



Commodores Report 2022

Welcome to the 57th Annual General Meeting of RVSC

In truth I should not have held the position as Commodore for a 4th year as per the rules of the constitution however as there was no one willing to take on the mantle so I agreed to hold the fort.

The year has proved to be less than comfortable for various reasons but the council has managed its way through turmoil that was probably due to post covid fallout or Brexit or party gate, they seem to be the areas to blame these days. Joking aside, the Council has been diligent in following the constitution and ethos of the club and has managed the club through some difficult years.

Despite a number of hiccups there has been activities going on at the club. Many thanks to Mark Barrowcliffe and Mike Morgan for their efforts in keeping the club open during the year and to them and their support team for the work done in offering taster sessions.

Sailing and racing activities have resumed albeit not to the same level as pre-covid times but it will take time and effort to grow it again.



There have been a few dedicated windsurfers up at the club mainly midweek and when the wind has been in good supply.

Training has been in short supply this year mainly due to the availability of instructors, however there has been a few sailing and powerboat courses to keep things running. Unfortunately the club has had its Windsurf training accreditation suspended as we do not have a Senior Windsurf instructor. The saddest part of all though is that we were unable to run Onboard for the junior members this year, again due to a lack of instructors and volunteers which the council and Principal are trying to address.

So I am going to take this opportunity to remind the members that the club is run by the members who volunteer to carry out activities at the club, everything from the Commodore role to instructors, helpers with Onboard, work parties and everything in between. It is your club, you vote in a council every year to run the club on your behalf, but that doesn't mean they will do everything. Each and every member needs to take their turn at helping in the club. To that end the council with help from Jamie McElroy has set up "Duty-man" an online application that allows members to allocate themselves to voluntary activities around the club and I would encourage



members to use the system to help with those activities moving forward.

Some of the members may be aware of some of the initiatives the Council has been working on. We have been working with United Utilities to try to get Stand Up Paddle Boards accepted on the water. To that end we have participated in a trial to show UU that the club will support SUPs from a health and safety perspective and has put in place guidelines for the safe usage of the boards. We are awaiting the decisions of UU but in the mean time will continue to carry on the activity until that decision has been made.

The council has also accepted a running group as an affiliate to the club. The group have 10 dates planned for 2023 and I am sure that if any of you are runners you would be made welcome to join in.

I am also pleased that Pendle Community High School has joined as an affiliate to the club. They have brought their 3 Access boats up to the club as well as a power boat and will be using the club on Thursdays from Next spring, they have their own instructor but would welcome any help they can get from our members for the less able youngsters. I would encourage anyone who has the time to get involved as it can be a very rewarding experience.



Unfortunately the Sea Cadets have not been able to get up to the club since Covid although the club has had some use of their boats, however Joan Forbes has taken on the role of liaison with the group and we do hope to see them at the club next year.

Looking at the clubhouse there are a few challenges to deal with in the near future specifically to some of the cladding on the building that seems to be taking in water on some edges and to some of the window frames that need to be replaced. The club is a fantastic facility and it is up to the members to keep it in the best possible shape for the future. It is now time to restart the work parties that have occurred prior to covid.

To sum up, The club is in a sound position, as our treasurer and membership secretary will report shortly, we have a good foundation to build from with new members to take the club forward into the future and with a level of financial security to support this. That said it is not the time to be complacent as peoples costs rise and finances are stretched.

I would on behalf of the club like to say thank to Bob Glowa for the work he does behind the scenes keeping the club boats in shape and getting on with lots of jobs week in week out to ensure that the equipment we have is ready for service.



I should also say thank you to those council members who are standing down, to Martin Lewis who did great work in getting the club grant funding. Nigel Platt our previous Secretary and to my wife Norah who has given me great support throughout.

Finally I would like to say thank you to the council for their support over some challenging years as commodore and to the members who have become friends over the many years involvement at the club.

Thank you