to improve Fairhaven including sailing facilities*)

8.0
8.1 **Dock Report:-** KL reported on a Dock progress in December:-

Dock Committee:- KL informed MC that Alan Thistlethwaite & Harry Taylor have now stood down from DC. They have served for well over 30 years & were thanked by DC & MC for their tremendous efforts both during the foundation of Dock & its operation.

8.2 3 new members have agreed to join; Chris Butler, Peter Hardman & James Lawton.

Maintenance: KL reported significant progress at last Working Party, since then the tug had been repaired (gearbox filter & fluid replacement) & the broken cabin window repaired. The next dock WP , planned for 29th Jan 2017, work will include finishing & launching new pontoons, replacing wires & chains, digging trench, & purchasing new electric cable, filling pot holes, checking lighting & security lights & mooring chains etc. Re other Maintenance: One lit perch still needs replacing , roadway resurfacing & the trees in entrance need felling but FBC are to be contacted first.

8.3
8.4 **Capital items:-** KL noted that a Trailer had been purchased & work restarted on new winch, new quotes will be needed for steelwork and motor assembly.

8.5 **Berthing:** DC have noted that the MC has requested the berthing fee to be increased

8.6 **Budget;** KL said a draft budget had been prepared but needed updating .

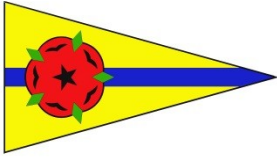
Health & Safety: KL recorded that 'Method statements' still need updating.

8.7 Electrical safety test of all equipment to be undertaken, Following completion no personal electrical equipment will be allowed to be left at the dock in communal areas.

Internet Provision at Dock:- KL reported correspondence with Robert Marsh (RM) requesting again that the DC consider provision of Internet at the dock. RM has assured KL that there is considerable support for this provision & they are willing to pay. This has been proposed before & ruled out however KL has agreed that the DC will reconsider this 'proposal'. Before this can happen however RM has been asked to define what they want, why they want it with justification.

8.8 **Eric Whitworth's Cradle:-** KL reported a 2nd letter from RM on the subject of an old cradle previously owned by Eric Whitworth. There is an outstanding debt on this cradle for storage from April 2016. RM has claimed to have owned the cradle from April and has been served the storage bill. He is currently disputing that he should pay this storage fee. KL has requested that RM state when he took over ownership of the cradle, This is a complex situation being handled by KL, he requested guidance from MC re whether MC felt that he should continue to press for this storage fee. MC agreed that RM should be pressed to pay for this Cradle storage if he actually owned the cradle from the April date. MC consider this a fair and consistent approach, many other members pay storage fees simply to store cradles they wish to keep at the dock.

8.9 **Dock User's Meeting:-** KL was asked whether he intended, as requested at the AGM, to hold another Dock User's Meeting in 2017. KL agreed to review this in DC but also it was felt that a 'suggestions letter' or poster should be arranged asking for suggestions to collect such ideas.



Ribble Cruising Club



Main Committee Meeting Minutes

9.0

Fabric Committee:- ML reported that the Fabric Committee continued to meet on Monday afternoon once a month. Recent activity included new door closers & new LED light bulbs. It was agreed that looking ahead a professional carpet clean should be organised before the Commodore's Sherry Evening. **Action Fabric C'tee**

9.1

10.0 **Budgets:-** ML reported that a Fabric Committee budget had been supplied for 2017.

House Committee:- RF reported the following :-

10.1 **Social Scene:-** RF reported a good attendance, 35, at New Year's Eve with a healthy profit of £180 which will help support this springs social events. Looking ahead, posters were up for 'Burns Night' on 28th January and a piper has been requested. The Worshipful 'Mayor of Fylde' has confirmed her attendance at the 'Sherry Evening' on 18th March. RF will be inviting WLYC & B&FYC & RNLI

10.2 **Tuesday Talks:-** MJB reported that the next talk on 31st Jan is 'Cruising to Turkey' by Howard Boswell from Preston Marina, this will in Feb by Clare & James who have been 'Cruising Arctic', in Jan we welcome Dr Evans 'Port of Poulton', & April Stars & Navigation. MJB is now flat out on speakers for Autumn & Winter 2018 so that RME can get them in diary

11.0 **Development Committee :-** RB reported that the December Dev Comm meeting had been rather truncated as the 'trainers' also needed to get together.

11.1 **Despite** this Dev Comm reaffirmed the idea of an outside stairway access to the race box and wondered if it could be argued to be an 'emergency access ?'. Preparation for the Handbook was also reviewed, Chairmen were reminded that their 'bye laws' might need review. KL said that the DC were considering bringing the Dock Surcharge for late payers into line with RCC rules, see rule 5 wording, ie +20% after 2 months, if no payment after 3 months membership lapses but the rule does allow some discretion.

Action KL

11.2 **Looking ahead** RB indicated Dev Comm would be looking at Winter retention with possible games night & other events, update 10 year plan, membership matters such as 'rules change policy as well as the access issues both to Race Box & clubhouse.

Communications:-

12.0 **Web Site:-** RH reported some issues with the web site which he was trying to address with James the designer. 12.1 He is having some issues with the separate volumes & was seeking a way to incorporate the RYA stuff, especially safety navigation warnings etc, without filling up front page. He also noted the point made re 'obituaries' in para 7.2.

12.2 **Weather Station:-** RH noted that weather station was now performing well but he noted some issues with the tide data which will be corrected. He reminded each sub committee that volunteers were required from each key area to act as interface, training would be given by James.

Action Chairmen of sub committees

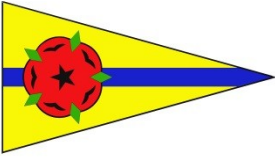
12.3 **Facebook:-** RH & RME reported progress on integrating RCC Facebook, but it was generally quiet after Christmas.

Membership:- RME recorded that there were no membership applications in December.

13.0 **Handbook:** He reminded MC that Graham Wilson was now arranging Handbook Advertising. He reminded 13.1 sub committee chairmen that the Handbook would go to print end of Feb & inputs were required in advance of that to update the diary, committee pages, rules /bye laws, boat lists etc.

AOB:-

14.0 **Safety Awareness Training:-** KL informed MC that now with the tractor gone there was only the tug & winch 14.1 to be concerned about, however the tug was a complex 3.5 ton specialist vehicle. After a short discussion, MC agreed that DC should arrange continued 'Safety Awareness Training' for new operators & suggested that the tug & winch be combined.



Ribble Cruising Club



Main Committee Meeting Minutes

14.2 **Stationery:-** MB thanked RF for a donation of A4 paper & informed MC that it would be stored in the office with RCC printed notepaper & envelopes etc for use by RCC officials.

Prepared by M J Briers 18th January 2017

Next Meeting Monday 6th February 2017