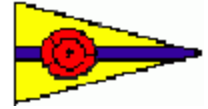


# RCC Log



September 2017

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Ribble Cruising Club  
The Promenade  
Central Beach  
Lytham FY8 5LD

## The Commodore's Commentary

*Richard Blackburn*

As I put pen to paper I can't help wondering just where summer has gone it seems no time since we were taking the boats to Fairhaven ready for try-sailing and last week at sail training it was nearly dark at 8 o'clock after barely an hour on the water.

Weather for sailors like farmers is rarely ideal and even when there is a nice breeze it's often in the wrong direction. Looking back in my sailing notes for the year I notice that the first two trips of the season I was largely becalmed this was closely followed by the Easter weekend Good Friday notes read wet and windy stayed ashore. Saturday 2 reefs quickly dropped main and returned up creek under half jib. Sunday saw family duties and Monday we were 'bleep' becalmed again.

May saw a few good days with several entries finishing 'good sail' and then we got to the June regatta weekend Saturday wet and windy no sailing Sunday force 4 earlier but by the time I got to the river it was 5-6 and apparently a gust of 8 was spotted on the wind gauge another hasty retreat under the tiniest of jibs!



Fingers are currently crossed for perfect conditions for the September regatta.

Fears that we may be running out of people to try sail were eased with possibly the best turnout to date for our month long effort many of whom have joined and are training both at Fairhaven on Wednesdays and on the river on sailing Saturdays. It's been good to see so many new faces enjoying the delights of getting wet and muddy in the river!

It's been an interesting summer at the Dock with much activity from the Contractors working on the flood relief and drainage problems. Some of their kit is real big-boys-toys. The Liggard suddenly took on a very different aspect last week and for now at least runs perfectly straight into the Main Drain/Wrea Brook confluence.

There has been sailing activity too although many of the suggested cruising weekends in the handbook have been scuppered by the weather. Members have given the RNLI a couple of training opportunities. We are eternally grateful that they are so quick and apparently eager to help whilst not appearing to be critical or judgemental. The main thing is that there has been no damage to life or limb. Many members have enjoyed trouble free sailing in

many areas over the season. On quite a few sunny days there's been a dozen or more venturing out onto the tide a lovely sight.



Training has been much to the fore this season with beginner training for the new try sailing members intermediate training for previous years graduates and advanced training for already experienced dinghy sailors. The RYA has recently run an instructors course here at the lake and on the river and four of our young members passed after a gruelling two very long weekends. We are working towards being able to run Powerboat courses and this winter we are offering the Day Skipper theory course - a must for anyone venturing out of the river on any craft.

Looking forward we have a forecast Indian Summer and hoped for perfect conditions for the September Regatta. Hopefully there'll be a good showing on the water whether racing or not. If you can't find a boat come down and we'll try and get you out on the water and if you don't fancy a sail come down anyway and enjoy the atmosphere with the best views in Lytham.

## Club Sailing

*Don Flannery*

The Sept log is usually a time to reflect on Club Events over the Summer season and although we had promising weather in Spring the rest of the Sailing season was somewhat unsettled, and in June

resulted in the Annual Regatta having to be cancelled.

This did not deter our intrepid Commodore who could be seen from the Club House sailing his Lune Whammel in all weather conditions

It was sad to hear that "Graphix" will no longer be flying the RCC burgee along the West Coast of Scotland having been sold earlier this year.

It will now be left to the younger members of the Club to take up the mantel and a start was made by a Cruising trip in May, which saw in a "fleet" of boats head for the Isle of Man (I was informed to watch the TT Practice).

Although Dinghy Racing Events have taken place on the river, most of the summer the time on the water has been taken up promoting sailing at the Club.

This included the usual six week dinghy "Try Sailing" programme held on Fairhaven Lake which once again turned out to be a great success (thanks to the 20 club members for their support).

The Club is now a recognised RYA Sailing Centre and thanks to Rob Jarman and his team, have this year run a "Sail Training" programme both on the river and at Fairhaven, which also included an RYA Advanced Sailing Course together and last month a Dinghy Instructors Course.

With Autumn now upon us, we still have a number of events to complete with, later this month, a proposed Cruiser trip across the Bay to Piel Island.



Emma and the girls, the Abba tribute act, at the 70's night



The RNLI shanty crew performing at the dock BBQ



Works on the sluices by the Environment Agency continue, this was the status in June



We also have the September Regatta on the 23rd-24th when to get you in the mood "bacon butties" will be served on both days, at the club by our catering team Jackie and Richard. More details on the poster, hope you can make it..

