

Ribble Cruising Club

Draft 2 Minutes of 65th Annual General Meeting on 2nd Dec 2016

1: Present:- The Commodore and 46 members.

Opening remarks:-

The Commodore opened the meeting with a few quiet moments to remember with thanks several key members of RCC who had sadly passed away this year. They include 2 Honorary members in Ron Downing and Eddie Freear, together with Eric Pearson and Barbara McCreath, both stalwarts at our dock. Also more recently Sue Beach, a long-standing supporter of our Social activities. They were at the heart of RCC and great friends to many of us, we will miss them all.

1: Apologies:-

SM Briers, B Marsden, JDA Walker, N and J Lyon, P and I Moores, C and R Upton, R Elsdon, P and A Betts, K Stapleton, P Ainsworth, M Lloyd, J Laing, R and A Audsley, L Robins, A Rosser, A Richardson.

2: Approval of minutes of last AGM:-

Robert Marsh (RM) asserted that the detail in paragraph 3 re 'legal affairs' in minutes did not reflect the meeting, he claimed RME simply said he did not want to go into any detail. **Mike Briers (MJB)** replied that the minute was verbatim from RME's speech and was correct. In fact RM, in a letter to RCC about the legal matter, wrote in the same terms as that recorded in the AGM minutes. After this discussion it was proposed by Richard Freeman (RF), seconded by J Richardson (JR), that the members accept the draft minutes presented as a record of the 64th AGM. This was agreed by the majority of members with 1 against.

3: Matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM:-

RM asked if our insurance cover included 'legal protection, Alan Slorick (AS) from floor of the meeting told RM it was part of RYA policy and together with our 3rd party insurance gave some cover if RCC was sued by a 3rd party. **RM** then asked if there was any truth in the rumour that one of the parties involved had had his legal fees paid by RCC, MJB and David Miller (DHM), Hon Treasurer both strongly refuted this rumour. Willy Crichton (WC) asked that member's speeches be limited to 3 minutes, RB agreed to exercise greater control over the meeting.

4: Commodore's Report :-

Richard Blackburn (RB) opened his report by expressing his gratitude for the support of the whole team at RCC. He said he was constantly impressed by the immense amount of time and effort put in by so many people. He thanked especially his Flag Officers, Peter and Martin, his Secretary and Treasurer, Mike and David, along with all the Sub Committee Chairmen and finally, the members themselves.

RB briefly summarised the club activities not wanting to steal the thunder of the later reports:-

Training:- RB commended the 'training team' for their efforts both training and keeping up their qualifications in order to ensure RCC continues to meet the high standards required by The RYA

Membership:- RB reported that overall membership continued to be stable at 240, the increase in Subs last year led to loss of 25 members, 15 resignations and 10 non-payers but currently membership stood at 110 Ordinary, 94 Family, 8 Junior, 17 Associate, 5 Out of Port, and 6 Honorary. New membership however totalled 17, 9 via 'Try Sailing', 6 seeking berthing and 2 others. He concluded that RCC's success in maintaining stable membership, where many other clubs had failed, was due to the draw of our berthing facilities and our efforts in training and 'Try Sailing'. On membership RB commended Martin Jaggs on his award of an MBE. Martin has been a member of RCC since his days as a junior, and has served Lytham St Annes Lifeboat over many years, initially as Mechanic then Cox'n and now Divisional Operations Manager RNLI. The Main Committee awarded him, on your behalf, Hon Membership of RCC in January, for his service to the RNLI and saving lives.

Sailing:- Turning to general sailing RB commented on the increase in sailing on the river, noting that around a dozen boats were regularly on the water and there was an increase in our 'Offshore Activity'. He was pleased to note that, considering the pressure for new berths, that more and more 'berth-holders' were hoping to take to the water

Community:- RB noted a further award by FBC at their recent 'Celebration of Volunteers'. He also noted that, after a break from participation the RCC Club Day float won its class.

Concluding remarks:- RB concluded that he was looking forward to the new season where a packed programme of Sailing and Social events were being planned. He was particularly looking to increase the opportunities for the increasing younger members both on and off the water.

MJB extended thanks, on behalf of the Committees and members, to RB for the exceptional way in which he has managed RCC over this past year. We had greatly appreciated his courteous, considerate but yet firm hand on the tiller. Members responded with applause, there were no **matters arising**.

