



Ribble Cruising Club

Tony Walker RIP

23rd December 2018

It is great sadness that we report the passing of our Trustee and friend Tony Walker on Saturday 23rd December 2018. Tony joined RCC in its very earliest days, 1952 to be exact, when the club met in Bob Page's front room on West Beach. Tony was an absolute stalwart member of RCC throughout his life, and what a life Tony had, he built and restored 7 or 8 boats including Sceptre all glorious 65 foot of her. He was a natural and meticulous sailor leading by example, sailing a beautiful Dragon well into his 80's., and his support to RCC was totally invaluable over 66 years !!!

Throughout his life he supported RCC and was involved in Club activities and management from 1952 to 2018 what a record and achievement. His support and work ranged across the whole club either in Main Committee, an Officer on our Dock Committee and then a Trustee from the 1970's through to 2018. During the mid 1970's he oversaw the enlargement of the Clubhouse to its current size, during the late 70's to the 90's active at our Dock as it developed to provide safe berthing for some 90 boats. A Trustee at RCC from 1990 always ready to advise and support RCC and with Allan Williams, Robin Upton and the late Bob Totten, his fellow Trustees, developed our current Rule Book in 2004. .

Tony led from the front, he showed us how to do it, he taught us how to win races, he mentored and supported many new members and could always be relied on to advise or support anybody, be it on Sailing matters, boat restoration or Club Management and history. Tony's contribution to our Club and its history was totally invaluable.

Tony's first boats were dinghies, a 12ft clinker and a Snipe, but he soon graduated to Classic Yachts buying Romara a 1 Rater, and Catalina an Uffa Fox airborne lifeboat . He then restored or built from bare hulls three boats, Tresang a 30 square meter, and two Offshore Racers, an Ohlson 38 and a She 32 in which he won several Irish Sea races. Then came Sceptre which resided on our Dock for 8 years whilst Tony single handedly restored her in 1986. Tony then formed the Sceptre Preservation Society which continues to own and maintain her now. Not content with this Tony went on to own another 30 Square meter, Aeolus, then a Hustler 35 Hestrel and finally his Dragon Tana which he was hoped to launch this coming season.

Tony will be sadly missed by those of us fortunate enough to be his friend and colleague. Our thoughts are with Judy his wife, Jenny and Chris and their families. We do not yet know when the funeral is but will inform you as soon as we know

Mike Briers (Hon Sec RCC)