

Informal Meeting Held to Discuss Club RIB Issues

Meeting – 26.08.04

Present – Dave Heywood, Tony Dean, Dale Huntington, Paul Wood, Darren Smith, Tony Donoghue, John Kirby.

The meeting was held to discuss club RIB issues that were raised at the clubs AGM. At the AGM Dale volunteered to canvas members as to their thoughts on the matter and present them to the club.

He began by outlining the annual RIB costs to the club that came to around £450, this covered servicing, repairs, spares and renewal of equipment. At the current rate of use and price per dive the RIB could never be 'self supporting'. It was explained that the self-supporting was the original concept by some club members but we had never actually achieved this. John said whilst he did not object to club funds being used to run the boat he would not like to see the funds draining away on something that was not being used.

The meeting then discussed costings that ranged over price per dive, increased use and non-diving use.

The outcome was the following, future RIB dives would cost £5 per day/ per person + RIB fuel + launch fees. Cost of towing fuel would be decided on the day between participants.

This level of cost would make the RIB almost self supporting on only 14 trips per year, something the meeting felt should not be beyond the RIBs keen supporters. Paul asked if boat handlers would share the costs if not diving, the reply was no. Although if they sunk the boat and got wet it would be counted as a dive for which they would have to pay!

The discussion on non-diving use revolved around insurance matters which need to be discussed further.

Dale moved on to reasons the boat was not being used, these fell into two areas. Lack of confident qualified boat handlers and lack of confident RIB towers. At present we have around 8 boat handlers of varying levels of confidence and 4 possible beginners.

Tony Dean outlined the revival of his in-house boat-handling course that members could take prior to taking the official course. This would comprise of 6 weeks theory and at least 4 sessions on the RIB.

He was also willing to set up a course for the VHF licence. All this would require a high level of commitment from the members taking part, he did not want to see a situation where a dozen started the course and only a couple finished. The meeting thanked Tony for his offer. Tony said the course could start with the coming Farnes W/E for those going out on the RIB. Tony Donoghue said he would help with the course when possible.

Could any member interested in taking the course contact Tony Dean directly so he has some idea of the numbers involved. It is open to beginners, members who did not complete previous courses and those wanting to renew their skills.

Confidence in towing, it was felt that any one with the confidence to take the RIB out to sea would find towing a piece of cake. An increase in the number of boat handlers should see a small

increase in the number of towers. Tony Dean offered to give towing lessons to anyone who felt the need.

The meeting then ranged over a number of RIB topics:

- 1 On completion of the next boat handlers course a boat committee will be formed.
- 2 After dive care of the RIB, all those on the RIB trip should share the tasks that are required to get the boat cleaned up and back to its home parking spot. This should include escorting the the towing vehicle if necessary to avoid incidents like leaving Eric on the hard shoulder with his family changing a trailer tyre.
- 3 RIB servicing, this should be well before the diving season. The meeting felt the RIB should not have a 'season', there is no reason why it cannot be used on rivers and canals all year round to keep boat handlers up to scratch.