

Minutes of the RTYC General Committee held on 3rd November 2022

Present:

Commodore:	Martin Morgans (MM)
Vice Commodore	Karen Cox (KC)
Rear Commodore Sail	Piers Hodges PH
Rear Commodore Cruising	Don Gray (DG)
Hon Treasurer (Temp)	Julie Rook (JR)
Hon Secretary	Stuart Carter (SC)
Hon House Officer	Judy Pearson (JP)

Terry Adams (TA); Andrew Beaumont-Hope (ABH); Dave Parish (DP); Mike Brand (MB); Rachel Morgans (RM), Mike Kingsland (MK), Nigel Collingwood (NC), Andy Ketteringham (AK) Peter Thomas (PT)

Apologies; Frank Martin

Approval of Minutes of the last meeting Wednesday 7th Oct 2022. The minutes were agreed and signed by the Commodore. Proposed Vice Commodore, seconded RM

Matters Arising Therefrom: No matters arising

Correspondence. No correspondence apart from resignation letters which will be covered under membership

Honorary Secretary. The report from the honorary secretary had been distributed to the GC members. There were no comments.

Hon Treasurer: The Commodore introduced the new (temp) Honorary Treasurer. Julie Rook has stepped in to sort out any outstanding matters and anomalies with the club's accounts and is using her considerable business skills and experience to good effect. Our new bookkeeper is also working out well with the production of the VAT return.

Julie has produced a P&L report comparing 21/22 with 20/21. She will email a report comparing with 2019 to the Committee. The report is an indicative report. All of the books have gone to the accountant, but we are waiting for the stocktaking figures, and we should have our complete report back in a few weeks but indicatively we would seem to have made a profit of ca £29,000 over the last year. The biggest notable profit was for Ramsgate week of £18,000 after expenses. The Commodore offered congratulations to the Vice Commodore for that achievement. He stressed that the statement on Ramsgate week was entirely separate from the Bar P&L.

Since taking over as Treasurer, Julie has been giving each financial activity has been given a nominal code on Sage so that it will now be easier to produce a breakdown on request

We have also started to investigate making savings on the various contracts in place.

RCS asked if there was a separate cost centre for the Race Hut. The reply was in the negative, but the Hon Treasure agreed to raise a separate cost centre if that was required.

PT asked if the HT was sure that the subscription income contained within the stated profit was accurate and was it that the late payments were accounted for in the following year. DP stated that it should be remembered that, during the first year of the pandemic, subscriptions were remitted. RCC commented that payments would have been dated by the bank and that is the date that would have gone into the accounts so it would be difficult to reconcile. The Commodore said that the Bookkeeper was in the process of rectifying the anomalous entries for this year, but this would not take account of previous errors

Bar The Commodore gave a comparison of bar income between 2019 (£32,000 and 2022 (£28,000). The difference was due to a fall-off of functions and catering. E.g. Rotary and Probus, Fishy Friday and carveries. He reported, however, that panini sales were up. RCS commented on the fact that during the month 2 races were cancelled which contributed to the losses

Rear Commodore Sail. RCS said that we now have a link into ST Lawrence College who would very much like to collaborate with RTYC in some way. RCS discussed the buoys and the fact that they had been out for a long time. Ivor Thomas amusements provided a good data point as it had washed up on Deal beach and the bottom ring which attached the ground tackle was destroyed. This would indicate that the anchoring is fine, and it is the buoys themselves that are failing. Initially he would like to get RTYC Nav and Kent decking buoys on station as they do not require heavy lifting gear. Stonar Icom and Euromarine seem to be solid so should be left out for next season. The various costs of options are as in the report. His recommendation is that we get the light buoys back in for spring, using a diver if necessary, store the existing ground tackle on the seabed for now. The club rib option is not considerable viable at this time but we should keep the situation under review.

The Commodore asked if there was a definitive cost for the diver. RCS said that he had spoken to the diver just before the meeting who had said the costs were less than estimated. The Commodore clarified that we would be looking at £4650 until the end of 2023 and then £2500 per year after that. RCS agreed. There was a discussion about stored costs from previous years where it was agreed that the budget was constrained by the amount in the bank. RCS asked that it be remembered that the buoys were also there for Ramsgate week so there may be some apportionment of costs to be discussed. Buoy sponsorship was also under general discussion and would be further talked about within the sailing committee.

The Commodore asked that methods of fundraising within the racing fleet were investigated. MB said that the buoys were certainly required to keep the quality of racing up to a standard that would draw in more competitors. There was a short general discussion about allocation profits to various cost centres. The Commodore said that we should keep an eye on the infrastructure needs of the building. JP said that this is probably the first year that we have not had a major project, but we should not be complacent.

