

**Midland District Secretary,
Paul Stubbs.
19 Marysgate,
Wistaston
Crewe.
CW2 8HH**

Email: midlands-sec-11@mya-uk.org.uk

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

Model Yachting Association

Midland District Secretary's Report 2012

2012 – A Success??

Looking back, 2012 was a busy year for the Midland District with the usual IOM Winter and Summer Series, Ranking Events for IOM and RM, 2 rounds of the PRACC series and the IOM National Championships.

A healthy outlook one might say with a busy and thriving model yachting community.

Well Yes and No.

Yes, these events were generally well run and well attended and yes it would seem that the majority of clubs have relatively stable memberships, but behind this is a concern that so much is still being done by very few.

I accept that not everyone wants to race at district level and the cost of travel is still a problem, but the main events (that to a degree showcase our sport and ensure we have a steady stream of members for the future) still fall to a small number to arrange, run and support.

The Nationals at 2 Islands was a flagship event for our district and whilst not possible without the incredible efforts of the 2 Islands and other club members, really only happened because of Graham Allan's determination to make it so. We need leaders like Graham to have this vision, but equally our leaders need your support and we also need new leaders for the future.

My sole aim in taking on this role 2 years ago was to ensure that our model yacht racing carries on at District level to improve competition and ensure local clubs strengthen and survive. This is still my main motivation (that and finishing ahead of a Britpop!) and one that depends on support from you for our series and the main events.

Some may say they are happy just to sail at "home" and are not interested in the "District" but I believe clubs that adopt this attitude will very quickly dwindle in membership and sadly disappear.

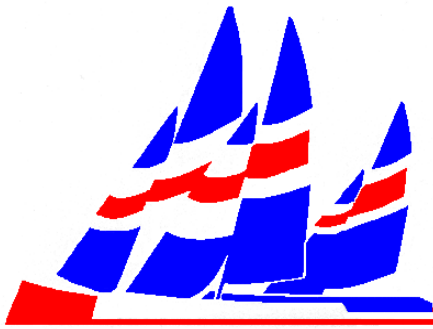
So please, I would urge members of clubs to support your officers, support your clubs and support your district to ensure our hobby gets stronger for following generations..

District Championships

As for last year the numbers attending the MDCS and MDWS have continued to fall slightly and I would really love to stop this downward trend. We may have suffered from ice in the winter (cancelling one round and postponing another) and we also regrettably lost our first summer event which did not help, however, I feel that later events in the summer also suffered due to holidays and other commitments.

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.
President D Priestley Esq



**Midland District Secretary,
Paul Stubbs.
19 Marysgate,
Wistaston
Crewe.
CW2 8HH**

Email: midlands-sec-11@mya-uk.org.uk

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

Model Yachting Association

To address this and to try and ease the burden on those whom I depend on to organise events, I have made an effort this year to reconcile the programme to only 9 events, avoid the summer months and complete the series before we all shoot off on holiday.

To renew the interest when we all come back in Autumn (after the IOM Nationals over the August Bank Holiday), I have proposed a Midland District Championship event that will move venue around the District each year and I hope will attract a larger number of entries as the premier event in our calendar.

So in 2013 we will contest the Winter Series for the Gibbs Trophy, The Summer Series for the individual and club shields and finally the Midland District Championship for the MacColyer Trophy.

I contacted all club secretaries with this proposal and as no objections were raised so it will be proposed at the AGM.

We will continue to promote these events via the website and also by the MYA's i-Contact system to our members and those of neighbouring districts.

And Finally.....

I still have a mission to stamp out the occasional poor sportsmanship and behaviour I see on the water and implore RO's to keep a firm hand on proceedings and misdemeanours. Competitors need to abide by the rules and "do their turns" The top skippers know the quickest way round the course is to stay out of trouble and don't get involved in demolition derby's and shouting matches around the marks. We will be looking at how best the race teams can support this objective in the New Year with the possibility of another "Rules and Tactics" workshop day in the district. Till then I would like to quote a recent extract from Bernard Bonneau, the President of the Vendee Globe that may help to add a little perspective.

" let's remind everyone that filing a protest is not a lack of fair-play, quite the opposite. It is actually the only possible action of regulation in a sport where self-refereeing is the rule. Sailing is not a sport played on a court or a field, you can't have an umpire or a referee behind each boat, like we have in match-racing. The skippers themselves are therefore the first to be able to enforce the rules. Then the Race Committee, or even the jury itself, can also protest if they notice an offence or a breach of the rules.

Let's not forget that filing a protest is simply suggesting there is the possibility that one of the competitors has broken a rule"

No matter how competitive you are or where you are in the fleet, make sure your attitude on and off the water is a positive one to ensure your fellow skippers enjoy their day so they will come again.

Let's remember why we do this and make it fun for everyone.

Paul Stubbs
MD-Sec

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.
President D Priestley Esq