



Ribble Cruising Club

Main Committee Meeting Minutes

Agreed Minutes of Main Committee Meeting on 4th September 2017

Those Present:

Richard Blackburn (RB)	Jackie Rawcliffe (JR)	Andy Walls (AW)
Peter Benett (PB)	Chris Butler (CB)	Tony Robins (AR)
Don Flannery (DF)	Richard Hoad (RH)	Tony Walker (JDAW)
Richard Freeman (RF)	John Gallagher (JG)	David Miller (DHM)
Michael Briers (MJB)	Martin Oldroyd (MO)	Rob Jarman (RJ)
Richard Elsdon (RE)		

& Alan Slorick (AS), to allow MC to review Club Insurances.

1.0 Apologies

Allan Williams, Peter Pollock, Simon Redfearn, Keith Lawton, Mike Leman, Andrew Walls(AW2).

2.0 Minutes

The minutes of the August meeting at draft 2 were approved with the addition of the date & a minor change to wording in para 11.1, club basement to be referred to as 'lower ground floor'. With these changes the minutes were agreed unanimously by MC, proposed by DF, seconded by PB.

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.
- 3.2 **Mussel Tanks,** RE reported 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. He tabled 3 alternate designs for the gate explaining that he favoured the middle option but wanted it to be 'unclimbable'. This approach was agreed with a suggestion RE looks into galvanising the gate. No prices were yet available but RE hoped to work within the £3000 limit previously agreed, 3rd April MC item 4.3.
- 3.3 **Log:-** A paper log had been planned but MJB explained that as 2 inputs had been received the announcement of the Laying Up Supper had already gone out. MJB proposed that we prepare an electronic log to be downloadable from the Web site, he also suggested we send it by mail to those few who had requested 'paper log's' earlier. RE said he had inputs from MJB, RB but needed a 'what's On' (MJB), Sailing (DF), Training (RJ), Comms (RH), & Dock, re would ask AW2. It was agreed to announce the Annual Photo Comp, for The Culpan Trophy. RH would draft some rules, it would be for pictures of a 'sailing nature' taken during 2017 with a closing date of Dec 31 2017.

4.0 Correspondence

- 4.1 RYA 'In Brief' & Cruising News:-** MJB reported receipt of 2 monthly RYA newsletters these included important info on new uses for VHF channels & a 'cloud funded' approach to get Ramora to arrange regional flare disposal. RCC support was needed for the latter.
- 4.2 Wind Farms –** MJB reported lot's of activity, mostly inside 'exclusion zone' which included Bethnic & fish surveys on the next wind farm site, even closer to Barrow.
- 4.3 Member's Correspondence:-** RH reported receipt of a 'antagonistic' e-mail from a club member, he explained that he had already replied to it. RB complimented RH on this reply, most adroit !! & it was agreed that MC would note it's receipt & put the e-mail in the MC correspondence file.
- 4.4 Sailing Opportunity:-** MJB reported he had received an opportunity from OYT to take part in an Inverness to Tynemouth cruise on 2nd Sept this was circulated & posted .

5.0 Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 Financials:-** The Treasurer's cash flow reports had been previously circulated. August showed a closing balance of some £109,432, with expenditure of some £5231. However some errors in this 'quikbook' view were noted that DHM agreed to investigate:- the Berthing fee income had erroneously been deducted & a receipt of £381 from Social missed .
- Training:-** RJ requested clarification of how to input Training receipts into the club accounts. DHM confirmed they went into the 'general account' but to allow subsequent reporting the input should say 'training with the initials of the payer.
- Year end;-** DHM reminded Sub-committee chairmen that the year end was 30st Sept & they should try and conclude business by then if possible & submit bills for payment.
- 5.2 Business Rates:-** DHM asked to report on new business rates indicated Clubhouse was little changed but Dock rates would go up.
- 5.3 Insurance:-** Alan Slorick requested MC time to review of key elements of RCC Insurance:-
- Income protection;- AS indicated this was currently £12,500 whereas RCC income was around £55,000. AS recommended MC increase this to £20,000 at a premium of around £40. After much discussion, any serious loss of income was thought extremely unlikely & MC agreed to continue at the status quo level of £12,500.
 - Public Liability:- AS informed MC that currently RCC Public Liability was set at a maximum up to £5million. Unfortunately the market place seems to expect an increase in damages payments because an important 'rate' the Ogden rate' had changed from assuming +2.5% interest on payments to -0.75%. He told MC that RCC itself would be liable for any damages payments above the current figure. He also informed MC that The RYA was recommending Sailing Clubs increase the Public Liability maximum. AS recommended a progressive approach say £7million now covering back to April 2017 then £10million in April on renewal, the premium would increase by around £250 for £7million increasing in April 2018 by an extra £600 to get £10million cover. After much discussion it was proposed by RF, seconded by RJ, that RCC should increase it's Public Liability cover to £10million from April 2018. RF also proposed that RCC subs should be increased from January 2018 to cover this increase. These changes were agreed unanimously by MC.

