



MYA MD Secretary 2019 AGM report.

I consider radio sailing to be a release from the Real World, full of friendly people enjoying themselves, despite flukey winds and the occasional dodgy tactics of the other skippers. Along with tea, coffee and breaks for lunch.

It has been a pleasure to see new yachts, with their skippers, at the Midlands events and then to see them returning to enjoy more Midlands events. Experienced skippers, in particular Darin Ballington and Chris Harris have gone out of their way to help the novices trim their sails and repair their yachts. This has yet to result in any novice race wins though.

It is noticeable how the standard of racing continues to improve without any shouting on the water. Turns are being undertaken, at the first opportunity.

All the venues have worked hard to make race days flow and have provided the full range of winds without any wet days, that I recollect, until last Sunday at Bournville RS&MBC. There was a shipwrecked rescue boat, at Watermead, I think, which has now been replaced.

The Midlands is now running a District series for the IOM, Marblehead and 6metre classes as well as supporting the Dragons.

Birmingham MYC at Sutton Coldfield have run some excellent training days, led by John Burgoine. We all now know the theory and the quality of the refreshments.

More racing practice is the next step.

No casual visitor to Manor Park RSC is allowed to leave until they have had a trial sail of a "spare" yacht. Always happy to lend settings, parts, string, tape and support.

Abington Park MYC continue to support the Footy, and this year have added a fleet of "choppas" to support their efforts in junior sailing.

Bournville RS&MBC, Lincoln RSC, Two Islands RYC and Manor Park RSC have all hosted MYA Nationals and Ranking events, so many thanks to them for taking on these prestigious events.

It seems that success is down to making people welcome and then following it up with enthusiastic club and district race reports.

It would be a special delight to me if after all the effort that clubs put on to run events, a few more of their own resident skippers could brave it, as we enjoy ourselves as visitors so much. Having two heats also gives the older skippers a break between races, unless one is middle of the fleet, when it is harder than ever...

Sadly a few events have been cancelled mostly due to weed, which is infesting Stanton Lakes, otherwise a great venue with the usual welcome. Leicestershire RYC has also had its own problems with the toilet facilities that has curtailed their all-day events.

Here is looking forward to building on these MD events into 2020.

I am happy to stand for re-election to the post of MD secretary at the AGM.

Colin Walton.