

1:- Attendees:- Richard Blackburn(RB), P Bennett(PB), M J Briers(MJB), Don Flannery(DF), Richard Freeman(RF), John Gallagher (JG), K Lawton(KL), M Leman (ML), D Miller(DHM), M Oldroyd(MO), A Robins(AR), Simon Redfearn(SR). Chris Butler(CB), Tony Walker(JDAW), Allan Williams (AW), Richard Elsdon (RME)

2 Apologies, P Pollock, R Hoad, Andrew Walls, Rob Jarman, Jackie Rawcliffe.

3:-Minutes: RME reminded MJB that he was in fact not present at the last meeting, MJB agreed to amend the apologies list & the wording of para 14. With these amendments the minutes of the April meeting at draft 4 were approved, proposed by DF seconded by JG

4:- Arisings:

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

4.2 Mussel Tanks:- RME informed MC that the Civic Society Architect Tom Hollick will charge RCC £540 for drawing the gate up, plus £240 getting it into their contractor's scope and implementing it. RME reminded MC that a total spend of £3000 had been approved at the last meeting which will also covers the hole in the wall & the gate itself. There was some discussion re whether the Trustees should have approved this additional expense above the budget. It was confirmed to MC that this was in fact not necessary, rule II 10 only allows The Trustees to 'veto' any expense they are not in favour of. The Trustees however also confirmed that they were in favour of this expense. RF informed MC that the contractors involved had requested use of the 'apron car park in front of the Lifeboat House, this had been refused due to access concerns.

4.3:- Marine License Application:- see Dock notes item 9.5

5:-Correspondence:-

5.1 RYA 'In Brief' & Cruising News:- MJB reported these RYA links included opportunity for Clipper voyages, Member offers, HM Government active again on Red Diesel, & RYA Environmental initiatives including their Green/Blue activity.

5.2 Wind Farms:- MJB reported many wind farm e-mails extending further the Burbo Bank & Walney wind farms.

5.3 RYA NW Cruising Seminar in 2018:- MJB reported a request from the RYANW to support the next Cruising Seminar, MJB has joined a small group to arrange this. A venue in Warrington has been chosen & Tom Cunliffe may be keynote speaker. .

5.4 RYA Club Room:- MJB reported that May RYA Club Room included 'Push Boat Out' & a Legal Update including advice & support re new Business Rates (item 6.3

5.5 George Booth RIP:- MB reported a letter from John Crabtree telling us that an old member George Booth had passed away. He was active in the 80's & sailed with Brian Melia & friends.

6.0 Treasurer's report

6.1 Monthly payments:- MC reviewed and approved the monthly payments in March which totalled some £5754. DHM commented on a healthy bank balance of £10.965 including some £15200 in berthing fees & £592 in outstanding membership.

6.2 Advanced Training Course:- DHM has received only 1 payment of £25 re this course, there were actually 8 attendees & RJ or Martin Knott would have rest .

6.3 New Business Rate:- DHM informed MC that his best advice that RCC business rates may go up as much as £80 per month but implementation had been delayed by to 2018. HMG had previously indicated that some form of bridging support would be offered , the RYA were also involved in lobbying & support , see May Club Room.

6.4 Direct Debit :- Action still under review.

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

7.1 Sailing :- DF reported an excellent turnout over Easter Weekend with 11 dinghies participating, however adverse weather caused cancellation of races 3&4.

7.2 Training:- DF reported a successful Advanced Course at end of April continuing on 13th & 14th May see Training. JG reported that he had enjoyed this event which was very well organised by RCC. The event had been recorded on video & there was a request it be played in the clubhouse or on Facebook. RME indicated that a symmetric spinnaker set up would be required on the Magno's to allow such training. MC asked that a 'vote of thanks' be recorded to Martin Knott for his personal efforts.

7.3 Boat Purchases:- DF reported that recently RCC had purchased, with support from RF, a Topper dinghy, a Rigiflex safety boat & an RS 2000 dinghy, total cost around £3000, well within the capital budget of £4000.

7.4 Maintenance:- DF reported that a small compressor had been purchased for the RCC garage workshop for inflating marks & other maintenance activities. .

7.5 Jetty:- FBC will be reminded of the jetty issues, RNLI was also active on this.

7.6 Try Sailing:- DF reported that the last Wed in April saw the start of "Try Sailing" when 30 people for the first time came to Fairhaven Lake to participate in this Annual event. Unfortunately the 2nd evening held on the 5th May had to be abandoned due to adverse weather conditions, but the intention is to continue for the next 6Wks. The RYA Push the Boat Out will be incorporated into the next week of RCC Try Sailing events, May 18th & on.