- 5.5 **Other insurance matters:-**, Whilst AS was present MC took seek other insurance advice ;
- Tractor Insurance; AS informed Sailing Committee that the Tractor insurance invoice was due For some £115, payment was approved.
 - River mooring; DHM informed AS that jointly with Preston Marina RCC was thinking of restoring the river mooring. AS agreed to look into the liability cover for such a mooring should a boat break away, (*post meeting note; AS has arranged this cover within RCC's insurance*). RF informed MC that he had asked RNLI in Poole if a mooring in the pool off Lytham could be provided to allow the Lifeboat to moor recovered boats temporarily during an operation.

6.0 Sailing Report

- 6.1 **Dinghy Sailing:-**DF reported that the August Bank Holiday series was cancelled due to weather, however the Autumn Series was currently underway. The last 'Wednesday training ' event & Fairhaven would be held on 6th Sept overall 'Try Sailing' had been a great success introducing around 20 people to sailing. Saturday sail training continued to be a great success & would run through Autumn.
- 6.2 **Cruiser sailing:-** A 'Cruise in Company' to Piel Island was planned for mid Sept but would only go ahead if the weather was OK & there was any interest.
- 6.3 **Regatta planning:-** The next big event on the river is the September Regatta and the next Sailing Committee has been brought forward to 15th Sept to allow final planning.
- 6.4 **Mini Tractor:-** Concerns have been expressed about the operation of the tractor on the jetty & potential conflicts with either the public or dinghies. A new 'protocol' has been developed to manage the use of the tractor on the jetty & specifically limiting turns to the passing places. It was felt hat a 'Mini Tractor ' refresher course was now required to reinforce this 'protocol', , MO & RJ would be organising this . DF thanked AW2 for getting a repair arranged in Kirkham to the Mini Tractor, he also noted that the tractor had actually been faulty when a recent incident occurred.
- 6.5 **Jetty:-** DF reiterated his concern over the mud accretion under & around the Jetty. DHM confirmed that the mud levels had risen some 1 metre over the last 10 years. MC was keen to see some concerted action to resolve this critical issue otherwise dinghy sailing from RCC was seriously threatened. The following actions were noted:-
- RF informed MC that he had taken up this issue with RNLI HQ in Poole & would continue to press for action.
 - JG informed MC that he was pressing for action with The Environmental Agency through a neighbour of his.
 - DHM informed MC that he had already taken up the issue with Councillor Peter Anthony on behalf of RCC. DHM read out a draft letter to FBC & Councillor Anthony which was agreed.
(*post meeting note; DHM has now met with FBC officials who agreed that the encroachment of the mud was a problem. They also 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 **Sail Training;** RJ reported great success of both Fairhaven Lake training on Wed evenings & training on the river on suitable Saturday mornings. A large number of newcomers had been introduced to RCC during the Wed sessions, taken up membership and are now continuing to develop their sailing skills further.

One comment RJ made was the need to improve future communications to inform The training teams who would be coming & when to avoid bottlenecks .

- 7.2 **Dinghy Instructor Course:-** RJ reported on a very successful DI course run at RCC during August. He explained that, at Angela Begley's instigation, Alan Jones from the RYA had agreed to come to RCC in August to teach 5 students up to DI level. 4 would be RCC, Dani & Jake Begley, Lewis Richardson & Nick Elsdon with a 5th from LSSA. The total cost of this course was around £750 with a contribution from LSSA left £500 outstanding. MC agreed unanimously to the formal proposal from RB seconded by RF, that these costs be covered in total by RCC. This was seen as a thank you to the youngsters who had supported training over many years, as well as an investment in the youngsters themselves. The qualification would help them both inside RCC & with their lives. Whilst several of them might be moving on they have all agreed to continue in their support to RCC.
- 7.3 **Feedback from Alan Jones RYA:-** RJ reported that Alan Jones complimented the RCC team for their success on his DI course. He also commented how much he enjoyed being at RCC over the 2 weekends, RCC was extremely welcoming he said. He also feels that RCC is extremely well positioned for the sort of training undertaken with the combination of Fairhaven Lake & River Ribble. He feels that, of all the tidal clubs in the region, RCC had most to offer both from the facilities side & the sailing area. He was already looking forward to doing it all again in 2018.
- 8.0 **Dock:-** Andrew Walls apologised for not staying at the MC meeting but he had been down with the contractors at the dock all day. He told RB that good progress was being made overall and dredging was in full swing down the Liggard to Preston rd bridge. Overall they were happy with RCC support but problems like with shuttering & sinking piles meant that it was likely that completion would be extended. There was nothing else to report.
- 9.0 **Fabric:-** DHM reported on behalf of Fabric, he was pleased to welcome Alan Pook to the fabric team, he noted that the porch painting was in progress.
- 9.1 **Racebox access:-** He informed MC that John Angell had agreed to assist the fabric team, John has been a member of RCC for many years & was a self employed architect. He has agreed to draw up the race box access stairway to allow a builder to quote & do the job. He recommends a Hardwood staircase rather than metal.
- 10.0 Social Committee**
- 10.1 **1940's Café:-** RF reported that the Café operated on behalf of Lytham St Annes Lifeboat, by Heather & her staff from Vanilla had been a great success & raised £304 towards the Shannon Appeal. RF thanked RCC for the loan of the clubhouse. .
- 10.2 **Other Charitable Events:** RF reminded RCC that the Lytham St Annes Ladies Lifeboat Guild were holding their annual Beetle Drive in our Clubhouse on the evening of Thursday 21st Sept. The Mayor's Charity Quiz however was postponed due to a clash of Mayoral events. The Mayor apologises to RCC but hopes to organise a 'Folk Night' in the New Year with the proceeds to the Mayoral Charities which includes the Shannon Appeal.
- 10.3 **Laying Up Supper:-** RF informed MC that every member had now personally received an invitation to attend the Annual Laying Up Supper, at the Clifton Arms, on 4th November along with a booking form, £30 per guest including wine, excellent value. 3 had already been