5: Hon. Treasurer's Report and adoption of The Accounts

David Miller opened by summarising the 'revenue account' for this year:-

INCOME:-

Fees and Subscriptions:- DHM commented that subs were increased across the board from £48,382 to £51,583, members subscriptions were up, recognizing the increase agreed at the 2015 AGM, Berthing fees and dinghy park fees also increased.

House and Social:- He noted that Bar profit was reduced by some £856 and room hire down to £596. These latter reflecting a reduction in Social events and the fact that RCC volunteers were no longer able to support hiring out the club house..

Other Income:- Interest was up to £833 due to Oct payment date, Training income changed as theory course payments crossed the year end, Regalia income at £99 was now recorded it had previously been lost in 'bar sales'. The 'sale of assets' represented the sale of the 'dock tractor'.

EXPENSES:-

DHM noted the reduction in Admin expenses as there were no legal expenses and the VAT situation was now changed. Dock expenses were down by around £4,500 but this was in readiness for the major activities, see item 12. The reduction in Fabric costs was because no major work had been done and the reduction in social expenses also represented the reduced activity. Training was increased representing both the increased training and the need to train our volunteers, this cost being significantly offset by the training income.

CONCLUDING REMARKS :-

He concluded by commending the members most of whom were now paying RCC by electronic means, this was welcomed both by himself, and, the dock and membership treasurers, over 90% of RCC payments were now made this way as well. He reminded members that The Club VAT situation was significantly changed with reduced 'non-sporting sales' which attracted VAT whilst exempt activities had increased. He commented that MC was actively considering 'deregistering' for VAT in 2017.

Finally he concluded that RCC's finances were 'satisfactory', he noted that in 2010 the net assets of RCC were some £180,372 and in 2016 £181,172 a commendable result considering the activities. He commented that he was conscious we were running a club not a business. Our aim was to 'promote sailing and associated water sports, not make money, and we were very successful at arranging berthing, training, sailing, racing dinghy parking, changing facilities and social activities, and it would be even better if we could do all those without money changing hands.

Matters arising :- Jeanette Richardson (JR)- Jeanette asked why FBC had been paid £2444 ground rent, DHM replied it was arrears as the negotiation re new rent went on past due date.

Adoption of The Accounts:- David Miller (DHM) proposed that The Accounts for this Club Year, 2015, be adopted. Proposed by Alan Slorick (AS) and seconded by Peter Pollock (PP) - carried unanimously .

6: Election of 'Reporting Accountants':-

David Miller (DHM) proposed that Bishops Chartered Accountants be elected Independent Reporting Accountants for the ensuing Club Year, seconded by MJB, this was carried unanimously by the members.

7:- Consideration of proposals to change club rules:-

MJB introduced these proposals reminding members that they had been given notice that this AGM will review 2 proposals to change Club Rules and a 3rd proposal to agree what fee to use for Student Membership. He reminded members that 'under Club Rules' each of these changes can only be introduced by the agreement of a 2/3rd's majority of the members at the AGM:-

Proposal 1:- Your Main Committee proposes introduction of 'Student Membership along with introduction of a new class of membership fee.

Proposal 2:- is made by member Robert Marsh, seconded by Robert Bourne, and proposes introduction of 'members proposals ' as an objective of each AGM.

MJB first asked the Treasurer, Vice and Rear Commodores to act as tellers.

7.1 Introduction to proposal 1:-

MJB proposed, seconded by XXXX, that the RCC adopt 'Student Membership' as a new class of membership at this the 65th AGM. He reminded members that they had received a series of changes to Club Rule (IV) which are proposed by Main Committee and that, as these are linked together, they are to be presented as one integrated proposal for rule change. MJB explained that the introduction of 'Student Membership' is proposed to allow young people from age 18 to 25, in full-time education or training, to join RCC as Student Members. Thus recognising that many young people these days are not in full time work until they are well into their 20's. It is also proposed that Student Members, consistent with Junior Members and Associate Members, do not pay entry fees on joining the Club neither will they have voting rights nor shares in the assets of the Club. A sentence is included in the proposal, recommended by your Main Committee, to introduce wording which allows flexibility on agreeing what facilities could be made available to such Student and Junior members. MJB explained finally that in order to bring consistency across the classes of RCC membership the proposal lowers the age for Junior Members to under 18.

