



Ribble Cruising Club

Main Committee Meeting Minutes

Agreed minutes of Main Committee Meeting on 2nd October 2017

Those Present:

Richard Blackburn (RB)	Jackie Rawcliffe (JR)	Andy Walls (AW2)
Chris Butler (CB)	Tony Robins (AR)	Don Flannery (DF)
Richard Hoad (RH)	Tony Walker (JDAW)	Allan Williams (AW1)
Richard Freeman (RF)	John Gallagher (JG)	David Miller (DHM)
Michael Briers (MJB)	Martin Oldroyd (MO)	Rob Jarman (RJ)
Richard Elsdon (RE)	K Lawton (KL)	Mike Leman (ML)

1.0 Apologies

Peter Pollock (PP) & Peter Benett.

2.0 Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting at draft 2 were approved with the correction of the date, 30th Sept, in para 5.1 & addition of RJ as seconder in para5.3 with these changes the minutes were agreed unanimously by MC, proposed by RF, seconded by RJ.

3.0 Matters Arising

- 3.1 **Clubhouse Lease extension:-** MJB will try again to engage FBC, extension of the lease is considered essential before RCC undertakes further major investment in The Clubhouse, see para 11.3.
- 3.2 **Mussel Tanks**, RE confirmed that work had commenced on 4th September with a planned completion date of 1st December. He was in contact with BCA re the details of our gate but no pricing was yet available but RE hoped to work within the £3000 limit. Contractors wanted access to Stop Tap, MJB agreed to liase if necessary
- 3.3 **Log:-** An electronic log was now available on line, MJB agreed to send it by mail to those few who had requested 'paper log's' earlier.
- 3.4 DHM had responded to a 'demand letter' from Performing Rights Society.

4.0 Correspondence

- 4.1 **RYA 'In Brief' & Cruising News:-** MJB drew attention that the RYA were wanting data re unattended fishing gear & comments on Flare Disposal.

4.2 **Wind Farms** – MJB highlighted e-mails which warned of lots of activity including a Bathymetric survey but mostly inside 'exclusion zone'.

4.3 **RYA NW Newsletter:-** MJB highlighted this newsletter from RYANW, it was an excellent briefing of everything 'yachty' going on in region plus there was a letter from The Chairman about the proposed new RYA Articles of Association, see 4.6.

4.4:-**RYANW AGM**; MJB informed MC that the RYANW AGM would take place at 1.30pm on 4th Nov at Tower Wood. He said he expected to attend and asked if anyone else was interested.

4.5 RYA NW:- MJB announced that The RYANW were holding their annual Clubs Conference at 9.30 to 17.00 on 4th Nov at Tower Wood. He said it was an excellent forum & briefings with attendance from The RYA Hamble & opportunities to meet & get info/advice. MC wondered if PB could go this year.

4.6 RYA AGM:- MJB informed MC that The RYA AGM would be held on Friday 24th Nov at 1 Great George St Westminster 11.00, he asked MC if anyone was available to go as there was likely to be a key vote 'to change 'Articles of Association'', discussion was required to agree how MC want MJB to use 595 votes with a 17th Nov submission date. MJB had previously circulated MC informing them of the details of the RYA proposal to amend the Articles of Association' along with a separate letter from Dave Williamson explaining the changes proposed and recommending acceptance. However MJB pointed out that these are significant changes which reduce the influence and impact members will be able to have on The RYA Board. He told MC that the RYANW were proposing a separate discussion mid Oct. MC had an open discussion on the proposals several members shared MJB's concerns, a straw poll of MC indicated a majority would currently vote against the proposals with 4 in favour & 2 abstentions. It was agreed MJB would attend the RYANW meeting & make RCC's current view known, MC would agree how to vote at the next MC meeting

5.0 Treasurer's Report

5.1 **Financials:-** The Treasurer's cash flow reports had been previously circulated. August showed a balance of £108,459, with expenditure of some £4,160.

