



Title:	Annual Report 2023
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Purpose:	For Approval

On behalf of the Executive and of the various sub-committee chairs, I present the Annual Report for 2022 and 2023.

Prologue

Before continuing, we must say a few words about the sorely missed MC Black.....
That he was a most loyal and stalwart supporter of the RCSA and of the RCSA Trust needn't be repeated here, but the support he has given to the current exec over recent months is known only to a few. Before we got involved, a despondent MC truly believed that we had lost the Association; that it was doomed and irretrievably damaged. He fully expected that only the RCSA Trust would survive.

That Nas Andriopoulos was able to keep the Association on 'life support' during covid, and able to put in place a new exec to resuscitate and reinvigorate the Association, was a very welcome surprise for MC.

MC's support ranged from the trivial (such as putting us in touch with past suppliers of ties and cuff-links), through to deep thoughts about the role of the RCSA Braintrust in student mentoring, and about the interrelationship between the Association and the Trust. MC even tried to make a start implementing some of the proposals that we discussed. Thank you MC, for your input. Indeed thank you for everything, and may you rest in peace.

Introduction

When Nas Andriopoulos, the 'last exec member standing' wished to relinquish his position as Deputy President, it became clear, not only that an entirely new exec would be required, but also an entirely new approach to conducting the business of the RCSA would be required. So it was, on the day of the death of our Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, the 8th September 2022, that we began to work.

Things were bad. Everything had been broken by Covid and by neglect. HMRC were demanding payment and issuing fines, yet we couldn't access any money. There were no signatories on the bank accounts and the account had, in any case, been frozen by NatWest as an anti-money laundering precaution. We didn't have a membership list, couldn't sell memberships, we couldn't send or receive emails and we couldn't manage our social media accounts.

But a gargantuan effort slowly put all these matters to right. Andy Needham details some of the tasks in his finance report, but similar efforts were required in all areas.

The traditional committee structure was put to one side. The Committee established a nimble sub-committee comprised of the Exec and the sub-committee chairs. To this sub-committee was delegated all the powers of the Committee. The productivity gains were instant and enormous. Without question, the recovery work could never have proceeded with such pace and efficacy had we continued with the traditional Committee. The new multi-mode, multi-day meetings conducted by a variety of on-line means, with every one of the participants being actively involved the work of the RCSA completely unburdened us and gave the fleetness of foot to pull the Association out from the mess we were in. But the work is far from complete, and the exec are strongly recommending that we continuing with this mode of working for most, if not all, of this coming year and that we extend this way of working to the RCSA Trust. By the time of the next AGM we will be in a position to recommend either the return of the traditional Committee and Management Board or the permanent adoption of some of the new practices. At that time we can consult with the AGM on any necessary changes to RCSA rules or to the Deed.

The Exec includes the Hon Sec and Deputy President, but in practice we have been following a structure piloted by the RSMA and from which they have derived great benefit: we have been running with two Hon Secs. We have an Hon Sec (General), in the form of Oscar Farrell, and an Hon Sec (Comms and Membership) which has been Jim Sarsfield. And we fully intend to continue with these arrangements.

Activities of 2023

Many of the activities are already documented on the web site www.rcsa.org.uk so we shall only make a brief reference to those web posts here.....

- Death of Her Majesty The Queen
- New Team at the Helm
- William RANDERSON Awards
- ORCS Top their League
- NO.1: RCSU NEWSLETTER
- Tom ELLINGHAM Awards
- Another Heirloom Saved
- No.2: RCS Union, having a Ball....
- ORCS Win the SKADL League
- RCS Motor Club 'Run From Imperial'
- No.3: RCSU News(letter)
- Supporting the Armenia 2023 Expedition
- Great Exhibition Road Festival and Alumni Weekend
- New "Member News" Feature
- Save-the-dates and other Presidential News
- Arctic Finland 2023 Expedition
- CEP and the RCSA
- RCSA Saves the Day
- Member News Update....
- Lofoten Islands, Norway 2023 Expedition
- Contribute to the success of the Imperial Brand Project
- 'Ordinary Punters' Win the SKADL League
- Celebrate with the youngsters
- The RCSA Prize
- One for the Diary
- FoNS 2024 Make-A-Difference Launch
- Exploration Board Report Back Evening
- RCSA / RCSU Bar Night

- Wednesday's Barnight and Presidential Greeting
- Supporting Students (quite literally!)
- Joint RCSA/RCSMC Student and Alumni Dinner

Activities that have not (or have not yet) made the headlines include:

- Reestablishing relations with Alumni Services, FoNS and the CGCA
- Engaging deeply with FoNS on student hardship and making a modest contribution to the Dean's Fund
- Engaging deeply with FoNS on outreach and preparing a pack that our members can use, for example, in talks with their old schools
- Arranging the return of the Presidential Chain of Office from previous president. Getting an RCSA tie from an old member for the president's use.
- Re-establishing relations with RSMA and representing the Association at their 150th Annual Dinner
- Refurbishing of RCSMC Tunics (first few)
- Continuing our support for IYP/RCSA-Young Professionals by extending their domain name and ISP arrangements. Promoted RCSA-YP on rcsa.org.uk and continue to strive for closer links, so far without a breakthrough.
- Offering Web hosting facilities to all the RCSU clubs following the withdrawal of such facilities by ICU. Offer taken up by the RCSMC.
- Liaising with IC and RCS Rugby to arrange 2023 Sparkes Cup with was ultimately unsuccessful
- Establishing ability to issue Membership cards. Issued about 20 of them to date. Can send them around the world at modest prices.
- Creating a 'pull-up' banner with a long life that will not date. Used at Alumni Weekend and RVSA/RCSU barnight.
- Members' News section of the web site launched. Seen as the missing ingredient for the website to becoming an on-line version of 'The Record'. It proved a useful mechanism to promote Detective Walk and Tower or London tour that have been of interest to Members in the past.
- Engraving the Hon Sec tankard up to date, (but not yet engraved the H.G. Wells Cup).
- Fielding many approaches from non-members: found keys, Japanese TV companies researching HG Wells, members of the public searching for our members and past officers, potential employers seeking to confirm our member's credentials
- Article written for RCSU freshers' Handbook
- Randerson awards extended to new RCSU VP (Clubs and Societies), to the RCSU Alumni Officer (Theta Bearer) and the value increased in line with inflation.
- RCSA Prize uplifted in line with inflation
- Next tranche of RCSMC Tunic cleaning and repairs commissioned
- Set up Annual Dinner sub-committee under chairmanship of Ed Stow to arrange dinner in conjunction with the RCSMC to be held in the Kew Bridge Pumping Museum (LMWS) on 23rd March - the Saturday after the end of term.
- Agreed dates with RCSU for RCSU Annual Dinner (1st June 2024) and another RCSA/RCSU bar night, this time to be held in Metric (12th March 2024)

Communications

The website - www.rcsa.org.uk - is updated regularly. In addition, the Association has an active presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, and more regular news and communications is going through these media as well as through the occasional email (which we try to limit to three per year). Our Twitter and Facebook accounts have increased their following, but still lag behind our LinkedIn account. Our use of Instagram is in its infancy.

We have a workable database of Members which has taken some considerable effort to compile.

Mike Munroe
President
06 February 2024