Proposal 1:- MJB made the formal proposal, seconded by XXX to introduce Student Membership. Your Main Committee thus proposes the following series of changes to Rule (IV) paragraphs 8 through to 16:-

Change 1:- It is proposed by your Main Committee that in Rule IV the current paragraphs 8 to 16 be renumbered in sequence 9 to 17, thus paragraph 8 will become 9, Paragraph 9 will become 10, through to paragraph 16 becoming 17.

Change 2:- It is proposed by your Main Committee that in Rule (IV) a new paragraph 8 be added, with the words presented below:-

8. Student Membership is available to persons over the age of 18 but under the age of 25 who are in full-time education or full-time training. Each Student Member shall not vote on any matter relating to The Club, nor have any share in the property of The Club and no entry fee shall be payable on joining. Student members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.

Change 3:- It is proposed by your Main Committee that in the new paragraph 9 of Rule (IV) re 'Junior Members' the following changes be introduced:-

It is proposed that in line 1, the words '*between the ages of 13 and under 21*' be deleted, and replaced by '*from the age of 13 and up to the age of 18*'.

It is proposed that the last sentence of paragraph 9 be replaced by the following 2 sentences; '*No Entry Fee shall be payable on joining. Junior Members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine.*'

Thus the new rule (IV) Paragraph 9 will then read :-

9. Junior membership is open to persons from the age of 13 and up to the age of 18. The mode of election and nomination shall be as hereinbefore provided except that the written nomination of a Junior Member under 18 must be endorsed by a Parent or Guardian, with permission to sail.

A Junior Member shall not vote on any matter relating to the Club nor have any share in the property of the club. No Entry Fee shall be payable on joining. Junior Members shall be authorised to be admitted to The Club and use The Club's facilities as The Committee shall from time to time determine

This proposal was carried by the members unanimously

7.2 Proposal 2:- Introduction of proposal 2:-

MJB explained to the members that RCC had received a formal proposal from Robert Marsh (RM), seconded by John Bourne (JB) proposing that the following words be added to Rule (III) para 1 which define the objectives and business to be undertaken by each AGM:- '*Member proposals: provided 28 days' notice given to Hon. Secretary to be included in AGM notice*'

Thus the first sentence of Rule (III) paragraph 1 would read. :-

The Annual General Meeting of the Club for passing the accounts, electing Officers, Committee and Auditors, revising the Rules, 'Member proposals' provided 28 days' notice given to Hon. Secretary to be included in AGM notice, and other general business shall be held in the months of November or December each year

Explanation of the Rule Change proposal:-

RM was offered the floor of the meeting to explain his proposal, RM claimed that the current rules make no provision to have a proposal voted at AGM, he later clarified that he was proposing that such a 'proposal' be binding on Main Committee (MC). In his opinion the 'proposals' thus agreed in the AGM would overrule MC and be recorded in the AGM minutes as such. RM claimed that the RYA Legal Dept had advised him that it was reasonable to introduce such a change. RM then read his proposed Rule (III) 1 in full stressing 'specifying that 'proposals' be included in the business to be conducted at an AGM. RM used

several examples to make his points re 'proposals'. RM was asked that if AGM passed a proposal that 'all dock committee get free ice creams' then that should be so, **RM** replied yes it should be so.

Discussion of proposal 2:- There followed an open and free discussion on RM's proposal in which members made the following points :-

--- **PP** said RM's proposal is a duplication, Rule (VII) 5 already allows binding rules changes.

RM replied that this rule, Rule (VII) para 5, did not cover 'binding proposals'.

--- **Brian Stringfellow (BS)** said to RM, 'why not just propose in meeting', **RM** replied that he was proposing that in future such proposals would be binding on MC, as they were not now.