Year end;- DHM reminded Sub-committee chairmen that the year end was 30st

Sept & they should have concluded business by then if possible & submit bills.

5.2 **Tax Investigation Insurance:-** DHM asked MC to consider whether RCC needed an insurance against HMRC Tax investigations at an annual premium of £276. MC agreed this was not required.

6.0 Sailing Report

6.1 **Dinghy Sailing & Regatta:-**DF reported a perfect weekend for the mid Sept Regatta with 9 participants, totally a dinghy affair, and both days a great success due in some part to the 'bumper breakfasts' served by JR & RF. DF noted his disappointment at the lack of Cruiser entries despite active advertising at The Dock !!! DF reported that Dinghy sailing would continue through October culminating in the Annual Trafalgar Race on 22nd Oct.

6.2 **Cruiser sailing:-** A 'Cruise in Company' to Piel Island for mid Sept was cancelled.

- 6.3 **Sail Training:-** DF reported that 6th Sept saw last training event at Fairhaven & the dinghies and equipment had now been recovered to RCC.
- 6.4 **Jetty:-** DF reiterated his concern over the mud accretion under & around the Jetty but noted that FBC officials have agreed that the encroachment of the mud was a problem & agreed that digging trenches at the side of the jetty seemed a reasonable idea. FBC agreed to progress the matter further & discuss it with The Dept of Environment, a Mr Andy Shaw.

7.0 Training:- RJ reported on the training progress at RCC:-

- 7.1 **Chief Instructor:-** RJ recorded that RME had agreed to undertake the role of RCC Chief Instructor for both Fairhaven & river training. This was a welcome appointment.
- 7.2 **Training on Saturdays:-** RJ reported on a good turn-out on Saturdays with opportunities for dinghy sailing, as well as on a Whammell or Contessa & experience on our Safety boats. He thanked RB & the Begley family for supporting these activities
- 7.3 **Winter Theory Course:-** RJ reported that the Winter Theory course was now full & underway, he welcomed John Gallagher joining himself & Andrew Smith in running the course & providing welcome refreshment. He looked forward to welcoming the trainees onto the water in the near future

8.0 Dock:-

- Keith Lawton reported progress at The Dock despite no meeting being held, the next dock meeting had been brought forward to 3rd Sept :-
- 8.1 **BAM Contractor progress:-** The Liggard had now been dredged & a Satisfactory channel re-established to The Main Drain under AW2's direction. The Main Drain work was also complete, little dredging being needed due to natural scouring. RCC mooring chains were unaffected. . The bridge works & concrete pouring were not now expected to be finished before Xmas. This would delay clearing the site & freeing up hard standing to winter the boats. MC thanked AW2 for his personal efforts this autumn. JDAW asked if BAM could be persuaded to resurface the car park as it was in a bad way due to increased traffic.
- 8.2 **Other dock activities:-** The Foul drain had been rebuilt, the new electrical feed was in but PAT testing of appliances was delayed. KL reported that re surfacing the access rd would be delayed until BAM contractor had cleared the site. A new estimate was to be prepared for the winch refurbishment & new 'Safety Awareness Training' organised
- 8.3 **Driving Licence issues:-** KL asked MC for advice re the need for Tractor Drivers to have a current driving licence valid for the Tug. He informed MC that although most members had such a license because the Tug was over 3.5 tonnes some members over 70 might not have renewed that aspect of their license as it required a Medical examination. MJB said that he had renewed his license including the 'over 3.5 Tonne capability, the medical cost £100.

There was a lot of support from MC to retain the need to have a valid driving license as this did not only cover competency but also proof of identity & ensured drivers were healthy enough to drive, eg did not suffer critical illnesses. KL agreed to review the matter with Dock Committee at their meeting 4th Sept & report back to MC

9.0 Fabric:- ML reported on behalf of Fabric, he was pleased to welcome Alan Pook to the fabric team, he noted the following :-

9.1 Clubhouse heating:- ML indicated that soon the clubhouse heating would be controlled by a BT Hive. This would allow a mobile phone to switch on but also allowed a manual over-ride in the club.