## Training

*Rob Jarman. Training Principal*

As a Training Team, we have continued to develop our training to best fit the needs of RCC dinghy sailors. At the heart of our efforts are our sessions on Wednesday evening (our last scheduled session was set for 6th September) and on those Saturdays when sailing is possible on the river. These sessions are a mix of direct tutoring and coaching afloat and ashore.

This season started with the last few sessions of the Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster theory course – another resounding success for students and their tutor Andrew Smith. Starting towards the end of September we will run another Day Skipper course along the same lines as usual.

This course was soon followed by the First Aid course, run every three years, giving us newly validated First Aiders across the RCC community.



With Try Sailing concluding, we found a new group of individuals and families to work with at Fairhaven and also a few joined us on the tidal estuary. As

always, our volunteers made this possible, whether as Instructors or preparing and supporting both ashore and on-the-water activities.

For the first time, we ran two discrete weekend courses for Performance Sailing and Sailing with Spinnakers. Unfortunately the weather was against us for the second half of the first course, but the second went off without a hitch.



Another first was the Dinghy Instructor course run by Alan Jones. This was the first time RCC had hosted such a course and it was also Alan's first attempt to run the course at Fairhaven and the Ribble from the Clubhouse. A variety of challenges was evident throughout the course which ran over two weekends and Friday evenings.



Eventually, after much hard work all round, the independent moderator agreed with Alan that all five candidates were up to the mark. Rachel came to us via LSSA but was readily assimilated into the group. We look forward to welcoming the remaining four candidates on to the Training Team and we anticipate their

### WHAT's ON WINTER 2017/18

#### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 'Autumn Series racing starts'

Autumn series race starts from 12.45, see your handbooks for details

#### Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 'Cruise in company to Piel Island'

This cruise will be will go ahead of there is any interest & good weather, please contact Andrew Walls

#### Sat/Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September 'RCC Regatta'

This is an 'open event' there will be racing for dinghies & cruisers from 12.00 and bacon butties and lunches for all in Clubhouse. Prizegiving will be held after sailing on Sunday around 4.30/5pm

#### Tues 26<sup>th</sup> September 'The Stars are ours' by Don Kurz UCLA

8pm in clubhouse "What good is astronomy?" Through colourful historical anecdotes and science hear stories of wealth and poverty, castles and dungeons, kings and princes, sailors, sea battles and voyages of discovery as we look back at the improbable path that gave us the *Power of the Stars*, **All Welcome.**

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 'New Members Night' from 9pm in Clubhouse

New members especially welcome, come & meet Officers & friends

youthful enthusiasm and input.



Well done, Dani and Jake Begley, Lewis Richardson and Nick Elsdon



## New Members

*Richard Elsdon*

A warm welcome to the following members and their families who have joined us since March:

- Andrew and Tracey Vincent
- Andrew Gallagley
- Bill and Dallas Cohen
- Damian and Joanne Dugdale
- Graham Lee
- George and Pat Chiles
- Heather and John Morrow
- Helen and Neil Lindsay
- Helen Lewes
- Jon Schofield and Beccy Turner
- Kit and Debbiue Harrisson
- Mark and Catherine Jagger
- Matthew and Rebecca Fitzjohn
- Michael O'Donnel
- Nigel Lingines
- Patrick and June Kiernan
- Peter and Karen Ackroyd
- Peter and Mary Holderness
- Richard and Susan Mayor
- Stanislav and Elena Chulkov
- Stewart and Rosamund Healy
- Suki Atwel Weir
- Allan and Isabel Pook
- Andrew and Yvonne Coyle

Get regular updates on Club events and activities on Facebook

[WWW.Ribblecruisingclub.org.uk](http://WWW.Ribblecruisingclub.org.uk)

Sunday 22nd October 'Trafalgar Day Races' from 11.45.

Race starts for Cruisers & dinghies from 11.45, Trophies to be won!!!

Friday 27th October 'New Members Night' from 9.00pm

New members especially welcome, come & meet Officers & friends

Tues 31st October 2017 'No Talk' Halloween

Saturday 4th November 'RCC Laying Up Supper' Clifton Arms 7.30pm

RCC's premier social event returns to The Clifton Arms, £30 per ticket including table wine !!! ticket applications to Richard Freeman by end Sept.

This is a 'do not miss event, your chance to put on the glad rags & ball !!!

Tues 28th November 2017 'Heroes of the Waves' 8pm in clubhouse

Stephen Musgrave from Fleetwood Lifeboat will come and tell us of 'lifeboating' through the ages. proceeds go to St Annes Shannon Appeal

