

Rossendale Valley Sailing Club minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of July 2024 at the clubhouse.

Apologies from: Eric Davis, Bob Glowa.

Present: David Hudson (chair), Tom Nimmo, Louise Howarth, Joan Forbes, Mark Barrowcliffe, Steve Booth, Eric Hughes, Mike Morgan.

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 17th of June, read and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Eric, seconded by Tom and passed by the meeting.

Matters Arising: Rear door entry system. Tom had circulated a revised quote from Scope which included the laptop hardware specifications, to enable the system to work. Tom and Steve are to consult with each other about this.

One of the Fireflies has been sold and is now a West Kirby Yacht Club.

Commodore's Report: David thanked the volunteers and helpers who have facilitated the first three sessions of OnBoard. Five children are enjoying the sessions so far. David mentioned that due to extra work commitments he would not be available as much as he usually is, for the time being.

Hon. Treasurer's Report and 100 Club Draw for July: Louise circulated the monthly accounts via email. One of the payments made was for PAT testing. Tom mentioned that Scope also did PAT testing and similar services but was assured by Steve that our present supplier was very good and competitively priced.

The gas and electricity accounts are now being calculated on monthly readings. It was noted that the heating is often on when the club is opened on a Saturday morning. David said that he would speak to Bob about adjusting the thermostats and timings on the Owl system.

The winner of the 100 club draw for July was Martin Lewis.

Membership Secretary's Report: Tom reported that there are now 221 members linked to the club on WebCollect. Actual members are now 179 up from 172. Tom is still receiving many enquiries about courses and kayaks and one about an inflatable rowing boat, although after asking about specifications for the said boat, Tom has not yet had a reply.

Taster sessions have now been set up on Web Collect. There will be twelve places for the first day, Saturday afternoon on the 27th July. Steve has a list of interested parties. A fee of £20 is payable on booking the sessions via WebCollect. Steve said he will email people on the list via the website and advise them that booking is necessary and places are limited.

David commented that there might be more places available for the second taster day in August.

Tom said that he was currently completing the RYA Census. When that had been submitted he was going to write to the non-renewed members to ascertain the reason why they had not renewed.

Training Principal's Report: Mike reported that he had now taken over as Training Principal of the RTC. He thanked everyone who helped to get the RTC reinstated, especially Tom. He said that administratively the RTC was probably the best that it had ever been and was future proof for moving forward.

The relevant certificates are now in the foyer.

Mike said that we are now in a position to restart training, though instructor numbers are again low. First, some Assistant Instructors need training to assist the S.Is. A prerequisite for this is an RYA L3 qualification, which is ongoing.

OnBoard started on the 29th of June. Numbers are low with only three or four Juniors taking part.

Two open days have been planned, one on the 27th July in the afternoon and one on Sunday the 4th August, all day. Sessions will be pre-booked through WebCollect and are for people who have shown an interest in a taster session.

Mike wondered about the use of Dutyman at present and it was agreed that the Dutyman system should not be renewed this year. It can easily be reinstated as an when required.

Mike has spoken to Chris Shaw from the Sea Cadets who was wanting to start sailing sessions for Cadets on the 27th July. However this date clashes with the first Taster Open Day and Mike said was looking for volunteers to help with the Cadets on Sunday the 28th. Volunteers will be available to provide food on the 28th.

Mike then moved on to course fees for the current year. After a short discussion Mike proposed that course fees of £150 for RYA L1 and L2 dinghy courses be set at £150 per course, a RYA Powerboat L2 course fee be set at £200 and a RYA Safety Boat course fee be set at £75. This was seconded by Mark and passed by the meeting.

As a result of a Near Miss report (No 1) it was agreed that it should be verbally reinforced that power boats are adequately re-fuelled before being put away after use, and also, as racing is a club activity, a powerboat should be launched and ready for use if the need arose.

Finally Mike said that he can organise a Safety Boat Course over several sessions, Powerboat refreshers and 'Tonka' launch sessions.

Hon Secretary's Report: Joan said she had nothing to report.

Council: Tom said that he would like to discuss the proposal from last year of a 5% levy for paying monthly, and also the structure of the membership fee system to make it fair for every member. He said that he would like to base all fees on the single adult rate. It was agreed that Tom, Steve and Joan should form a small working party to discuss the possible restructuring of membership and future subscription increases/decreases.

Steve queried whether Bionic had been given the go-ahead to search for a new service provider. Louise confirmed that she was dealing with the matter.

He also said that the returns for the 100 Club need to be sent to Burnley BC and asked if Louise was au fait with Eversign or Xodo. Louise thought that the two signatory return could be completed through Microsoft.

David said that he wasn't yet using the Commodore@ email address and asked Steve if he could go through what was necessary to use the address.

Steve had received an email from Nicki Dean of PCHS asking for two half day sessions on different days next year. It was agreed that this would be difficult to staff and the school should stay with the usual Thursday sessions for 2025. Steve said he would reply to the school.

AOB: Eric mentioned that the leaflets currently being distributed by the club did not contain accurate information. It was agreed that the RVSC leaflet should be revised before being reprinted.

Meeting Closed: 2020.

Next Meeting 19th August 2024 1900.