9.2 Racebox access:- ML informed MC that John Angell has now measured up the lobby and agreed to draw up the race box access stairway to allow a builder to quote & do the job. He recommends Hardwood rather than steel

9.3 Ladies Changing Rooms:- DF asked That Fabric Committee to review drainage in the ladies again. ML replied that he would check the sump pump but it might be a flow issue if both facilities were busy.

10.0 Social Committee

10.1 Lytham Lifeboat Guild Beetle Drive:- RF reported that the Beetle Drive had been a great success with the proceeds going to The Shannon Appeal. RF thanked RCC for the loan of The Clubhouse.

10.2 Regatta: RF reported that he & Jackie manned the kitchen providing breakfast butties & brews, with cake available 'apres sailing'.

10.3 Laying Up Supper:- RF informed MC that currently some 76 members and guests had confirmed attendance at the Annual Laying Up Supper, on 4th Nov. He asked late applications to be made soon !!! He reported that by shopping around he had saved some £280 on the cost of wine & was hoping to arrange a live band to entertain us.

10.4 Commodores Housewarming:- He explained that he was yet to agree the date for The Housewarming with PB & Andrew Baker but it would either be 9th or 16th December.

10.5 Last Tuesday Talks:- MJB explained that the last talk on 26th Sept 'The Stars are Ours' it was a superb, with over 50 attendees a great start. The next talk was 28th Nov 'Heroes of the Waves' by Stephen Musgrave from Fleetwood Lifeboat will come and tell us of 'lifeboating' through the ages. proceeds go to St Annes Shannon Appeal. MJB said that a Safety Talk was now agreed for 27th March Andrew Smith (RCC) & Saul Mendelsohn from the RNLI will get together to review & discuss all aspects of safety at sea from preparations to 'what to do when the worst happens' MJB said he was still seeking a talk for April 2018, his thoughts were Bluebird (Charles Morris), Our coast line (Sefton Council) 'Around the World (Roy Starkie from Arnside Sailing Club).

11.0 Development:- RB said that most of Dev Comm activities had been discussed however:-

11.1 Direct Debit:- RB informed MC that if Direct Debit was to be introduced for membership, the costs were around £175 for set up plus 50p per transaction making around £1.50 per member. Dev Comm had concluded that subs should be put up by around £5 to cover direct debit costs but that a full reduction of £5 would be offered to members take up the scheme. After a discussion RME formally proposed, MJB seconded, that if Direct Debit was to be introduced all membership subs should be increased by £5 with a rebate of £5 if Direct Debit offer was taken up. MJB reminded MC that the next MC , 6th Nov would have to finally agree Subs strategy to allow preparation of AGM paperwork.

11.2 Ex RNLI mooring bouy DHM to liase with Preston Marina,.

11.3 Lower Clubhouse floor redevelopment, RB reported that thinking had started re lower clubhouse floor, RME had done some sketches but a working group would be required. He also said that it was important that a long term lease was in place for clubhouse currently the current lease was to 2035

12.0 Communications

12.1 Web Training:- RH indicated that he had paid James Richie for Web Site development but not for the training, he was still hoping to get James to run a training Course for Web inserter's, nominations were outstanding.

12.2 Web Posts:- RH explained that he was still doing the web posts & was waiting posters for upcoming events , ie Tuesday Talk etc.

12.3 Hon Comms Sec needed:- RB reminded MC that RH will be relinquishing his post at the AGM, a volunteer is urgently sought. RE agreed to review the membership applications to see if he could find a suitable candidate.

