

MYA Scottish District AGM 2004

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Scottish District of the Model Yachting Association, held at Royal Tay Yacht Club, Dundee, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Present

Alistair Law (Chairman)	Buchanness
Richard Rowan (District Councillor & Racing Secretary)	Paisley
David Loomes	Paisley
Ralph Knowles	Brechin
Richard Ennos	Levenhall
J Bisset	Aberdeen
D Allsol	Buchanness
B Robertson	Buchanness
J Knowles	Brechin
J Rodger	Brechin
D Smith	Paisley
B Baird	Brechin

- 1 Apologies were received from Iain Dundas and Hugh Shields
- 2 Minute Confirmed The minutes of the 2003 AGM were proposed by Richard Ennos, 2nded by Brian Robertson.
- 3 Matters Arising Richard Rowan reported that the MYA and Scottish District websites had been successfully merged, and that the Scottish District domain name would now be allowed to lapse. Thanks were voted by the meeting to Richard for his work in this area. Richard requested more information from the individual clubs to include in the website. Boyd Baird suggested more and better information on boats for sale within the district. The roll out of e-mail addresses for all clubs in Scotland has been completed, and each club now has its own MYA e-mail account.  
  
Richard also reported that the position of the Scottish District within the MYA has been accepted, but that he had experienced some difficulty in working with the MYA. In particular the Racing Secretary had failed to respond to requests for information necessary to arrange Scottish dates.
- 4 Chairman's Report Alistair Law reported that he had visited all of the clubs in the district during the year and had enjoyed racing at each. He described the successful running of the one metre ranking race as the highlight of the year. He also reported that thanks had been received from the MYA for the event, which was perceived by all as being run quickly and efficiently. Alistair thanked everyone involved in the running of the event and stated that valuable expertise had been acquired by all those involved.
- 5 District Councillor's Report Richard Rowan reported that the MYA had been generally quiet in the past year. He reported that IOMICA is now up and running, and that he has taken on the running of the National Class Association.

Richard reported that a motion going before the MYA AGM to increase membership fees would probably be resisted, the money being required to cover the costs of distributing 'Acquaint'.

6 Treasurer's Report David Loomes reported that in the 2004 season, the District had not handled any funds. He also confirmed that David Rose (MYA Treasurer) had given clearance for any minor expenditure required for publicity events.

7 Racing Secretary's Report Richard Rowan reported that turnout for the 1 metre travellers series was slightly down on the previous year, but that the ranking event held at Castle Semple had been a tremendous success. He also noted that interest in the R6m class is dwindling, with only Paisley now supporting that class.

Richard noted that Robert Rooney of PMYC had participated in the running of a large no. of events during the year and a vote of thanks was proposed for this effort. The meeting decided that David Loomes should write to Robert thanking him.

8 Senior Measurer's Report Boyd Baird submitted this report in writing, a copy is attached at the end of these minutes. Richard Rowan added that measuring 1m boats is becoming a painful task due to the number of documents and interpretations issued per year. He added that IOMICA is adding to this problem at the moment :- they appear to be repeating old mistakes.

9 Reports by the Clubs.

- Greenock – Hugh Shields reported that yachting at Greenock is at an all time low and that he is now the only active yachting member of the club. He undertook to make sure the sailing water at Greenock was available for any yachting events we wished to hold there.
- Paisley. David Smith reported that Paisley had enjoyed a full season's sailing of both IOM and R6r classes, with no repeat of the weed problem experienced in previous years. Attendance of club events was good early in the year, but fell off later. Club membership is however increasing, with many enquiries received. The Strathclyde 70s class continues to be well supported by schools in the district with 14 boats competing this year. The standard is generally improving year on year, especially amongst those schools who have entered previously. Strathclyde university's event produced 8 new boats built this year, with another 8 expected for the coming season.
- Levenhall – A written report was supplied and is attached at the end of these minutes.
- Brechin – A written report was submitted and is attached at the end of these minutes.
- Aberdeen – Problems with weed and the level of water hampered the seasons sailing in Aberdeen. Nonetheless, the club has attracted new members, and the sailing is expected to improve during the winter as full size sailors return to the modelling scene.
- Buchanness – Buchanness members sailed alternate Saturdays during the season at Peterhead and Aberdeen. Membership now stands at 17. Alistair Law reported that the heritage centre in Peterhead had been a great success with a good mixture of adults and children being taught how to build a Fifie. Hulls have now been completed, and sails are expected soon. The process has brought in some serious new interest in IOM class yachts, although the club does not have as many newcomers as they would like. Alistair noted the improvement in the level of competition he experiences during his visits to Brechin.

10 Election of District Councillor Richard Rowan agreed to continue as District Councillor through the start up of IOMICA. His re-appointment was proposed by Boyd Baird and seconded by David Smith. A special thanks was made by the meeting to Richard for his continued efforts in this post.