--- **Keith Lawton (KL)** made 2 points, RCC has always had 'Matters arising' at AGM where members could raise proposals, a show of hands was often used to record the level of support. MC would then go on and review in detail such a proposal exploring all the pros and cons before coming to a conclusion which would then be implemented and reported to the members at the next AGM. KL continued in saying that the problem with RM's formal proposal was that such a process would not be undertaken, the proposal would not be fully understood nor the pros and cons be available at the AGM. A proposer is unlikely to bring all the data required and RM was suggesting his 'proposals' would be binding. **RM** agreed that he was proposing that such 'proposals' would be binding but he saw no reason why a proposer couldn't undertake the required analysis & present it along with such a proposal.

--- **Simon Begley (SB)** pointed out that members agree that according to rules MC runs RCC, having 'binding proposals' agreed in AGM would overrule MC. **SB** said in conclusion that Rule (II) para 1 makes it clear that the members want MC to run RCC and not be managed by AGM thus RM's proposal was in conflict with the current rules and the wish of members

Voting on Proposal 2:- MJB requested that the members vote with a show of hands, the majority of members voted against Proposal 2 there were only 4 votes were made in favour and 3 abstentions. Therefore the change to RCC Rules proposed by RM would not be incorporated.

7.3 Adoption of Student Membership Fees

MJB reminded members of the formal proposal to change Club subscriptions circulated to all members 14 days before this AGM noting that this new membership fee can only be introduced by the agreement of a 2/3rds majority of the members present at the AGM. MJB informed members that Main Committee recommended that the fee for Student Membership be £30 per annum, in line with Associate Membership. **MJB**, then, on behalf of MC proposed that the fee for Student Membership be £30 per annum, this proposal seconded by RF, was carried unanimously

8:-Election of Officers and Main Committee:-

The Hon. Secretary, **Mike Briers (MJB)**, explained that the following Officers were duly elected , as nominations matched the number of vacancies :- **Commodore:-** Richard Blackburn, **Vice Commodore:-** Peter Benett, **Rear Commodore:-** Martin Oldroyd, **Hon Treasurer** David Miller, **Hon Sec:-** Mike Briers, **Main Committee;** Chris Butler, John Gallagher, and Andrew Walls. **MJB** then reminded the meeting that Mike Leman, Simon Redfearn, and Tony Robins were also elected members on Main Committee on their behalf with one year left to serve. **MJB** continued by informing the members that there were several other non-elected positions on Main Committee such as Social Secretary, Committee Chairmen etc these were filled by volunteers and MJB thanked them on behalf of the members for agreeing to undertake these roles. MJB then informed the members of the following nominations for other non-elected positions:

Past Commodore Richard Elsdon, **Hon. Sailing Sec.** Peter Pollock, **Hon. Membership Sec** Richard Elsdon, **Hon Comms Sec** Richard Hoad, Sailing Committee chairman **Don Flannery**, Development Committee Chairman **Richard Blackburn**, House/Social Committee Chairman **Richard Freeman**, Dock Committee Chairman **Keith Lawton**, Training **Rob Jarman**.

MJB informed MC that currently Fabric and Social Secretary posts were vacant.

Matter Arising:- KL requested that these nominations be ratified by 1st Main Committee meeting.

9:- Investiture of New Commodore:-

David Miller commended Richard Blackburn on agreeing to undertake another year at the helm of RCC. He complimented Richard on his stewardship of RCC through the last year. He was ever- present and out sailing most days in his Whammel come rain or shine. Richard is also very active in the training group and ever willing to take novices for taster sessions. Richard had even gone to the length of moving his Factory nearer. At this point he handed to our new Commodore his tankard to the applause of members.

Richard Blackburn replied thanking members for the honour of electing him as Commodore and David Miller for the compliments. RB concluded that he was looking forward to the new season where a packed programme of Sailing and Social events was being planned. He was particularly looking to increase opportunities both on and off the water for the growing number of younger members.

10:-Approval of Document Signatories:-

It was formally proposed by Mike Briers (MJB), seconded by Martin Oldroyd that the Commodore, the Hon. Treasurer, and the Hon. Secretary, become the official signatories for Club documents and cheques. Cheques of £500 or below would require one signature only. Those above £500 would need 2 of the above signatories to sign.

11:Development Committee Report :-

Richard Blackburn (RB) presented the Development Committee report. He reaffirmed the purpose of the Committee in considering ways of improving membership, enhancing club facilities and ensuring the sustainability of RCC for future generations. The Development Committee, he explained, investigated and analysed opportunities and needs, then reported the findings and recommendations to Main Committee for debate and decision. Main Committee itself used Development Committee to undertake specific analyses on critical issues. He explained that the issues reviewed were quite far-ranging and included:-

--- **10 Year Plan:-** this is currently being updated in line with the budgets for the upcoming year.

