

## **Report to the District**

### **October 2021**

My last report to the District was just before the pandemic kicked off, none of us knew what was about to happen and the profound impact it would have on us all. Thankfully we are now on the way out of what has been a very difficult couple of years. In essence radio sailing only restarted earlier this year, some club activity took place before that but with some serious restrictions in place. The team that makes up the District committee, very early on, decided that our priority was to ensure that the clubs in the District were supported to ensure that when we could get going, we could. Largely that has worked, in fact when we look at the overall numbers, we have seen new clubs to the District and generally increased levels of membership in clubs throughout the District. We have seen lots of new and refurbished boats which says lockdown time was not wasted. The MYA provided good solid help and information on how to handle Covid with regular updates to clubs on protocols, risk assessment etc changing as the pandemic evolved. We made ourselves available so that if you need advice or help it was there. Not many of you needed that, which is a testament to the way that clubs are run in the Midlands.

During that time, we dispensed grants from the MYA District allocation to various clubs to allow them to get their projects to improve their facilities. Some went on repairs or replacements of safety boats, motors for the same, contributions to ride on mowers, power brushes to sweep paths, updates to measurement equipment, buoy laying motor-boats and other similar items. The door is always open to our clubs for future grant allocations, you just need to come up with a viable proposition that is of benefit to your club and preferably to the District, then we will consider it. We have an annual allocation of £750 in 2022 to cover such items that also has to cover any training the District may need. For that we need to understand what you want, as we already know that Measurement training will figure large in 2022.

Who are the District Team? Myself, as the District Councillor representing the District Clubs at MYA Council, Steve Hodgkinson is the Chair, Colin Walton looks after District events, Gordon Sears covers the web site and lots more, Chris Cook is Trustee and last, but by no means least Mike Ewart is the Senior Measurer. This team has been together now since 2016 and some go back further. We work extremely well, and I could not do what is required without their continuous support, I thank them for all their help, advice, hard work and good companionship. As you may have guessed I am looking to stand down as Councillor as I feel its time that somebody else may well want to take this role on and its right that the District should decide. So, if anyone does want to step forward please contact me and we can talk through what the role entails.



What are the aims for the future? The Midland District has gained a reputation for being well organised, working for its clubs and proactive. Our main aim is to maintain that approach and build on it, a number of the other Districts use our Constitution as model for their own, our web site also acts as a model and the District Councillors meet regularly outside of Council to co-ordinate our activities and learn from one another. All that feeds back into our support to the clubs.

The District racing calendar is now established and there events across nearly all of the fleets that are in play across the district. You'd be surprised just how diverse the fleets are from the largest to the smallest they are all represented in the District. Of course, the IOM is the most popular, but the DF classes are catching up, about the only class that does not figure is the 10rater. Not many Districts if any, has the diversity of classes sailed that we have. The District racing calendar will soon be up on the website so please come and take part in the District events. It's good to meet up again, sail together, have some fun, make some new friends, hopefully I and the rest of the team will see you at some of those events.

The Districts AGM will be in November and that's your opportunity to get you clubs voice heard, the notices that cover that have already been sent to our clubs and please take part. We are here for you and need your input. Please contact anyone of the team if you want to discuss anything with us.

Bill Green

MYA Midland District Councillor



