

MYA Scottish District AGM 2006

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Scottish District of the Model Yachting Association, held at Royal Tay Yacht Club, Dundee, on Saturday 7th October 2006

Present

Alistair Law (Chairman)	Buchanness
Richard Rowan (District Councillor & Racing Secretary)	Paisley
David Loomes (Secretary & Treasurer)	Paisley
Mel Percival	Brechin
David Smith	Paisley
Alistair Struthers	Greenock
Richard Ennos	Levenhall
Boyd Baird	Brechin

- 1 Apologies were received from Iain Dundas, Ralph Knowles and Jim Bisset,
- 2 Minute Confirmed. The minutes of the 2005 AGM were proposed by Alistair Struthers, 2nded by David Smith..
- 3 Matters Arising. There were no matters arising from the 2005 minutes.
- 4 Chairman's Report. Alistair Law presented a written report to the meeting. A copy of this is attached to these minutes..
- 5 District Councillor's Report. Richard Rowan submitted this report in writing, and the text of that report is attached at the end of these minutes. The report was proposed by Richard Ennos, 2nded H Shields. Additionally, Alistair Law proposed a vote of thanks.
- 6 Treasurer's Report. David Loomes reported that there had been no transactions during the year, and that as a result the district still holds finds totalling £3.60. The report was proposed by Mel Percival and 2nded by David Smith.
- 7 Racing Secretary's Report. Richard Rowan submitted a typed report, which is attached at the end of these minutes. In the discussion that followed, Boyd Baird asked for a new start tape to be prepared with the seconds being called out. There was also a request for pennants to be attached to boats sailing with a starting advantage.
- 8 Senior Measurer's Report. The senior measurers report was submitted in writing, and a copy is appended at the end of these minutes. The report was proposed by David Smith, 2nded by Richard Ennos. David Loomes asked why there had been a marked reduction in activity from the previous year. Richard Rowan commented that this was largely due to Roger Stollery being otherwise occupied for the bulk of the year,

- 9 Reports by the Clubs. These are included separately at the end of these minutes.
- 10 Election of District Councillor & Racing Secretary Boyd Baird proposed Richard Rowan continue in these posts, seconded by Jimmy Rodger. There being no other candidates, Richard Rowan remains as District Councillor.
- 11 Election of Officers The committee for 2006 will be Chairman – Richard Ennos – proposed A Law, seconded R Rowan. Secretary/Treasurer David Loomes – proposed J Rodgers, seconded D Smith. Senior Measurer Ralph Knowles – proposed B Baird, seconded H Shields.
- 12 Program of Racing for 2006
Following the proposals made by the Race Secretary, the following decisions were reached on each of the proposals
- i) Draft 3 of the Scottish racing programme was accepted by the meeting.
 - ii) The racing secretary will maintain a list of starting advantages for all of the competitors in the Traveller's series, this list to be updated after each event, based on the competitor's results over the last year. Additionally, any competitor with a starting advantage who achieves 3 race wins during an event, may have his advantage revised at the discretion of the race officer
 - iii) Anybody should be able to ask for a timeout of 3 minutes between races. The race officer should have the discretion to decline the request.
 - iv). The proposal to increase the penalty turns to two tacks and two jibes for boats without a starting advantage was not adopted.
 - v) Richard wanted to change the way in which the racing calendar is presented on the district website to show IOM and other classes, rather than the current IOM, R6m and other classes. This proposal was 2nded by Hugh Shields and adopted by the meeting. It was accepted that any information R6m competitors want added to the website can still be accommodated.
- 12b IOM Nationals
Richard Ennos proposed that Alistair Law should coordinate this event. Alistair Law accepted this task and indicated that Gilmore Manuel would be prepared to act as chairman of the protest committee.
- 13 MYA e-mail facilities
Richard Rowan indicated that spam had become a serious problem with the MYA's system and that as a result, e-mail addresses were being removed from the website. Additionally, e-mail addresses will be changed every year by adding a year suffix to help keep this under control.

14 Additional committee member

Boyd Baird proposed that Ali Law should take up this position, 2nded by Mel Percival. Ali indicated that he hoped to be able to expand on his success at Peterhead in acting as a 'publicity coordinator' with a view to investigating links to local papers, radio and TV.

Any Other Competent Business

Mel Percival suggested that we should adopt a 10 minute break between groups of 3 races with a view to giving boats finishing last a better chance to change rigs and tune boats if necessary. It was agreed to to count the traditional 5 minute break from the point that the last boat finishes, rather than the first. This, coupled with the facility for timeouts adopted earlier in the meeting was agreed to answer that concern.

District Councillor's Report

This year at the MYA Council was relatively quiet as far as Scottish interest was concerned. Additionally, I was personally involved in quite a lot of IT related developments affecting all of the UK.