Crew memberships and a crew membership drive were discussed. RCS said it was a problem for him to deal with the issue given his current workload and help was needed.

RCC said that we have to have these buoys in place, so we need to spend the money. It was proposed that we allocate the budget as assessed in the RCS report by AK and seconded by DP. Passed unanimously.

Rear Commodore Cruising. The report from RCC had been circulated and will be published in the newsletter. There were no Comments. RCC proposed a vote of thanks to Frank Martin for organising a superb trip to the nascent railway museum. It was extremely impressive, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Honorary House Officer. No report as there was not much to include in it. The boilers were being serviced/replaced on the 14/15 November (PM Note: Completed). 2 structural engineers, one from the company that carried out the work last time, and an independent, have visited the site. We are awaiting the full report. The work on the emergency lights has been completed. The Ramsgate week trophies have been engraved and polished by Mac. We have added £70 to Mac's gold card. Macs contact details to be passed to RCS to see if Mac wants to attend the Prize-giving

Advertising: Awaiting new signage

Entertainments. Report was accepted. Any dates for events must go through the office to be deconflicted by Kathryn. We are desperate to find a reliable caterer as this is an issue for next year. Current caterer, although committed to the NYE event, is now saying he is having a staffing problem. MB had a problem with menu choice on Webcollect. This is being investigated.

DP suggested that the Race Fleet could be asked to organise some events in order to reduce the burden on RM. There is a need to engender enthusiasm for members to take roles within the club including joining sub-committees (such as entertainments or the sailing committee).

It was suggested and agreed that there should be a charge differential between members and non-members on event tickets.

Ramsgate Week. Report was accepted. We still do not have a headline sponsor, but this is not unusual this early in the RW calendar.

Navigation School. ABH asked for locks on the cupboard in the Hold bar and possibly power in the cupboards. The new television is working well for the school. And the Hold bar is needed on Wednesday nights for the next few weeks. RCS asked if there was any news on James Bradney's new boat to be used for practical RYA courses and if there would be any tie up with the club. ABH suggested that it might be better if any association was on the basis of a recommendation quid-pro-quo whereby we would recommend his organisation for practical courses, and he would recommend us for shore-based courses.

Academy. Has 8 Members, 3 are on the dayskipper course and there will be a social evening with the award of their certificates. The Commodore asked if, in light of the possible tie-up with St Lawrence College, we can have a younger face representing the academy. There was some discussion about the ethos behind promoting the club to the young. MB mention Budworth Sailing club who, after analysis of the club's income, decided that it was the older members who were keeping the club running and cut back on youth membership. He suggested that if we could start training children it would be more likely that we could grow a larger crew base. NC said that the original decision on the age of academy students was predicated on reducing the need for enhanced safeguarding practices. NC stated that if the students were sailing then safeguarding would be the responsibility of the individual skippers.

It was agreed that we should pursue the younger element but to do that we need to put several things in place. The liaison between the club and, for instance, St Lawrence, should be headed by someone closer to the students ages. There should be something to attract the students to the club premises e.g. their own space (Hold bar) with music, games, and refreshments. The Commodore suggested that over the winter an Academy sub-committee should be able to identify and put the necessary in place so that we start the new season as we mean to go on.

There was further discussion on how the current 23/24-year-old crop of students were recruited. NC said that they had just turned up, and had learned about the Academy by word of mouth. RCS suggested that perhaps they should have been put on the crewing register as the Academy was supposedly to engender enthusiasm for sailing in teenagers. RCS believed that the terms of reference for the Academy should be reviewed to ensure that students are ready to sail at the start of the sailing season.

Social Media. Ongoing

Membership. Webcollect is working well but there is some reluctance for the members to access it. Hopefully as we move through the next few months and people see how easy it is to access and use to book and pay for events that will improve.

There had been 17 official resignations, but it will take a month before we can fully account for silent resignations, i.e. those who have just not renewed or have dropped off their other half.

It was suggested and agreed that to make the membership discount more effective there should be a greater differential between member and non-member prices both at the bar and for events.

MB suggested that there should be a monthly fee for membership in addition to the one offered on DD.

Membership Cards.. ongoing

AOB.

- a. Vote of thanks to JEB for using the 200 club to pay for the new disabled ramp. There will need to be a drive for members of the 200 club
- b. TA is now in charge of Warrants and Televisions
- c. There needs to be a discussion about expiry dates on the gold card. Possibility of putting expiry date on Upay.
- d. Hon Treasurer asked if she should be looking for a more lucrative interest-bearing account. It was agreed that she should report back to the next meeting

DONM. Tuesday 6th December at 1930

Meeting finished: 2126