



Commodores Report 2020

Thank you for attending this rather unusual Annual General Meeting.

It has been a horrible year for Rossendale Valley Sailing club and for its members. In 2019 we were recovering from the impact of the United Utilities work on the Dam Wall, and this year we had great plans for sailing and windsurfing activities, all of which were snuffed out before they had begun with the Covid situation.

After last years AGM we were fortunate to still have some sailing going on late into November

In late November a small group of members had a Christmas dinner at the Waggoners (I cant see that happening this year). Only to wake up to the news that our longtime friend and club stalwart Douglas Forbes had passed away. A very sad loss to the club let alone his family. To acknowledge his contribution to the club a Wednesday evening race series Shield "the Doug Forbes Shield has been arranged to be presented annually to the winner of the Wednesday evening race series for future years.

In January and February the council was busy making plans for the year, with a full race calendar as well as Junior sailing and RYA training courses had been agreed as well as reintroducing more social events. Needless to say these were all scuppered by the virus.

The council has worked hard to keep up with the requirements set out to deal with the Coronavirus restrictions. Initially we had to close the club until we understood the situation and were able to open the water for sailing and windsurfing. After a period of time we



opened up the disabled toilet for members to access when at the club. Sanitisers have been made available and we have facemasks available for people working or providing support at the club. During this time Steve Booth managed to get us the £10k grant which has enabled the club to keep functioning without loss of funds.

Unfortunately just as we started to open the galley we have been hit with the latest situations. Whilst we feel it would be possible to run the galley under present circumstances, it is unfair to ask members to volunteer to do so. Although we do hope that some time in the not too distant future we will be able to move forward with the galley.

So despite Covid we have had the water open and there has been sailing and windsurfing going on. The council also decided to introduce Paddle boarding and “sit on Kayaks” on a trial basis to give the members more options on the water when weather was against sailing. This has gained some interest, although we are not accepting memberships solely for these two sports. I should say we are still waiting for UU to agree this on a permanent basis.

There have been some changes to the clubhouse following on from the painting and addition of a small brew area at the end of last year. We have gained access to the old rangers office and converted that to a sail store for the club kit. A small band led by Bob has concreted the cattle grid area which has helped with access to the club, and more recently Nigel has sorted out the public toilets which were in dire need of Painting.

So it has not been an idle year, I thank the Council for their diligence in keeping the club operating, to Bob and his helpers for keeping the club in good fettle and to you the members for your continued support.

I would also say that the council will now be working on our plans for next year. We have to find ways of opening the club up to more normal club activities. I am determined



to provide the facilities we used to enjoy in a safe way even if covid is still around for next season. So we will have sailing and windsurfing going on, there will be racing there will be Ops and Tops and there will be a galley. The club is the members, and as members we will need you to do your part in getting us back on our feet again.

Thankyou.