



# Ribble Cruising Club

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## **Comment from the Commodore**

The last year has just sped by and owing to awkward weekend tide times in December there is only one weekend of organised sailing before our winter break. Our membership secretary has been very busy recently and we welcome all our many new members. Some have joined us through Try Sailing but many have found us through recommendation or the website and increasingly Facebook where we have two pages which complement each other. Although personally a computer illiterate I have been introduced to Facebook and it is a great way to keep in touch with the Club.

We are approaching the end of the season and many of us have just enjoyed the first of our traditional winter events The Laying Up Dinner. The later events while not so formal are always "good does"; look out for the Commodore's House Warming including Christmas fun on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. New Year's Eve in the Clubhouse is a pleasant way of seeing in the New Year and The Commodores Sherry Evening takes place just before the season kicks off next year. There will be Last Tuesday talks on every last Tuesday apart from December starting with "Heroes of the Waves" a tale of lifeboating through the ages a must come to event and it will be an opportunity for RCC to support the Lytham St.Annes Shannon appeal.

Training continues to develop strongly and following on from a successful Try Sailing in May training has continued at Fairhaven on Wednesdays where our instructors are joined by an enthusiastic band of volunteers to help ready the boats which are required each week. We have another four newly qualified young instructors and we will soon have four Powerboat instructors. This years Winter Theory course has been particularly well subscribed. All in all a tremendous effort from a small band of volunteers.

The contractors at the Dock are running behind schedule, sorry about the delay, but still expect to complete all works during January. The dredging is already paying dividends with increased time afloat and easier navigation especially in the Liggard. We will be left with a significant increase in our hard standing areas.

This comment is included in the AGM notice mailing. The AGM is the membership's opportunity to hear from the officers and to elect new officers and committee members for the year ahead. In a lot of ways the new season starts with the AGM so come down and see at first hand what goes on.

We are still looking for entries in the photographic competition entries in any format to the Commodore please.

On a personal front I have been honoured and feel very privileged to have served as Commodore of RCC thank you all for putting up with me over the last two years.

***Richard Blackburn (Commodore)***

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