returned & he requested MC to support him & get the bookings in by the end Sept. This would help Jackie & himself as he was actually getting married in October & expected to be otherwise engaged. RF informed MC that no guests from kindred clubs etc were to be invited however RB said he would give the matter some thought.

10.4 **Regatta Catering:-** There was a spirited discussion re Regatta catering JR & RF agreed to do bacon butties each morning , with lunches & a prizegiving around 5pm on the Sunday.

10.5 **Tuesday Talks:-** MB explained that the next talk is The Big One 26th Sept 'The Stars are Ours' by Don Kurz from UCLan . MB continued to explain he had 4 further talks planned, 28th Nov, 30th Jan & 27th Feb & 29th May but he was not currently planning a talk on either 31st October (Halloween) or 27th Dec (Boxing day) I hope that is OK with MC. Looking further ahead MB informed MC that a 'safety talk' was planned for Mar 27th 2018. This would involve Andrew Smith, perhaps several of the newer sailors & possibly the RNLI. The talk could focus on boat preparations, what to take, with lessons learnt plus RNLI briefing on what to do in emergency etc. RF said he hoped to get Saul Mendelsohn from RNLI Poole involved, he was The Area Lifesaving Manager.

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

11.1 **Direct Debit:-** RE informed MC of progress re Direct Debit. It was thought that Direct Debit would only be introduced for membership but a high uptake expected. Currently the costs were around £175 for set up plus 50p per transaction making around £1.50 per member. It was envisaged that subs would be put up by around £2 to cover direct debit costs but that a reduction of £2 would be offered to members take up the scheme. Dev Comm would consider this suggestion at its next meeting along with the 'insurance discussion', para 5.3 which would seem to indicate a need for a further £2 per member making £4 in all. JDAW asked whether the Treasurer was to recommend Subs increase, RF reminded JDAW that in previous years MC had reviewed subs as a whole, however The Treasurer invited to submit his views. MJB reminded MC that the next MC , 2nd October, would have to agree Subs strategy to allow preparation of AGM paperwork.

12.0 Communications

12.1 **Web Training:-** RH indicated that he was still hoping to get James to run a Training Course for Web inserter's, nominations were outstanding, Dock, Sailing, House, Training etc.

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

12.3 **Web Cam:-** RH noted that Clive had managed to get the Web Cam back on line, some judicious tapping apparently???, some 30 hits/day were being recorded.

12.4 **Hon Comms Sec needed:-** RH reminded MC that he 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 amongst the new members.

13.0 Membership:- RE reported 3 membership applications:-

13.1 **New Membership Applications:**

--- Mr Andrew Vincent & Mrs Tracy Vincent proposed by RJ seconded by RE, for family membership. Re explained that he was an experienced sailor with PB2 qualifications semi retired & was living down Graving dock rd with his own mud berth, and is planning to buy a Motorsailer. MC approved this application unanimously

--- Mr Paul Zyda & Tracy Hope for family membership, proposed by KL seconded by RB.

RE explained that they had come into RCC several times, they had a Bavaria 39 in Barcelona & a Fletcher speedboat. He runs a Legal/Environmental consultancy.

RE recommended him for membership, MC agreed unanimously.

--- Mr Peter Holderness & Mrs Marie Holderness for family membership, proposed by ML seconded by JG. They had a Warrior 170 Fisherman currently on Windermere.

RE explained that they were neighbours of ML for some 15 years, ML had written a letter recommending them for membership. MC approved this membership application unanimously.

13.2 **Other Membership Matters.** RE informed MC that he had a further 5 membership applications in the pipeline, 4 were arranged on Friday evening last. They included a BAESYSTEMS apprentice, several from training & a couple from Day Skipper course.

14.0 **AOB:- There were none**

Next meeting Monday 2nd October 2017

Meeting minutes prepared by Mike Briers 13th September 2017, and corrected 11th October`