Once again, August saw time being expended on polling UK IOM skippers on IOM rule updates and changes. Overall turnout in the UK as a whole was 5% - however, it was considerably higher in Scotland – I would like to thank members of the Scottish District for their support.

Richard Rowan

Racing Secretary's Report

The IOM racing programme for the season was successfully completed with all 6 Scottish Travellers events being held. Turnouts were between 10 and 18 boats with 29 skippers having taken part in at least one event. The final results were published on the Scottish web site on 1st October. The series was scored again this year using the same method as used for the UK Ranking series, albeit with a minor change relating to RO average points made at the end of the year. That produced the following overall result:

1. Ian Dundas 2. Richard Rowan 3. John Taylor 4. Ali Law 5. Richard Ennos 6. Boyd Baird

Turnout for the IOM District Championships at Paisley of 18 boats was the highest for as many years as I can remember.

As agreed at last year's AGM, handicaps (or more strictly accurately – "starting advantages") were used at 4 out of the 6 events. I would like to think that the use of SAs was positive – it certainly made it much harder for scratch boats in the early stages of a race.

The District hosted the IOM National Ranking Race weekend at Castle Semple on 8th & 9th July. Many thanks to all those members of the District who assisted with the running of the weekend.

4 events were scheduled for the R6M class this year. Results and a report were submitted for one of these events. As far as I know the rest of the events took place but no results or reports were submitted by the race organisers.

I would like to thank all those who helped run District events. In particular, Ali Law and Hugh Shields each both ran or helped with the running of two events each. There may have been other who helped with the ranking weekend but as I wasn't given their names along with the results, they didn't get any ranking points.

2007 sees the Scottish District hosting the IOM Nationals. This is likely to be a reasonably well attended event because of the reputation we have been building up in the running of previous events at Castle Semple.

Richard Rowan

Racing Secretary's Proposals for Scottish Racing Programme in 2007

(1) Proposed that :

Draft 3 of the sailing programme as issued to all clubs via email on 2nd October is adopted.

(2) Proposed that :

Starting Advantages of either 40 seconds or 20 seconds will be used in all IOM Travellers in the 2007 season. Starting Advantages will be determined by the Racing Secretary in advance of each event and will be published on the Scottish web pages. The Race Organisers will then be required to start the event using the published SAs. The RO for each event will have the discretion to vary SAs during the event as he/she sees fit. SAs will be modified by the Racing Secretary after each event and the information on the web updated accordingly.

Race Organisers should make available backstay pendants to identify boats with a SA. These pendants could be made from say black and white bin bags.

Boats not starting at the 40 or 20 second points should stay clear and permit those boats with a SA reasonable room to make their start. However, equally boats with a SA should endeavour to start on time and to not impede boats starting later.

(3) Proposed that:

A time out of up to 3 minutes may be called between any race by skippers who have been allocated a Starting Advantage. The timeout will commence from the time that the skipper who has made the request recovers his boat back to the control area. The RO will have the discretion to refuse a timeout call where it is apparent that the time out would significantly delay the racing. Equally, the RO would also be able to refuse a timeout call where the skipper concerned had already made several previous calls.

(4) Proposed that:

In the 2007 Travellers series, alternative penalty turns should be adopted as follows:

- i. All boats with a Starting Advantage – a penalty turn should comprise one tack and one gybe (as currently used).
- ii. All boats that do not have a Starting Advantage applied should make two tacks and two gybes to clear an infringement of the racing rules other than where that infringement involves touching a mark of the course.

(5) Proposed that:

R6M events and results are no longer listed on district web pages.

It would remain open to an individual club to ask for an R6M calendar and

results to be listed but the club would be responsible for preparing the material for publication.

Richard Rowan

Senior Measurer's Report

We have 12 IOM measurers in the Scottish Clubs, with about 7 active. Hugh Shields has joined this group.

A lot of sails are measured, but there seems to be a reluctance to measure or re-measure boats. The measurement form is elaborate, with bits hard to understand and it does not cover the main dimensions – eg weight. An appendix has been issued to give the owner the information he requires.

The technical committee (a dedicated group) were very active at the start of the year, but due to lack of response to their requests for rulings from IOMICA, they seem to have lost heart and already resigned. The item raised in IOM rigs, old rigs on new boats, did not help, ie a lot of work for the Technical Committee and Registrar. Why alter a system that works?

This is my last report s senior measurer as I now resign.

Boyd Baird.

Reports from the Clubs

Greenock

Hugh Shields reported that the club had expanded from 1 sailing member to 6 and that sailing on Tuesday evenings was now a regular event. Things appear to be looking up for the club at last. The club's toilet facilities have been refurbished and the clubhouse roof is to be repaired in the coming year. Hugh reported success in attracting grants, and presented a list of potential grant sources.

