

**Rossendale Valley Sailing Club.** Minutes of the meeting held at the clubhouse on the 20th of November 2023 at 1930.

**Apologies:** from Mike Morgan.

**Present;** Bob Glowa, David Hudson, Mark Barrowcliffe, Stephen Booth, Nick Antrobus, Tom Nimmo, Bryan Youlden. Eric Davis, Louise Howarth and Joan Forbes.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** 16th of October. Read and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Nick. Seconded by David and passed by the meeting.

**Matters Arising:** The RYA insurance query regarding Public Liability Insurance cover for members over 65 is still ongoing.

**Meetings and Actions:** This is an added item on the agenda. Nick noted that recently there had been an Actions Log but he said he would like to pick up actions as they arise each month, distributing them during the first week after a Council Meeting and sending a prompt out mid-month to check on progress. Hopefully, by doing this, we will not accumulate a lengthy list of 'to do' items.

He asked if Council members could be mindful of time keeping while producing/delivering reports to give more time to being productive at meetings.

The item AOB should be just for items that cannot wait until the next meeting. Urgent items that arise between the agenda being finalised and the Council meeting.

**Commodore's Report.** Nick said he would keep this brief. Nick said that he had been to the RYA Connected conference at the weekend. The RYA explained their transition from RTC to an Affiliate System for Compliance. The RYA and Sport England had highlighted major problems of not extending a welcome and they wanted to learn lessons from other sports that had been in the news recently. He said that the club needs to do things right within the RTE. Tuition, Taster Sessions, Group Sessions, all events must be compliant with the RYA. The club has to comply in 2024 with full compliance by 2025. The inspection is January 2024, and we will have to rewrite procedures and policies. Ideally only do this once in 2024 so that we are ready for 2025.

The requirements for RVSC will be:

Safety management- resources and support available from the RYA to help develop or review current practices.

Welfare and safeguarding including DBS checks and unknown vulnerable adults.

Disclosure checks for regulated activities

Creating an inclusive environment

Complaint resolution.

Nick also mentioned an Equality Policy to ensure that members feel supported, and the club is in line with any anti-discrimination legislation. RYA policy templates are available.

From April 2024 all Affiliates will have to complete questions on renewal of their Affiliation which will help us to prioritise any areas that need support.

**Treasurer's Report:** Louise produced the income and expenditure account for October. Which showed a surplus of £677 pounds income over expenditure.

Steve said that recently a broker had advised the club to change the gas and electricity suppliers for a better, cheaper source than SSE and the club had recently changed to British Gas Lite which was a business supplier. This engendered a discussion about Smart meters and whether they were available for the business account. Brian wondered what deal was available with the change of suppliers and if part of it was to fit Smart meters. Steve said that this was done six months ago. Ideally the club needs someone to read the meters which are on the main road and submit the meter readings online.

Louis said there was nothing unusual on the accounts which showed that there was an increase of £1600 pounds between last October 22 and October 23.

Steve said that there was an amount of £6500 for capital expenditure which includes the flooring in the gents, the windows and cladding. The benches in the gents still need replacing. Bob said he'd thought about fixing brackets to the wall to make the benches using the existing materials. He said he was still chasing the flooring contractors about the quote which they had given, but he hadn't had any success so far. It was suggested that there is a cost analysis done by January of the large cost items, with the flooring being done by February. General maintenance is not usually covered by grants. Bob said he will contact the chap who did the estimate again, but we may need to find an alternative. The cladding and the windows need looking at over the next two months, Steve said there were construction drawings in the classroom. Bryan said he will get quotes.

The 100 club was won by Bob Glowa number 59.

**Membership Secretary's Report.** The members now linked to the club as 210 on WebCollect. Subscribed members now at 191, up from 179 last month. Main interest of enquiries is Paddle Boarding and Kayaking. We now have eight fishing permits and Tom wondered about putting more information on the website. Steve pointed out that a lot of fishermen could cause conflict between anglers and sailors. Tom said he'd had contact with a bailiff who had seen somebody fishing in the pond at the other side of the reservoir. The bailiff had offered to Bailiff the reservoir. Tom said he would get in touch with the bailiff to see what was involved and, if everyone was in agreement, to offer him a free permit for his troubles. Tom said that the letters renewal letters are ready for sending out.

**Training Principal's Report.** 2022 Operations Manual. Nick said that the 2022 RYA Inspection identified areas where the Operations manual contradicted itself. RVSC received an action plan and, after a fashion, compliance was achieved. While RVSC has made tremendous progress there is still a lot of work to do.

Operations System. Nick said that the club needs an Operations System to become 2025 compliant. We could produce a stripped-down version to meet 2024 compliance but that would mean a re-write in 2024 for 2025.

Nick said that Tom will create the design and process infrastructure for the updated Operations Manual and supporting Operations System urgently required to get RVSC through 2024 in preparation for full Affiliate

Commitment in 2025.

Tom will call on individuals and small groups to contribute sections to the Manual and System in order to prevent group overload and slow progress. The next inspection is in January 2024 and the infrastructure and content will be completed by the end December 2023

Nick finished by listing aspirations for 2024 which include growing the school infrastructure to prevent recurring Volunteer Fatigue, delivering a robust sail training schedule, introducing SUP training, assessing Windsurfing demand, assessing the PB Driver pool and Community groups.

Racing was discussed, Nick said it is a great way to improve skills and we need to generate some enthusiasm for racing. Bryan said he would investigate Race Officer and Race Training further.

**Secretary's Report.** Joan said she had not received any correspondence.

**Council.** Louise. Wanted to bring up the subject of social events over the winter months. This might have the possibility of retaining membership. She thought of items like night sale and boat dressing. It was decided that there would be a social event on the 6th of January. With a social sail followed by a Jacob's Join. She would draft an e-mail to be sent out.

Nick raised the subject of the junior powerboat driver. Who is 16 and has PB2 qualification. He is keen to learn dinghy sailing. At his powerboat level two he had a safety boat assessment. Which advised him that he needed 30 hours' experience on the water. He would like to join the club but would need it to be accompanied by a responsible adult until he turns 18. It was agreed that he should be assessed by Mike before he goes out on the water by himself.

Tom: The monthly subscription payments were discussed at the September meeting, and he had revised the figures for the monthly payers. Although it was not a proposal at the AGM, he would still like to apply the 5% increase on monthly payments. It was noted that at the AGM it was agreed that there would be no increase in subs for 2024 due to the cost-of-living crisis. There was a discussion about the figures. Th Steve said that in the past, only two people have dropped out of paying the monthly payments on leaving the club and it was also a way of spreading the costs. As we voted not to increase fees for 2024 it was agreed that the 5% premium for paying monthly would not be applied and we would revise the fees prior to the AGM in 2024.

Tom brought up the subject of Social Membership. He thought it was iniquitous that people pay Social Membership when others can come to the club and enjoy the facilities free of charge. He would like to change the name from Social Membership to Associate Member with a zero fee. Tom proposed to convert Social Membership to Associate Member which will be tied to current members, with a zero fee, seconded by Eric and passed by the meeting. This will have to be ratified by the membership at the 2024 AGM.

Meeting closed. 2145.

Next meeting. 18th of December. 2023.