For example the decision to purchase a new motor for SB2 required realigning of the plan.

--- **Membership matters:-** These discussions matters highlighted the need for a Student Membership category, we developed the details which are now implemented through this AGM.

The payments of RCC subs is now being reviewed, after being unchanged for many years. .

--- **Welcome Pack:-** This is now completed and available for new members.

--- **Clubhouse Lease:-** we continue to work with FBC to extend our lease, in order to secure our clubhouse for future generations

-- **Wheelchair access and race box access:-** work has continued, but not yet completed, to review the options to gain wheelchair access to our clubhouse and improve race box access.

--- **Civic Society Sensory Park,** We have liaised with The Civic Society and now agreed to have a gate onto the park which will provide an improved Emergency Exit from RCC.

--- **FBC:-** We have worked with FBC and RNLI regarding parking arrangements outside the ILB Station and repairs to the Jetty.

--- **RYA:-** Following a request from The RYA we have had initial discussions with UCLAN regarding possible University sailing at Fairhaven, these have now concluded.

Concluding remarks:- RB concluded by reminding members of a recent RYA survey.

RYA recently went through the results with RCC, the overall tone as far as RCC was concerned was very positive, the only major complaint being 'we don't see the water often enough'. RB remarked that even Dev Comm couldn't do anything about that

Matters arising:- Diana Slorick (DS) asked if RCC had a 'Safeguarding Policy' RJ replied yes as part of RCC's training documentation and informed DS that Pauline Betts was our 'Welfare Officer.

RB was asked if Welcome Packs were available, he replied YES shortly

12:- Dock Committee report:-

Keith Lawton (KL) reported on behalf of the dock committee, he opened by commending the Dock Committee to the members for their stalwart efforts through the year organising the operation and maintenance of the Dock on behalf of the berth-holders and members.

Working Parties:- KL reported that several formal and informal working parties had been held with around 40 to 45 attendees. A number of new pontoons were constructed, the hard standing tidied, Creek mooring chains replaced, and Creek entrance marks refurbished with new top marks and lights. He reported that the hard standing and garage was now largely tidy, the old bonfire area cleared to provide more storage area and work had begun to clear the old tyres and damaged barrels.

Trinity House:- KL informed the members that Trinity House inspection had been undertaken, this year only one light was deficient and this will be repaired.

Electrical Safety:- KL informed members that the Electrical Safety Certificate for the dock had been renewed, unfortunately one power circuit had developed a fault, however this is still usable under lower loads and will be rectified soon.

Break-ins:- KL reported that unfortunately we had 2 break-ins at the dock in 2016. The 1st involved the theft of 3 outboards from boats on the hardstanding. Access to the yard was obtained by cutting through our security fence. KL reported that fortunately these engines were recovered by the Police some months later. The 2nd break in occurred in December, when the cabin was vandalised it being accessed by a breaking a window. It is thought that this occurred following a disturbance at MacDonalds across the road.

Tractor:- Keith informed members that the dock tractor was now sold, see Treasurer report item 5, hire equipment will be used in future.

Major items:- KL identified the following major items which would be commenced in the next Club year, completion of winch refurbishment (a DIY refurbishment was now planned), access road resurfacing and removal of trees, foul drain works, drainage repairs, and repair/refurbishment of the Liggard pontoons. He noted that the plinth for the tug may not be built, we may rely on either a raised plinth in the garage or better flood warning from The Environmental Agency allowing removal of the tug.

Main Drain and Liggard Dredging:- KL informed members that in 2017 The Environmental Agency was planning to undertake considerable dredging and drainage improvements to both The Liggard and Main Drain. RCC was in close liaison with them and awaited further details. It was hoped these works would improve navigation across the confluence of the Liggard and allow more moorings there as well.

Dock finances:- KL reviewed dock finances explaining that expenditure at the dock was some £24k, about £7k less than income. However he explained that several major tasks had been delayed to 2017. These were listed above and were included in the budget for 2016/7.