. 8 Training Committee:- MJB reported on behalf of Rj:-

8.1 Advanced Sail Training:- RJ recorded a very successful event, RCC's 1st standalone course. The event was fully subscribed with 8 trainees learning Spinnaker work & trapezing. It was a breezy weekend so quite challenging , a video recording was used afterwards to great effect as a diagnostic & allowed positive guidance.

Overall due to the weather conditions no certificates were earned but from the feedback forms all the trainees are keen to come back & do more. JG reported that he had enjoyed this event which was very well organised by RCC. RME indicated that a symmetric spinnaker set up would be required on the Magno's to allow such training. MC asked that a 'vote of thanks' be recorded to Martin Knott for his personal efforts.

8.2 RYA NW Training Forum:- RJ recorded his attendance at the relaunch of the RYA NW Training Forum, during the event Adam McGovern gave a Powerpoint Presentaion on 'Rig Tuning & sail Setting'. He has now agreed to come up to RCC & give this to RCC. After a discussion it was agreed to do this say on a day more appropriate to the RCC youngsters & trainees say early one Friday evening.

8.3 Boats:- RJ thanked RF for identifying the secondhand Rigiflex now purchased to RCC use at Fairhaven. RJ indicated that they plan to marry this to an 8hp outboard & test is soon.

8.4 Try Sailing:- RJ recorded that noted that Alan Jones from the RYA would attend Try Sailing in Mid May as part of their Push The Boat Out initiative. RJ was hoping for a good turnout & that Adam McGovern would be put to work sailing .

8.5 RTC Inspection:- RJ recorded that the next RYA RTC inspection was scheduled for 27th May.

9 Dock Committee: KL reported the following Dock matters:-

9.1 Dock operations:- The latest working party had been successful, completing a lot of outstanding items including completing a 20ft pontoon, & connecting the new cable under the hard standing. There were several outstanding jobs however which would be tackled over the summer, these included Pat testing electrical items, trees at the entrance, anti-vandal paint, creek lighting. KL also recorded that the 'Officer of the Month' system was working well. KI reported that there hasd been little take up re Crane Hire planned for May

9.2 Major work items:- It was noted that the resurfacing of the entrance road would be best left until EA's contractor BAM had completed the dredging & departed the site. KL reported that work on the new winch had also restarted .

9.3 Dock fees:- KL recorded that as of Mid April, the last Dock meeting, the total berthing fees collected were some £22,000 with 18 to pay. However this was now down to only 2 outstanding Seamus Devine & 1 other. MJB reported no progress on Seamus Devine, the RYA recommend that the club try all efforts before resorting to 'legality'. MB agreed to visit Seamus in May using the RYA guidelines.

9.4 H&SE:- KL recorded that due to new personnel a further Safety Awareness training course will need to be run.

9.5 Dredging at the Dock, Environment Agency:- KI reported a very busy month working with the Environment Agency (EA) & their contactor BAM Nuttall (BAM) to resolve a series of issues before they start a major dredging activity in the Main Drain.

KL had drafted a superb letter to BAM setting out RCC's 6 key issues, Loss of Utility, Rights of Navigation, Security, Safeguarding, Damage to Moorings & vessels, & The Main Drain Channel. MB in parallel sent this letter to the RYA in response to the formal request for comments on the MMO License application for the works. BMA in fact only replied to this letter through the MMO & RYA route & MB reported that an e-mail reply from RYA & MMO had just been received. This reply would now be reviewed by MB, KL & Dock Committee to ensure RCC's issues had been properly dealt with. At first glance most of RCC's issues had been positively replied to except the matter of the Main Drain channel, & the silting at the confluence of the Liggard & Main Drain.

Alongside this 'paperwork' activity KL informed MC that he was liaising closely with BAM in order to manage RCC's involvement & organise siting of BAM's cabins on RCC land at the dock. KL was negotiating a 'exchange in kind' for this facility & was hoping for some expanse of concrete & hardcoreing of certain areas in return. He was keen to ensure access for RCC sailors down the Main Drain & limit impediment. He was keeping the berth holders informed as well as there were several concerned parties.

Overall KL said he was keen we take a positive stance until we were happy that our issues were resolved & addressed. This approach was supported by MC. It was likely that the Main Drain Channel across the confluence would be a sticking point, he was keen to promote a sensible course which would give a stable long term solution but was looking for reducing the impact on our berthing. MC thanked KL for his sterling efforts on this matter, he was doing a superb job identifying the issues, managing them & dealing with the separate Agencies in a very professional way.

10 Fabric Committee:- ML reported on behalf of Fabric Committee:-

10.1 Working Party:- ML recorded that a working party on 8th May had made good progress on general maintenance plus the porch had been blasted clean & loose paint removed. After examination it was felt that the roof needed reboarding & refelting, some estimates would be gathered.

