

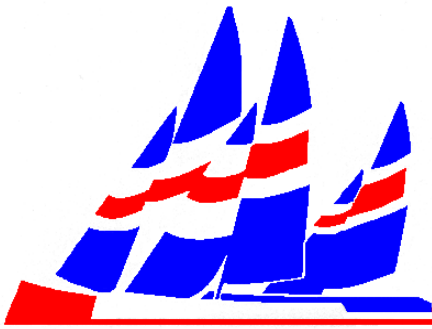
Midland District Secretary,

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Visit our website www.mya-uk.org.uk

Model Yachting Association



Midland District Secretary's Report 2011

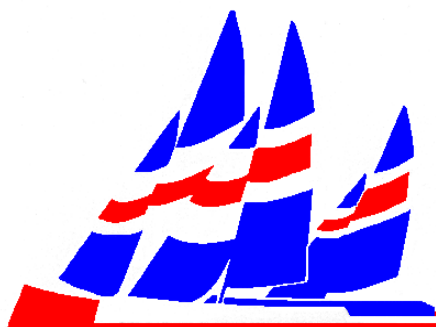
It seems like 2011 has been a quiet year in the Midland District which may be because people were focusing on the Worlds at West Kirby in May, but also because in 2010 we had a number of major events, yet in 2011 we have not had any.

Although both the Midland District Champion Skipper Winter and Summer Series were reasonably well attended, numbers were probably down slightly on the previous year and there is still only a small minority that support more than one or two events. It has been suggested that the fragmented dates arranged around the Worlds was a factor in this but I personally feel most of it is down to the unwelcome rise in the cost of fuel and also the economic squeeze on most people's pockets. I have tried to address the programme issue in 2012 by spacing the events out more evenly but I am not able to help much with skippers travelling costs. One way we can all address this though, is by sharing lifts to events thus not only easing the financial burden, but also making the journey easier and swelling the numbers on the water. Why not invite a member of your club to come along with you in the future but make sure he knows he "owes" you room at the windward mark!

On the subject of running and organising these events I would like to thank all the PRO's and RO's for giving their time to enable us to have these events. Those who follow the MYA forum will have seen the debate about the quality of event management and whilst I can see room for improvement, often, I believe, the physical and natural constraints mean we end up with a compromise and those most vocal in their criticism could do no better themselves. Whilst we all want to be competitive, we need to remember that without a willing volunteer to moan at and generally be obstructive with, we would not have a race day at all. We need to keep reminding ourselves and others it is only a hobby after all and we are out to enjoy ourselves. PRO's may welcome your advice if presented in the right way.

Patron H.R.H. The Prince Phillip Duke Of Edinburgh K.G.

Affiliated to the I.S.A.F: R.S.D., C.C.P.R (Water Recreation Division) & R.Y.A.
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On the subject of events it goes without saying that the more an event is publicised and the better it is run, the more people are going to turn up to it and the next one the club runs. The MYA and the Midland District structure is in place to help clubs with this, but they can only do so if asked. The website is maintained by a number of people and is the perfect vehicle for communicating with others what is going on. Before and after a MDCS event we can see as many as 60-70 people visit the site which is surprising when only 20 or so are at the event. If you want to tell other members let us know and we can do it for you.

When I took on the role of MD Sec last year it was to carry on the good work of Darin Ballington and Graham Allen in whipping up a bit of enthusiasm in the District and so we can continue to build on this, I have agreed to stand for another year. I hope all the members I serve will give me their support and encouragement as I do it for them not for myself.

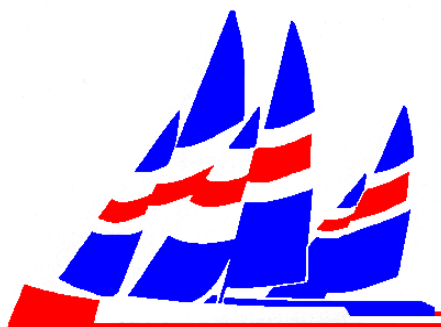
Finally it would be wrong for me not to congratulate the Midland Skippers Tony Edwards, Darin Ballington and Chris Harris on some significant performances over the year in World, National, Ranking and District competitions. I only sail IOM so I apologise if this seems a little biased towards the 1 metre but if you haven't told me of a significant success I will never know.

Reviewing the provisional 2012 calendar, it looks like 2011 was a gap year for the Midland District and an opportunity for us to catch our breath and prepare for the year ahead. With a potential IOM ranking being run by Bournville early in the year at Bartley Sailing Club and the IOM Nationals destined for 2 Islands later in the year and a Marblehead Ranking also, we will need all the help we can muster for 2012.

Paul Stubbs
MD Secretary

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