Conclusion:- KL concluded by thanking on behalf of the members, the dock committee and volunteers who had given their time and effort through the club year in managing and maintaining the dock and its facilities. He particularly thanked Colin Bromage our Volunteer gardener. He finally concluded that the Dock Committee was always on the lookout for able volunteers to join them and that organisational skills or engineering/maintenance experience would be helpful.

Matters arising:- RM asked if a Dock Development meeting was planned for 2017, KL replied yes if the majority of berth- holders requested it. RM requested that as new winch was delayed he wanted to be assured he would not be held liable for any issues. MJB reminded RM that as RCC was a private members club, members could not hold each other liable. RB assured RM he would not be held liable and assured RM that this would be minuted. (as it is now)

12 Social/Bar Committee report:-

Richard Freeman opened with his view that 2015/6 had been an active Social year with events laid on for most interest groups in RCC. He reviewed each area of activity:-

Bar:- RF reported that the key issue was that the band of volunteers to run the bar was of insufficient size despite some recent recruiting. The bar team were only able to service club events and no Club hire had been sought in this Club year. Because of this Bar takings were down compared to a very successful year last year. He asked the members to consider volunteering to join the friendly bar team, he asked volunteers to approach him or David Beach. He thanked the current bar team for their efforts, they worked tirelessly keeping the bar open through our wide social scene, in particular David Beach who continued to support RCC tirelessly despite his personal sadness. Looking ahead members were welcome to run personal or private events at RCC but they would need to run the bar themselves or find a member willing to do it, they should approach David Beach initially.

Tuesday Talks:- RF commended MJB who had again provided a full and varied programme of talks on the Last Tuesday through 2016. 7 talks were held which had filled the club with 50/60 members and guests with even 70 at two. Topics covered in 2016 included 'The Port of Freckleton' by Peter Shakeshaft a really interesting talk with a full house. This was followed by Ian Dibden and RCC member Adrian Denye who told us all about those land speed record breakers on St Annes beach. March saw our friends, Louise and Tony Halliwell, from WLYC taking us 'To Russia with Love' describing their cruise in the Baltic. In April Shaun Beverley took us 'Cruising the Balearics' telling us all about those secret free anchorages. The winter season saw Derek Sheppard reprise his 50 years in the yachting business, David Miller told us of the History of the River Ribble and finally Rob Jarman let us into the secrets of his other life 'Cruising The Greek Islands'. RF thanked all the contributors, many of them RCC members, for their efforts in preparing the talks and presenting them. He concluded by reminding the members that The Last Tuesday Talks were in full swing, 31st January talk was 'Cruising to Turkey from Conway' by Hilary and Howard. .

Social Events:- RF commended the Social and Bar team plus the members themselves for their support to the many social events through the year. Events started with the Commodore's House Warming followed by the Christmas Cruise and traditional RCC New Year's Eve party. Notable support was provided by Andrew Baker, by entertaining, leading the choir and providing the catalyst for the Xmas cruise.

With all the catering provided by the members themselves and the Social Committee great events ensued. The New Year opened with a traditional Burns Night, with full 'Glaswegian accents', a piper and haggis etc. RF noted that Pat and George Chiles were sadly unable to support us this year due to George's illness.

RF wished them well in his recovery and thanked the Social Committee for stepping in at the last minute.

A 'Film and Curry evening' took place leading up to the annual 'Commodore's Sherry Evening'. This important event allows RCC to engage other organisations and maintains our Civic profile.

RCC welcomed The Mayor of Fylde along with visiting Commodores and heads of local organisations. He noted that the members did us proud with the usual superb, and now legendary buffet. RF reported a very successful Fitting Out event, a Greek Night with mostly homemade Greek dishes accompanied by 'Shirley

Valentine'. In May a new event was held, 'A Commodore's Lunch' in support of the RYA 'Push The Boat Out', a great success. For the 2 Regattas, 4/5 June and 3/4 Sept, the formula was breakfast baps, lunch through the day with a buffet lunch on Sunday, seeing RCC through prize giving. RF apologised for the mix up over The Laying Up Supper explaining that the proposed venue's proprietor was unable to honour his agreements. He thanked Pauline and Alan Betts for arranging the 'ad hoc' event, an outing to Lorenzo's where some 35 members enjoyed a super evening.