11 Election of Officers Alistair Law recommended that the district committee continue unchanged. This motion was proposed by Ralph Knowles and seconded by Richard Ennos. There being no other proposals, the committee for the 2005 season is thus Alistair Law (chairman), David Loomes (secretary/treasurer), Richard Rowan (Racing Secretary/District Councillor).

- 12 Program of Racing for 2005 Since no national championship or ranking race had been allocated to the Scottish district for the 2005 season it was proposed that the Karachi Cup/Boussy Medallion be competed at Castle Semple. The aim here is to maintain links with the Castle Semple facility. After some discussion the decision was made to leave the choice of a Karachi Cup team to the district committee.
- 13 Any Other Competent Business Concern was expressed at the drop in entries for the IOM travellers series events during the past season. Ralph Knowles pointed out that the lack of toilet and other facilities at some venues deterred many people from entering. Inevitably the cost of hiring such facilities would impact on the entrance fees, so it is not envisaged that anything can be done at this point.

There was also some discussion of the status of the Fastnet Race trophy. The trophy is currently in the possession of Ewan Boyle who claims it is his. He has however indicated a willingness to present the trophy at the event, but has not attended to do so. Richard Rowan undertook to contact Ewan to see if we can obtain the trophy for this year's event.

There was also some discussion of electronic means of score keeping. David Loomes pointed out that the current state of battery technology means that laptop computers are not capable of running without mains power for the duration of a typical model yachting event, and so the most practical device for use at the pondside is a handheld device. Boyd Baird commented that it would be most useful if scoring of a series of races, rather than just a single event could be automated. No such systems are currently available.

### **Senior Measurer's Report**

We have one, two or even three measurers in each club except Greenock, although Richard Rowan is the only measurer in the West.

We have had no problems in Scotland, but nationally the situation is unbelievable. People seem to question every idea, word or rule to the nth degree. I try to keep all measurers in Scotland informed of any updates or amendments to interpretations as they occur.

I hold the MYA check weights, and from them have made others that can be loaned out if required. We also have a test tank permanently set up if anyone requires it.

### **Report from Levenhall**

Levenhall RYC is currently in good health with a total of 27 members. Two of these are honorary, three are non-sailing members and 21 are sailing, of whom 15 are actively involved in club racing. A full program of 3 handicap and 3 scratch trophies have been competed for throughout the year, with keen competition on each occasion. Turnout for regular Saturday racing has also been high, with 12 boats regularly on the water. The club also successfully hosted the last of the Scottish Travellers IOM events for the year in September.

A number of changes have occurred in the IOM fleet. Three new boats have been built in the last year, two new professionally produced boats have appeared, and two further wooden IOMs are under construction. The vast majority of IOMs in the club are now registered with the national class association. A small group of members from within the club has begun racing the commercial Northwind 26 design on Inverleith pond on Wednesday afternoons. There is also embryonic interest

in multihulls. Dane Ashby is experimenting with a catamaran and there are rumours of an RC trimaran on the way.

Problems with the water supply to the pond were experienced in the late summer of 2003, leading to low water levels. After consultation with the power station and the local council these problems have been rectified, aided by copious rainfall over the winter period. Arrangements for on site storage of club equipment in the East Lothian Council containers have worked very well. Over the winter a launching ramp has been built close to the containers and has proved very convenient for launching the club's inflatable dinghy. In August of this year, weed problems were experienced in a limited area of the lake. Treatment by East Lothian council seems to have solved this problem for the present.

Future development of Musselburgh Lagoons has been outlined in East Lothian Council master plan. For the most part the proposed developments will have little impact on the club. However concern was expressed in the club's submission to the council over future limitations in vehicular access to the pond. This is a subject that must be watched carefully to ensure that club activities can continue unhindered in the future.

Current officials at the club are John Robertson (commodore), Richard Ennos (secretary and treasurer) and Sandy McLaren (racing secretary). At the GAM in October 2003, Robert Brown stood down from the committee. Robert was a founder member of the club and has for many years devoted his considerable energies to supporting the club, its members and radio sailing in Scotland. Many current members owe their introduction and continued participation in radio sailing to Robert's patience and help at the pond. We hope that after a period devoted to model aeroplanes Robert will return to the club and show us how radio sailing should be conducted.

## **Report from Brechin**

Membership is healthy with 25 existing IOM owners and another two expected to join before Christmas.

30 members are affiliated to the MYA but only 5 paid the higher subscription to receive personal copies of Acquaint. This seems to be a failure in the policy to sell the idea.

Events run during the summer season included the Scottish IOM championships, wooden IOM championship, Scottish and East Coast travellers and the Scottish Fastnet race. There were also 41 club race days and a winter programme started on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct with racing taking place every Wednesday and Sunday, including a new event for vintage yacht racing.

Weed appeared in the pond during the summer, but it was removed by a combination of money and labour, allowing sailing to continue without interruption. It is hoped that grass carp be avoid the need for expensive chemicals next year.