



MYA Midlands Committee Meeting - 18.30 Friday 27th March 2020

In attendance, via WhatsApp: - Bill Green (Councillor), Stephen Hodgkinson (Chairman), Gordon Sears (Webmaster), Colin Walton (Secretary).

Minutes of the online meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Midland District Survey Results 2020 and the helpful comments volunteered.

The committee is delighted with the number of responses (40). We feel that the survey answers give an honest and considerate way for us all to understand the reduced attendance for travellers and the home club members at Midlands events. (Five years ago, we were running two fleets at Midlands IOM meetings and now numbers are only sufficient for one fleet or are just into double figures).

Gordon is delighted at the number of hits he gets on the Midlands website, particularly following Midlands events, numbering several times the number of entries. He endeavours to get results up right away and is most particular in showing the event entry lists. We are going to review this so that it is more obvious who has entered an event.

The club membership is aging, and travelling less and with other commitments, such as family and health. As a result of this, the geographical size of the district and the local club facilities are both important. 90 minutes travelling time each way to a single day's event is mentioned as a travel limit and no toilet provision is not an option. These can be covered in future explicitly in the Notice of Race. The committee will prepare a list of all district club facilities after auditing, which we hope to have featured on the Midland District website.

Everyone who has come to events in the last 12 months seems to have enjoyed themselves. The committee have successfully made big efforts to avoid any shouting or fits of pique, at events, in line with the Code of Conduct. There is definitely resentment about a few skippers who "exploit" their knowledge of the rules to gain advantage, disrupting the day. (Colin would like each skipper to have no more than one Protest a year, a bit like Hawkeye). Some moderate skippers would like to win occasionally. This seems unlikely unless they prepare and perform better. We must ensure that the races are fair and will work to ensure that the windward marks are visible at all venues. (Comments about Specsavers).

Colin feels that everyone is best welcomed by name as they arrive. Then they should be tactfully encouraged and helped by other skippers with their yachts, explained the idiosyncrasy of the local course, etc. This builds the club spirit. We all appreciate the club that we have joined, along with the friendship and shared experience.

Bill runs the Tri-Services event successfully with breaks after every 2 races, allowing time to catch up with friends, so not outpacing the skippers. Colin knows that older members can be quite knackered after 16-18 races and 5 miles plus on the lake side. He reckons that with a single fleet there should be an agreed tea-break and a half-hour lunch break, perhaps stopping after 12 races.

Gordon considers that for the district series races the race day should still go from 10.00 to 16.00 as now, avoiding any insane rush to change rigs or batteries, and perhaps with a slower tempo make it more accessible to all.



Gordon pointed out that the original idea of the Midlands District series races is to be part way between Club races and the National Rankings. Colin wondered whether monthly district IOM races may be too frequent. Previously we considered that it was important to offer a regular programme.

Colin wondered whether anyone would appreciate a district race on a weekday, which would give the club sailors more of an advantage.

There was mention of too many classes, and too many events. I accept if you have more than one class of yacht and wish to campaign them you will find yourself travelling a lot, but those with a single class need the opportunity to sail regularly. There was mention of the fact that we don't do anything for the DF65 & DF 95 classes even though they have a quite large following among our clubs. These classes are well catered for with their traveller series, and there are several events in each district each season. You may have noticed that we have put in a District Championship event for the DF65/RG65 as a test event at Bournville RS&MBC on 20th September, as this is an ideal venue for these smaller boats and it should be suitable for all.

Bill mentioned about resuming sailing after Covid 19 passes and feels that we may only be left with the MYA IOM Nationals on the programme at the August Bank Holiday.

The committee thinks that everyone will want to get back down to their club and that other things will be secondary later this year.

There are still some questions and recommendations that we can address based on the replies we had and once something has been formulated, we will post it up to the website.

The Midland committee are available to chat to any members at this time.

Meeting closed at 19:08.

Colin Walton.
MD Secretary.