Concluding remarks:- RF concluded by thanking everyone who had supported these Social events both before and during them. He especially thanked the House Team and Bar Team for their unwavering support. He concluded by inviting all members to the 1st event of the new season, 'The Commodore's Housewarming' on Sat 10th December.

13 Sailing Committee report:-

Don Flannery (DF) opened by expressing his personal sadness at the loss of 5 long standing RCC members in this club year. He then reviewed the RCC sailing scene:-

Cruiser sailing:- Open water sailing was dominated by Graphix sailing to The Scillies, unsuccessfully seeking better weather. After several cruises however Graphix quickly got back to The Highlands and The Hebrides via a super cruise taking in Ireland and Wales. Sadly Super Mouse and Jura Mhor did little cruising but DF said he was quite encouraged to see 5 boats from our dock go off to the Isle of Man in May. Despite some engine problems the whole team made it back to RCC. In August the Cruise in Company was repeated, this time with 3 more boats, Piel Island was the venue. It was a great weekend with visits to The Pub, castle and even Rowe Island SC, DF thanked Andrew Walls (AW) for organising this. DF and AW have since attended the MBSA AGM with the hope of promoting joint sailing possibly with Glasston SC.

Dinghy sailing:- DF noted that several early season race sessions were called off and that the June and Sept Regattas were mainly dinghy affairs, the Big Race and Trafalgar Race were quite successful where dinghy and cruisers were racing together. He commended our Commodore for taking line honours in his Whammel. He commended Willy Crichton for entering the Osprey Championship and Martin Knott came 2nd in the Phantom Northern's.

Training:- DF noted that 'Try Sailing' was again a great success thanks to the team of RCC supporters. Several new members joined RCC and went on to join our Sail Training programme which ran on Wednesdays and Saturdays. DF expressed his personal thanks to the dedicated small training group. He also reported that RCC now had 2 operational safety boats as well as quite a fleet of training dinghies to support this training.

Concluding remarks:- Don concluded by thanking all the members of the Sailing Committee for the dedication and effort

14 Training Team:-

Rob Jarman (RJ) opened by commenting that 2016 had seen a significant increase in members gaining RYA personal qualifications and congratulated them.

RYA Certification:- RJ commended the RCC training team in their efforts to attain RYA certification. He commended the team who gained their Powerboat Level 2 over a freezing weekend at B&FYC in Feb. He explained that this frees dinghy sailors to race and helps increase the number of sailors on the water. He also noted that 2 of our Dinghy Instructors (DI) had now attained the level of Senior Instructor (SI). This now gives RCC 3 SI's and 2 DI's and adds significant flexibility to our training programme, but added that he was keen to extend this to 'Assistant Instructor' training.

Theory Courses:- RJ thanked Andrew Smith for once again running the RYA Theory Courses at RCC. This year's Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster course was halfway through, a great success as ever.

He commended Andrew for the improving levels of seamanship and knowledge he imparts to the students, noting that several candidates continuing from last year. He commended them all for their dedication.

Try Sailing and river training:- RJ noted that many people were gratified to see the number of RCC boats out on Fairhaven and congratulated the Fairhaven team, many of whom arrive early to get boats rigged and prepared. 'Try Sailing' was therefore quite a success again with several candidates seeking further training. He commented that now quite a team had settled in to regular 'Saturday training' on the river. He noted that RCC benefits now from quite a range of boats, the Laser 2000 being a worthy successor to the heavy Wayfarer, whilst our Magnos, Picos and Toppers were favourites with the youngsters. also that RCC's 2 safety boats now provide additional cover and coaching boats.

RYA links:- He commended Alan Jones for his frequent practical input to RCC training and his support and enthusiasm for RCC. He explained that RCC keeps close links with the RYA at National, Regional and local levels, attending several conferences and get-togethers. The RYA legal team are also used to advise on the 'safeguarding' protocols and other legal issues. All this, he explained, enhances our performance as a Recognised Training Centre

Concluding remarks:- RJ concluded by thanking publicly the small number of volunteers who give unstinting amounts of their time to support all the training activities. This included not only the Instructor Group but also those who prepared the boats and provided refreshment. He hoped their stamina would remain high and keep RCC at the top of its game in Training.

