

Rossendale Valley Sailing Club: Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th of June 2023 at the clubhouse.

Apologies from: Mick Green, Steve Booth and Eric Davis.

Present: Bryan Youlden, David Hudson, Bob Glowa, Louise Haworth, Julie Morgan (visitor), Mike Morgan, Tom Nimmo, Nick Antrobus, Mark Barrowcliffe and Joan Forbes.

Minutes of the last meeting: 15th of May, read and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Bryan, seconded by David, and passed by the meeting.

Matters Arising: David asked Tom if there had been any responses to his e-mail asking for interested candidates for the position of Commodore. Tom said that there had been two responses, both offering various levels of experience and skills. It was agreed to invite both people to the next Council meeting to give a five minute introduction about their application. David offered to continue as acting Commodore until the AGM in November and proposed the successful candidate should shadow him as Vice Commodore until then.

Commodores Report: David's only item was discussed as above.

Treasurer's Report: Steve unavailable. The meeting looked at the transaction report for May. Joan noted that there was nearly £1000 paid out to SSE for gas. David said that he would look at the gas meter weekly, taking a photograph, and check it with the online account. Mike said the fuel expenses had increased as the powerboats were being used more often due to the amount of activity now taking place.

Membership Secretary's Report: Tom said that there have been three new family members, nine new adult members, two junior members and one new social member linked to a junior member. There was a new fishing permit and another one pending.

At present there are 164 individual members.

Tom said that he would make changes to the membership application form for a new junior member to identify a parent or guardian.

There was a discussion about whether new members should be asked if there was anything they thought the club needed to know about medical history, disability or any other information they thought relevant to disclose when joining the club. It was agreed not to include this.

Tom mentioned the Facebook page where non-members are joining and then using it as a platform to sell things. David said that he had sorted that problem as an admin. He had made it so any new member to the Facebook group would have to answer three questions and be vetted before they were allowed to join. David said that he would monitor the Facebook group for a few weeks.

Tom said that he had bought 10 more club keys. He had asked for a new quote for the access system. The original quote was for £4000 plus VAT which also included a laptop which the club now has. He also asked for a quote to have the back door opened by electronic fob. This system could provide a readout which would give an idea of who was coming in or going out of the club when the club was closed. He also said that would be a good idea to change the lock on the lounge door and reissue keys to Council members as there were some sets adrift and Bryan still didn't have a set of keys.

There are a lot of inquiries coming about SUP memberships. New SUP members are joining as full members and being told that Rossendale Valley is a sailing club that allows SUP boarding. Mike and Mark recalled an incident when a lady arrived and started asking questions about SUP boarding.

They thought she was a spy for United Utilities wanting to find out what the club policy was around SUPs. She was wearing a UU shirt and had parked her van at the bottom of the hill.

Tom is also getting enquiries about kayaks and will reply that sit on kayaks only are allowed in case of entrapment.

Two boats on the boat park have now been identified and Tom is writing to the owners. He also proposes to send a letter to members with photos of the seven other boats that don't appear to have any owners to see if anyone can identify ownership.

A disabled gentleman in a wheelchair who wants to join the club to sail a model yacht will be invited up to the club to have a look at the viability of his request now the water level has dropped.

A member who has stopped paying his monthly direct debit has been written to asking the reason why it's been cancelled. There was a discussion about monthly payments whether the direct debits should be reduced to six months so the payment finishes just as the season starts. There was also a discussion about whether new members should pay pro rata from their joining date for the first year but that would have to be a one-off payment.

Tom is going to fill in the RYA club census.

One member who wants a key and a membership for paddle boarding is recorded as payment pending on WebCollect.

Rosendale Leisure Trust is compiling details of sporting clubs in the area for schools. Letter from a lady with a request to hire a boat, for a family of five, was declined.

A letter requesting a taster day for a firm in Burnley will be forwarded to the paddle board instructor who teaches in Thompson's Park, and finally a request from a fisherman who wants a fish from a boat was also declined.

Training Principal's Report: Nick said that the numbers taking part in On Board proved it was a massive success. Mike pointed out that was mainly down to the Sea Cadets, however the number of members taking part was growing. The age for On Board is the RYA recommended ages of 8 to 18 years. Along with the Sea Cadets, who are affiliate members, there had also been taster sessions for Scouts and Guides.

After the recent level 1 course three out of four candidates passed with one not yet ready and requires a few more sessions on the water. The coming level one course has seven candidates. There are between people 8-10 in reserve. Two of the seven candidates have not yet joined the club and due to availability of instructors it was decided that the five candidates who are already members take the course with the other two being added to the reserve list once they have joined the club.

Mick Green has stood down as Chief Instructor, David offered his services to Nick for that role.

Mike said that there was lots of interest in the Powerboat courses.

The club is now able to teach Level 3 so is now able to qualify Assistant Instructors once they have done the training with an SI and passed a level 3 course.

Compliance: Nick said he had signed off As and Bs from the inspection report.

There was a discussion about the operating manual as lots of stuff needs to be included in it. The manual on the website resources page is out of date. Mike has a digital copy which will be sent to Nick for any alterations and additions.

Secretary's Report: Joan said she had received a letter from the RNLI asking if the club could run an event to raise funds for their 200year anniversary. David thought that the club should send a donation to the RNLI but Mike suggested that the club joins the RNLI as a member. A Governor of the RNLI is £114 a year and has voting rights an Offshore member is £85 a year and doesn't have any voting rights. This will be discussed next month.

Council: Louise distributed an action plan from the Safeguarding Team round the Council. It is a comprehensive document which uses the RYA Safeguarding guidelines as its base. Eventually the document will be included in the operating manual. She said that some of the action plan had already been completed e.g the consent form, volunteers doing the Safe and Fun courses and she was also processing DBS forms. At the end of the action plan there was a request to purchase resources to aid the Safeguarding team's work. Purchase of these resources was proposed by David seconded by Mike and passed by the meeting. There was also a discussion about moving the key for the cupboard containing sensitive information in the classroom to a key safe in the classroom. This was agreed.

Joan said that Stephen wanted to propose a change in the signatories is on the NatWest mandate. At present the signatories are Steven himself, Doug, Derek and Gill. Steve said he would like to keep Derek on the mandate for the present but wanted to include Louise on the mandate. Joan offered to be included as a signatory. David proposed the change, Mark seconded the proposal and it was passed.

Bryan said the PCHS had finished its first set of students. He thanked Eric and Kath Hughes and Bob for all their hard work. He said the children really enjoyed the sessions and Nick was arranging certificates for the students. At present he doesn't know when and if another group will be coming. The school's powerboat engine has started cutting out so he has passed on Steve Cann's details.

Bryan said that the RYA will be wanting feedback on the recent grant which the club was awarded, it will supply questionnaires to the people who have benefited from the grant for feedback. When asked about further grants Bryan said that there are always grants available from Sport England.

The club will continue to grow through new members, getting people involved and on the water.

Meeting closed 2125.

Next meeting 17th July 1930 at the clubhouse.