



MYA Midlands Committee Meeting – 19:00 Tuesday 8th June 2021.

The meeting was conducted by Zoom and hosted by Gordon S.

In attendance, Bill Green, Colin Walton, Stephen Hodgkinson, Mike Ewart, Chris Cook, Paul Barton, Gordon Sears.

Apologies, None.

AGENDA/Minutes.

1. The initial reason for this MD Committee meeting is to consider the district budget for 2022, this was raised by Bill Green (MYA Councillor) who will chair this part of the meeting.

What plans/projects do we have for next year's MD district MYA grant?

After a discussion, the district agreed to request the 2022 District budget allowance from the MYA to help with the following projects. Manor Park RSC have requested funds towards a new rescue boat, it was felt this was something we could support considering similar requests from our other district clubs in previous years. Whitefriars SC have requested some buoyancy aids for use when they are on the water in their rescue boat, again this was considered essential as it is a health and safety issue.

Bill Green & Mike Ewart, also requested some support with measuring equipment and training for the district measurers.

The committee consider these projects worth supporting and so Bill G will be in contact with David Rose (MYA Treasurer) for the 2022 funding allocation.

2. The 2021 district racing calendar, we have a draft which I published on the MD website on 1st April and now that a lot of the Covid restrictions have been relaxed we need to check that we can go ahead with the events for the rest of this year as drafted. We then also need to discuss the format and number of events we wish to plan for in 2022. Gordon will chair this part of the meeting.

Gordon S has reviewed the Midland District events that we could host for the rest of the 2021 season in conjunction with the MD club secretaries, and we have come up with a revised district calendar. The main thing is that we have reduced the number of events so as not to overload the clubs, and still leave them room for some club sailing.

It is hoped that as Covid restrictions are lifted we can get back to some racing from July onwards, lockdowns and the law permitting.

Gordon S will send the MD calendar to Austin G (MYA DCO) for inclusion in the MYA online events calendar, and a list of the events will be posted to the Midland District website and distributed to all club secs.



3. Bill Green has raised a question about the future of the “Club Measurer”, this is considering the requests for boat measurement and the new structure and training program for the measurers. A new idea is 3D printed boats and this will need to be addressed by the class technical committee to see if they would be considered legal with the current rules. Bill will chair this part of the meeting.

There was quite a long discussion regarding measurers in the district as some skippers had to travel to other clubs to get their boats measured, obviously this adds to the workload in some of the clubs that have the facilities to measure displacement boats for instance. There are a significant number of 6m and A class boats requiring measurement both from within the MD and clubs further afield. Currently it's estimated that there are in the region of 80 off 6's and at least 30 off A's. Each class takes about a morning each to measure each boat. The classes are short of qualified measurers and the back log imposes a significant workload on the very few that are, both Bill and Mike have recognised this for some time but the probable ending of Covid restrictions freeing up Bournville in particular to measure again, has exacerbated the situation. These are class specific issues and will be addressed by the two COG's.

Bill G & Mike E, will continue to work on this and report back to the committee.

As for 3D printing, this is becoming easier for a lot of home builders and the fact that some construction methods could fall foul of the building regulations where the measurer cannot confirm the construction is becoming an issue. The longer that this is left to develop the more boats there will be sailing and the harder it will be to maintain class integrity.

4. AOB. Chaired by Stephen Hodgkinson.

So far, we have on the table from last year is a planned visit by Colin W and Gordon S to Whitefriars SC, all we need to do now is fix a date. Paul Barton.

Colin W & Gordon S have confirmed with Paul B (Whitefriars SC) that they would still like a visit, and Paul will get back to us when he has spoke to the club's committee. It looks like a Monday, or a Friday would suit all, it is just a matter of fixing a date now.

Mike E & Chris C have also indicated that they could come along.

Maybe we as a committee should try to visit other clubs in our remit during this year to see if they have anything we can help with?

As for the other clubs we will get in contact with them to see if they would like us to visit, if possible, this would be a weekday so as not to overload the weekends.

Colin W has raised a couple of points, the first being a new form of race starter, which he will explain.

Colin W demonstrated a recording of a race starter that is stored on a mobile phone, and then by Bluetooth this is amplified by a portable speaker. This is an alternative option to the system we tend to use at the minute and has the advantage of running on any phone and speaker combination making it readily available to all clubs.



Colin has created a short video to help the beginner with some of the basics of RC sailing. He suggests that maybe we could create a short video for each club and post then to YouTube. This lines up with my thinking in an earlier email to Bill G and maybe we should have our own District YouTube channel linked to the website for just these sorts of videos.

There was quite a lot of support for this idea, and Gordon S had been doing some work on this over the last couple of weeks to see what is practical. Initially it was thought that we could post some small video clips to the MD website, but the file size even for a short video would make this impractical. Gordon S then looked at the possibility of making a MYA MD YouTube channel to host the videos and link them back to the MD website. This looks a possibility and will be investigated further.

Gordon S shared a short (2minute) video clip he had created on behalf of the Market Bosworth RYC to see what format would work to promote each club. Once edited etc the file size for a 1080p video is around 90Mb for a couple of minutes.

If we were to go ahead with this idea each club could have an introductory video on the district YouTube channel, and it should follow a common format.

Each club would produce their own video limited to 2 minutes run time, the format should be pictures and video with any text showing the club facilities and some boats and sailing on the venue. Pictures should ideally be landscape around 1920*1080 format, so it fits in with any video clips. These should be in mp4 format, do not forget any music that you include must be copyright free. All images and video must also be with the permission of the original owner. Make your own is the best way.

If a club cannot edit their own content, I can advise if required, and any content produced for inclusion on the proposed district YouTube channel will have to be approved prior to its posting up on the site.

If this is successful and the clubs support this the channel could then be expanded to include the video that Colin W is working on, plus things like boat setup and racing etc.

This has the potential to add quite a lot to the district but will only be a success if the clubs provide ongoing support with new content.

If you have anything to add to AOB please email it out to all MD committee members by Sunday 6th July.

One addition to the agenda was a request by Mike E that we should acquire a new trophy for the district 6M Champion Skipper series, the old shield needs to be replaced. Bill G & Chris C mentioned that Bournville RS&MBC have several trophies that are not being sailed for at the moment and they would check with Vic Bellerson to find out if any of them could be repurposed.

Gordon thanked all committee members for giving up their time, it is noted that there has been more communication between the committee now that we are conducting business by video conference.

Minutes added from the notes taken by Colin W during the meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:53.



Gordon Sears. MD webmaster.