Matters arising. A member remarked from the floor in support of RJ, saying that the money RCC invested in trainers, infrastructure and equipment was absolutely essential and worthwhile for the future of RCC.

15 Secretaries report:- Mike Briers (MJB) opened his report by explaining that he would only try and capture those things others have not covered. .

Fabric Committee:- MJB reported on behalf of the Fabric Committee, who have continued to undertake general clubhouse repairs and maintenance through the year. This year they had 3 major projects; provision of a keyless personnel gate onto the main walkway, completing the garage with dry lining and plastering of the walls and additional drain work, & a welcome refurbishment of the ladies changing room. Looking ahead they noted that the Main Porch and race box access were the key issues. On behalf of the members MJB thanked DHM and the stalwart members of the Fabric Committee for their sterling work,

Communications; MJB explained, on behalf of Richard Hoad (RH), that this year has seen the website becoming increasingly overtaken by updates of host servers. Rich Media, together with RH, have been working to update our website, this was rather hurriedly implemented before it was really completed. RH apologised for any teething troubles and offered to resolve any particular issues people had. The new site has a dedicated Training section and offers live web cam under 'latest' or 'weather' tab. There is a simple registration process for members giving access into the club data. RH asked those who register to use at least some of their name as he was personally checking for any non-member activity. The weather station had been replaced and was now operational. Overall the RCC site statistics showed a small decline, some 142,000 visits in 11 months mainly to look at 'news and weather'. MJB thanked Richard Hoad and Clive Openshaw for keeping our web site and computer systems humming.

RYA Activities:- MJB explained that RCC was very involved with the RYA mostly through the RYA/NW team, briefings and actions included a recent 'coating survey' and actions on Flares. The former had actively allowed boat owners to continue antifouling their own boats but the use of appropriate protective clothing was recommended. On the subject of Flares, disposal is still challenging, especially with the closure of Liverpool Coastguard - but Crosby is still open for now!! In addition the RYA is working actively to remove the requirement to carry Parachute Flares on boats under 13.5meters. The carriage of Smoke Flares is still recommended as are the modern LED, some of which (like the ODEO Mk3) are effective over 6 miles!! MJB explained that RYA Safety Bulletins can now be accessed through our web site, MJB recommended them to members as they give good advice, recently covering the use of Kill Cords, how to avoid CO poisoning and the use of Safety lines on cruisers.

Marine Navigation:- MJB explained that the RYA continues to be active trying to maintain 'free navigation', despite recent government actions including the Marine Navigation Bill and expansion of Marine Conservation Zones. Both of these impact our freedom to enter ports or anchor or sail, The RYA is keeping track and influencing all these on your behalf. MJB reminded members that, in addition to Safety Bulletins, the RCC website now included navigation information and warnings from both The Wind Farm Team and Eskmeals range. The good news he said was that future wind turbines will be bigger and further apart, plus the RYA have taken up DHM's comments to change the lighting characteristic.

Oddities:- MJB noted a couple of other matters across his desk, 'The Dolphin LOG' has been found and Tim Simmons says The Dolphin is very much open to sailors from RCC. MJB also noted the closure of Allansons Yard, Mrs Holt has sadly died, many will remember the yard and its boatbuilding history.

Conclusion:- MJB concluded by commending the RYA to members, access can be gained to their club zones through the use of RCC's club name and password '566316'. He said this gave access to much information from advice on insurance or legal matters, right through to all aspects of training development and of course events. He also commended the RYA/NW BOWWAVES, newsletter which was well worth reading. MJB strongly recommended personal membership of the RYA to members. At only £45 it adds your own voice to some 108,000 others to ensure legislators and government listen to boaters' wishes, he said this was essential to avoid being totally ignored.

Finally:- MJB concluded by thanking everyone for coming and supporting this AGM.

16:- AOB:-

Safety: 2 members supported MJB's safety briefing and the links to RYA advice both supporting the use of Lifejackets in particular. Willy Crichton reported the loss of a keen Osprey sailor going out to his yacht alone and at night, possibly with no lifejacket, Jeanette Richardson expressed concern about children and adults on the jetty without personal flotation devices, this concern was noted.

Minutes prepared by Mike Briers (MJB) & Rob Jarman (RJ)

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