13.0 Membership:- RE reported 5 new membership applications:-

13.1 New Membership Applications:

--- Mr Chris Lord & Mrs Laverne Lord proposed for Family membership by RJ seconded by RME. RME explained that The Lord family lived in Warton & had been on The Day Skipper Course. He was an IT engineer who sailed in his younger days, & they were hoping to restart their sailing now. MC approved this application unanimously

--- Mr Ben Mason for Ordinary membership, proposed by RJ seconded by RME. RJ explained that Ben's family had recently moved back to Lytham , Ben was an active member of the training group, MC approved this application unanimously MO & seconded by RME. Several MC members had met the couple, they had a Westerly Centaur currently at Douglas Boatyard which they hoped eventually to be at RCC Dock. This application was approved unanimously

---- Ms Ann Ingham for Ordinary membership, proposed by ML seconded by M Knott. RME explained that Ann was currently living in Warrington but had a Cornish Shrimper currently in Preston. She hoped to bring the boat to RCC Dock & had asked if she could sleep in her camper van.

This prompted some discussion but KL agreed that 'weekending in a boat or motor home at the dock was OK, but the Dock Committee was against any long term residency. MC approved this application unanimously

- Mr David Wilson & Mrs Alexandra Wilson applying for family membership, this application was currently only seconded by RME but RME said he had been assured Richard Sharp would propose them. Richard had recently sold his Introvert boat to them. RME explained that they were in the process of moving into the area as David had a new job at 'The Wellness Centre' in Freckleton. RME also said that the application had been posted for the correct time. MC agreed unanimously to approve this application provided RME was able to obtain a proposer, MC to review next month.

14.0 AOB:-

- 14.1 AGM:-** MJB reminded members that the AGM was on Friday 1st December. He reminded The Commodore & Committee Chairmen that reports would be needed, DHM assured MC that final accounts would be available for approval at the next MC, 6th Nov. MJB reminded MC that he had circulated previously a report from The last AGM with all the points & issues raised at the last AGM. MJB assured MC he would complete the minutes of the last meeting, post them on the web site & in the Clubhouse. He would also circulate a draft letter for approval prior to the next MC. RME agreed to supply a current membership list to allow address labels to be prepared.

Next meeting Monday 6th November 2017

Meeting minutes prepared by Mike Briers 23rd October 2017

E-mail circulated with attachments by MJB re **RYA Articles of Association**

Good morning MC:- You can see from the attached papers that on Friday 24th November is the RYA AGM. Your club has 595 votes to be used at any of the elections or resolutions during the meeting. Normally this is simply approval of minutes, receiving reports, election of President & election of Auditors. This year however the RYA are proposing a 'resolution to amend the Articles of Association'. Both the announcement letter & a separate letter from Dave Williamson explain the changes proposed and recommend acceptance.

However on behalf of the members I will be asking MC to review these changes & agree how, on behalf of RCC, we should vote. I would like to personally point out that these are significant changes which reduce the influence and impact members will be able to have on The RYA Board. For instance:-

-- The elected members on the RYA Board will be reduced to 30%, article 11 & 31
---Members will no longer be able to direct the Board to refrain from taking specified action, article 5.

---The threshold for members , or clubs, to request a 'General Meeting' from 50 individual members to 1000, or 10 organisations to 100, article 20

--- Voting system changing to reduce impact of clubs by 50%. currently a club & a personal member get votes according to the subs paid, so RCC gets 595 whilst a personal member get 50. Proposed would reduce RCC to 6 votes whilst a personal member gets 1.

Please note however that both the letters above inform us that these changes are consistent with changes in other sport governing bodies and are directly at the insistence of Sport England & other funding bodies and stem from revisions to The Code for Sport Governance published in Oct 2016 by UK Sport & Sport England. In fact these bodies have threatened to withdraw public funding if RYA Articles are not changed in compliance with the 'Codes' requested.

SO MC quite a lot to review & consider. The RYANW are also considering their position & may be calling a 'Special Meeting in mid Oct to discuss their view on the matter.

Best Mike Briers (Hon Sec)