10.2 Clubhouse Electric Supplier:- ML reported he had taken on a new supplier for clubhouse electric & had Gas in hand. From 28th April we would be paying 14p/day + 12.79p per kw hour. MB recorded that he had renegotiated with E-On re Dock electric & achieved a similar rate there as well.

10.3 Padlock for top gate:- There was a discussion re the padlock for the top gate, it was agreed we needed to find the 3 keys available for the current lock, or RB agreed to supply a second lock with 3 keys. These were deemed sufficient to allow opening provided they be available at RCC Clubhouse.

10.4 Clear Porch window:- There was a discussion re the need to have a clear glass window on the side porch window. It was agreed to have a waterproof notice board on the wall instead for important RCC notices & adverts

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

11.1 Winter social events:- On 8th April the Fitting Out Supper was an Italian & Film evening. RF reported a disappointing 27 attendees after much ringing round. A great evening however making a profit of £140 bringing the surplus up to £634 towards The Laying Up Supper.

11.2 Next Event:- RF reminded MC that the next social event was on 27th May, Commodore's Sailing Lunch' a free event aimed at attracting the 'Try Sailors' to join RCC. Looking ahead Emma Phillips & Kate Bennett are organising a 60's/70's Party for 1st July, Flower Power & Chicken in Basket with Black Forest Gateau to follow. This is the same Wkend that the MBSA Dinghy Regatta will be held at Roe Island YC which may effect the attendance.

11.3 Last Tuesday Talks:- MB reported that the last Tuesday talk in April 'Tales of a Masterwinchman & his Helicopters by Alan Pook was a great event with 50+ attendees & lots of visitors plus one new member, Alan Pook. Mb reported 2 talks in hand for Autumn, on 26th September 'The Stars are ours' by Don Kurz UCLan & 29th November 2017 'Heroes of the Waves' Stephen Musgrave from Fleetwood Lifeboat. MB was actively looking for a cruising talk in between these???

12 Development Committee:- RB reported on behalf of the Dev. Comm.

12.1 Race Box access:- RB reminded MC that currently an internal, straight, ship's ladder/stair option was being considered. The steps will start in line with the gents toilet door reveal and run up to above the window extending deeper into Race Box. Because of impact on the race box it was thought that start would be delayed to winter DF asked that this be provisioned ASAP & Race team would work round the work activity.

12.2 RNLI Mooring Buoy:- The old RNLI mooring buoy had broken free & action would be needed to reinstate. It was agreed RCC would approach both Preston Marina & Douglas Boatyard seeking to share the cost.

12.3 RCC Basement redevelopment :- RB reported that Dev Comm had recommended that the redevelopment of the clubhouse basement be seriously considered. A working group would be required, MJB & RME would find the existing drawings before we could start.

12.4 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;- MJB reported on behalf of RH:-

13.1 Facebook pages:- RH recorded that he had added a 'Facebook' post on the front page of RCC website to open directly onto RCC facebook pages. RME has set up the Facebook end. It was agreed Facebook is the medium of choice & RCC should be putting adverts flyers etc on there as well as photos & news items.

13.2 Website;- RB reported that the web site was improving considerably, a focal point from Training was identified, Peter Pollock would do Sailing, Clubhouse would be RF & some training would be supplied to get the club diary operational on the website & a focus for Dock was required. KL agreed to do this.

14 MEMBERSHIP. :- RME reported the following membership applications:-

14.1 New Members:- The following membership applications were received:-

a) Peter Ackroyd & Karen Ackroyd for family membership, proposed by RB seconded by AR. RB reported that the Ackroyd family had recently moved back into Lytham after some years in London. They had a Devon Dabber on Derwent Water & were keen to sail on the Ribble.

b) Pat & George Chiles for Associate Membership proposed by RF seconded by RME. Pat & George are well known at RCC having catered & helped at many social events.

MC agreed unanimously that both these applications be passed.

14.2 Non Members:- RME reported there were 11 non members who had not paid their subscriptions despite several approaches.

15 Any Other Business:-

15.1:- Key Deposits:- KL asked DHM where the key deposits were in the accounts. DHM replied that there was a separate line for these & they weren't included in revenue.

15.2:- A History of Ribble Navigation?:- DHM recorded that a copy of this book, 'A History of Ribble Navigation' had been donated back to RCC from the late Colin Harpers effects by his son Tim. DHM was holding this at his house along with several other elements of Archive material. If anyone wanted to look at oit he was welcome to loan it out. ue no items of AOB

Next meeting Monday 6th June 2017

Minutes prepared by M J Briers 14th June 2017