

AGM Commodore's Report for 2025

Good afternoon, welcome to the 60th AGM of Rossendale Valley Sailing Club.

Although it has been splendid summer, the weather since last November has brought some challenges starting with a three-week freeze when the track was impassable for quite a while and meetings had to be cancelled. Luckily all was clear for the Christmas do when the tree was decorated and lots of members enjoyed a brilliant Jacob's Join. The weather continued to affect us when it came to planned events, The Try Out Day and two Taster Days were either too windy or a wash out. Lots of members spent those days leaning on the verandah rail, brew in hand. However, the second Taster Day's weather cleared up in time for a few dinghies to take to the water for a brisk sail followed by a convivial BBQ on the verandah.

As always when the weather goes right, something goes wrong and it started with the blue green algae back in 2024, The algae is, to say the least, unpleasant and cut down on some activities for a while. It appears to have gone into hiding for now. Then the water level dropped, and it became difficult to launch and recover the power boats and larger dinghies. However, we were still able to run Ops and Tops when fourteen children were able to experience constructive time afloat and judging by the feedback, had a good time. Thank you to David Hudson for overseeing the sessions and all the volunteers who helped - too many of you to name individually, but you know who you are! Ops and Tops will be back next year, hopefully running a bit longer.

Recent rain has now restored water levels.

A small amount of catering has taken place over the season starting with supper for the Anchors Aweigh, a very busy evening. The clubhouse has been open on Wednesday afternoons for social sailing, with pre-race meals starting at the end of March. The galley and clubhouse have been open every Saturday this year since May, and the lounge has often been very full of members enjoying a brew, a snack and a chat. Two very successful and well attended Work Party days saw the members who volunteered complete lots of valuable jobs and enjoy a free lunch to boot.

The last social event to date was the Halloween Spooktacular, another enjoyable do during which the prizes for the three race series and overall winner were presented along with the Viking Trophy which went to Ben Waddington. Eric Hughes has again run the racing, ably assisted by Kath, Louise, Bob and Karen. Thank you to all involved.

Your Club Council, who all volunteer their time and efforts, has been working hard to make sure the club runs smoothly, however we had a major upset when, at the end of January, Mike Morgan stood down as Principal of the RTE and resigned from Council and Mark Barrowcliffe stood down as Senior Instructor and also from Council. I would like to thank both Mike and Mark for all their hard work re-establishing the RTE in 2024 and I was saddened when they resigned. After unsuccessfully canvassing for somebody to act as Principal it was decided that the RTE should be held in abeyance for the time being. We were assured by Adam McGovern of the RYA, at a very informative meeting, that it is not unusual to not be an RTE, with more sailing clubs opting to go down the Club only route. The club, over the years, has spent more time not being an RTE than being one. He

advised us that Taster sessions, running 'club' courses for novice sailors and Ops and Tops along with open days and other usual club stuff, were all accepted by the RYA. Speaking of courses, congratulations to those qualified in their chosen discipline at the Anderton Centre.

Other things agreed and carried out by Council have been the introduction of the rear door fob entry system and the new CCTV system, yet to be completed but an upgrade of the internet by Plusnet on the 19th will hopefully mean the existing cameras will work again. We are also having a rewire and new thermostats fitted to the central heating along with other work to make it more efficient and economical to run. Both the CCTV and the thermostat upgrade are being paid out of the 100 Club fund. If anyone would like to join the 100 Club, please contact the Treasurer.

Unfortunately, Louise has resigned as Treasurer due to pressure of work. It is a time consuming but valuable role, and I would like to thank her for her hard work this year, especially with the Utility bills. Thankfully, Su has offered her services as Treasurer as well as her safeguarding role. Another loss to the Council is David Hudson, who is moving on to pastures new. David has always been a great help and has stepped up from his role as Vice Commodore to acting Commodore more than once. We wish him all the best for the future. Tom has volunteered to take on the role of Vice Commodore. He will remain as Membership Secretary, a job he does exceptionally well.

Finally, we have been awarded a grant from Rossendale Leisure Trust sourced by Martin Lewis. This is to be used for a new venture with the aim of encouraging and promoting increased physical activity in the borough. The club is hoping to showcase the area to groups and individuals for cycling, mountain biking, equestrian and more runners. This also ties in with United Utilities who want to make more use of their sites in the same way and will back ventures like this. In a bid to promote the club Martin, who is very keen to see the club more active, has found us a Social Media expert, Jess, who has now been engaged. The grant will pay her fees. Steve is maintaining and upgrading the website, which gets lots of views throughout the year. The club is now listed on Rossendale Leisure Trust's Active Lives website and any promotions we send will be included on that site and in any newsletters which are sent out to linked groups.

Jess has written a comprehensive report; copies are available. In a nutshell, she has identified the club's Facebook accounts and their administrators, is trying to get the login details for the Instagram and YouTube accounts. She has set up a TikTok and a LinkedIn account. All have slightly different purposes, but it is planned to co-ordinate posts across all the platforms. She is working very closely with Martin, who is keeping his contact at RLT informed. Many thanks to Martin for his time and effort applying for the grant and bringing our social media presence to the fore.

I would also like to thank Steve for all his hard work in the background on the technical side, Bob and Eric for their practical skills, Karen and Kath for helping in so many ways on Wednesday afternoons and weekends, and the other Council members for being there and helping where needed.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, fellow club members for attending this meeting, enjoying the club and keeping it afloat!