

2 Feb 25

RAYC Committee*

RC(O) REPORT TO RAYC COMMITTEE MEETING – 5 FEB 25

1. **Overview/Exec Summary.** The winter has been marked in large part by Ex CANARY UBIQUE. St Barbara V deployed to the Canary Islands between Sep 24 – Apr 25 and by the end of that time will have provided adventurous sail training opportunities for some 90 service personnel. The work put in by CoB and the Bosuns to maintain the Club boats has been stellar; and deserving of particular mention is the time devoted by both Bosuns to skippering legs for Ex CANARY UBIQUE. Both have spent considerable time away in order to ensure the success of the Exercise.
2. **Ex CANARY UBIQUE (CU).**
 - a. **Exercise overview.** The Exercise so far has been a great success with over 50 regular and reserve soldiers from the Royal Artillery and attached arms taking part thus far – including a leg taken on by AGC soldiers. Three legs remain - legs 9, 10 and 11. Leg 9 has just commenced with crew from 47 Regt flying out and the route will take in Morocco, which is a fantastic effort to have achieved, as it is understood that StBV is the only service boat to have been granted diplomatic clearance for Morocco since the RAYC's last visit in 2019 on Ex MEDITERRANEAN UBIQUE.
 - b. **Ex CU Project Officer.** Outstanding from the minutes of the last meeting: to identify a replacement for Maj Josh Bate as project officer, since he is now into his terminal leave and gearing up for civilian life.
3. **Overview of the RAYC fleet.** St Barbara V (StBV) is currently deployed on EX CU and after spending time on her a month ago on Ex CU I can testify that she is in a good state. Bombardier III (Bdr III) is currently on her winter maintenance programme with new rudder bearings being fitted and being prepared for the new season.
 - a. **StBV engine replacement.** At the start of the 2024 season StBV suffered engine failure, receiving a new engine in Jul 24. During Ex CU she has had a replacement starter motor and suffered a fuel tank leak that was repaired by the Bosun Bdr Middleton and Leg 7 Mate Maj Giles.
 - b. **Sail replacement plan for RAYC fleet.** StBV had a new Main sail in Oct 23 and there should be a condition check conducted in the 2028 season if she receives heavy use from AT. StBV also had a new furling headsail before deploying on Ex CU, which should be condition-checked in 2029. Bdr III's sails are coming to end of life with the need for the new headsail to be made as part of the next welfare bid and the main sail to be replaced on the following one.
 - c. **Further upgrade work on StBV.** In conjunction with CoB and the RAYC Bosuns I will develop a plan detailing any essential upgrade works necessary so StBV can continue to be used on long range AT. Initial scoping work has been completed, options are being evaluated and recommendations will be made by 1 Apr 25. A programme of works that reflects the selected aspects and the immediacy of their fitting to StBV will be undertaken thereafter.

4. Training and Development

a. **JSASTC Leadership and Development.** With JSASTC now offering a leadership and Development program using their funding and facilities we should look to use this to progress the current and future bosuns up through the qualifications, in order that they are then in a position to qualify new skippers and mates for future exercises.

b. **Project AFTERGUARD.** A plan is in development which will be circulated to all participating Regts and organisations detailing the skipper, mate and crew qualifications and Training that will be available in this summer's Project AFTERGUARD: courses, specialised trg for YMs, qualifying passages, time on board etc.

c. **Proposed offshore sail training programme.** A detailed proposed plan for 2025 and 2026 needs to be discussed with the Committee. Comments from committee members are welcome with the aim of having a workable plan in place by the AGM, for announcement to RAYC members.

d. **COs' familiarisation event 2025.** I will investigate the viability of organising such an event and if deemed appropriate we will plan and execute a day out for the regimental COs. A decision on when it might be and the format of such an event is still TBC.

e. **Ex CU PXR.** As EX CU comes to a end on 25 Mar 25 I will be looking over the PXR with the CoB and the Bosuns to discover any lessons to carry forward to future RAYC exercises.

5. **RAYC Bosuns succession planning.** In accordance with the dates outlined below I will initiate a trawl for suitable (and if possible qualified and experienced) volunteers to replace each soldier listed below.

a. **LBdr Johnston.** In a 16 Regt RA JPA PID. Has accepted promotion and a posting back to 16 Regt RA (EOT 10 Feb 25). Replacement to be ID'd ASAP. **LBdr Johnson is to be thanked for the many years of sterling service he has given to the RAYC** (I believe 8 years?)

b. **Bdr Middleton.** Also in a 16 Regt RA JPA PID. Is currently on a continuation of his posting (EOT Feb 31). His replacement will need to be identified at least 12 months in advance of his EOT (i.e. Feb 30).

6. **Purchase of oil skins.** There is a requirement to replace all the foul weather gear that the club owns after heavy use in charters; the Bosuns report that the current Rooster kit is no longer suitable for use. The plan would be to replace it with Helly Hansen kit at 10 sets over 2 of the next welfare bids.

7. **RA Regatta 6-7 Sep 25.** Cdre, VCdre and RC(O) will conduct recce to Yarmouth 16 Apr.

8. **MCA new rules.** Currently StBV is coded under the blue code allowing us to achieve category 0 unrestricted sailing. The MCA is due to bring out a new code that will replace all of the small boat codes currently in service. At present there is no timeline on replacement of the coding schemes; however, this will very likely impact on future activity, and this must be closely monitored.

9. A draft one-pager throwing some ideas for where the Club might go is below – this is a 'starter for 10' and very much intended to be ripped apart and reworked with input from the Cte.

[Original signed]

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Lt Col
RC(O) RAYC

RAYC – STRATEGY ONE-PAGER

1. Vision/Mission

- a. Promote sail Trg in RA units
- b. Increase use of RA yachts
- c. Generate a much larger pool of qualified SP IOT
- Identify replacement Bosuns
- Facilitate RA sailing AT
- Facilitate wider Jt Services sailing AT
- Increase usage and profitability of the Club boats

2. Endstate

- a. RA Yachts making a profit
- b. RA yachts used to deliver ambitious and exciting AT
- c. Large pool of sailing qual'd SP created

3. Measurement of Effectiveness

- a. Profit (how much? Stretch tgt/realistic tgt)
- b. X SP participating in sailing AT annually (how many? Stretch/realistic)
- c. AT expeds delivered – which boats? And where?
- d. Every RA unit participating in sail Trg and/or expeds
- e. Bosuns (des) identified and trained
- f. 2 YM Offshore created per year
- g. 3 YM Coastal created per year
- h. 10 DS created per year
- i. 30 CC created per year

4. Steps/Tasks

- a. Engagement with units: COs, RSMs, UATOs, Unit Sailing Offrs – RC(O). CO away day?
- b. Summer 25 – Proj AFTERGUARD – Bosuns/RC(O)/RAYC Trg Offr
- c. CC and DS courses - Bosuns/RC(O)/RAYC Trg Offr
- d. Consider running ARes-friendly trg over 2 weekends
- e. Determine what expeds will be run (CANARY/MEDITERRANEAN/HIGHLAND UBIQUE?) and identify Project Offr(s)