Levenhall

Levenhall RYC is in good health with a total current membership of 28 (4 non sailing) and the prospect of another two members joining in the near future. There has been no problem with the sailing water during the year, the only cause for concern being the state of the access road to the pond. There has been a general upgrading of yachts over the last year with two being built and others being purchased, among them Graham Bantock's own Topiko, (now owned by Alec Chalmers). A flood of orders has also been placed for the new Lintel design. As a consequence, racing has been keenly contested with 10-12 skippers sailing every week. A full program of competitions has been held over the year, the current club champion being Alistair Law. The club successfully hosted the Scottish Traveller's event on 2nd September 2006 at which Dane Ashby was 'blooded' as race officer. In the middle of August, a very successful 'fun day' was organised by racing secretary Sandy MacArthur on the occasion of Alex Chalmers' 91st birthday. Members were encouraged to take their old Marbleheads, Six Metres and own designs out of the loft and give them a spin on the lake. A series of novelty races were also held with One Metres. Families and friends were invited to join us at the pond and there was an excellent spread of refreshments for competitors and spectators. Star of the show was a giant schooner built by Eoin Robertson that beat all comers in a round the buoys race. It is intended to hold another fun day next year and to organise a vintage yacht sailing day to complement the regular One Metre racing.

Brechin

Brechin has 54 paid up members, of which 20 are affiliated to the MYA, with 4 paying the higher subscription rate to obtain a personal copy of Acquaint.

Fortunately, no events were lost due to weed this summer, however only 12 members in total took part in the summer series, with an average attendance of 5.5. Wednesdays had a total participation of 17 members with an average of 7 starters.

It was unfortunate that 13 winter races were lost due to ice etc. However attendance during the winter series was similar to the summer, with Sundays attracting a total of 12 members, but only managing to achieve an average of 6.5 starters per race, while winter Wednesdays achieved 14 and 6.5 respectively.

Further, the wooden hull series are now only attracting 5 participants in total, with an average of 2.3 starters.

Thus gentlemen, our club races are generally attracting 6 or 7 boats, although we have had 11 at times. Generally speaking, this is as previous years, and due to members holiday, family or work commitments, not lack of interest. Compared to other clubs, our position may be quite healthy, but Brechin cannot be complacent, and should perhaps be asking the following questions :-

- Is the programme too full, for example with travellers on Saturdays plus club events on Sundays.
- Are we diversifying into too many activities.
- Better synchronisation of our summer programme with other clubs and the Royal Tay Yacht Club.
- Do we always uphold the principals enshrined in our “Pondside Etiquette”.
- Can we smile and be happy.

Of course these questions are not for this meeting, but must be addressed internally by the Brechin club, however at the moment they appear to be synonymous with the hobby and sport of UK model yachting.

Buchanness RYC

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Report of Buchanness

Our membership is about 35. During the years we have paired up regularly with Aberdeen giving a decent fleet of over 10 boats on the Peterhead reservoir.

There is an enthusiastic mid week group of up to five skippers practicing their skills to challenge the stalwarts of the weekend races.

We hosted an interesting stand at Peterhead Harbour open day with a range of IOMs and Fifies, plenty of pictures and knowledgeable members to explain our sport to visitors. There were one or two (older) people that expressed an interest but we await their participation. I wonder whether we can spice the stand up next year to improve our chances of recruitment.

The FIFIE club is thriving with the children building about 12 yachts.

Alistair Struthers

Aberdeen

REPORT TO AGM 2006 FROM ABERDEEN MODEL YACHT CLUB

Unfortunately Inchgarth Reservoir has been affected by weed and low water levels from mid summer onwards. It is expected that as we move into the colder weather the weed will die back and normal sailing will resume.

During the summer period when Inchgarth has been unavailable Aberdeen members have gone to Peterhead and the combination of both clubs has produced some good turnouts and good events.

In the early part of the year the winter programme was well attended and some new members joined as a result of borrowing the Club TS2 to confirm their initial interest.

One of our AMYC members Morton Park has taken a sabbatical from work (and R/C sailing) to participate in the ARC Transatlantic Race with his 34ft yacht. We wish him well and hope that the secrets he picked up with his kite at Inchgarth will help him in the race. Colin Tate has also had good results this year sailing with his son in the Taser Nationals.

The first of the Scottish travellers was hosted at Inchgarth with an excellent attendance of 18 boats.

The Club is looking forward to an active winter series again this year.

AMYC supports the initiative to use handicap sailing at club and traveller events and would encourage MYA Scotland to continue refining the developments made in 2006. Our aim is to offer enjoyable sailing for experienced campaigners and new members alike and feel that the handicap system helps deliver this aim.

Ian Dundas

Paisley

Report to District AGM 2006 from Paisley MYC

Paisley's membership remains around 30, of whom about half are active sailors.

Enthusiasm seemed generally high in the early part of the year and has declined somewhat since!

Weather has affected a number of events – principally a lack of wind. The icebreaker in February was cancelled because of too much ice and no wind; the IOM travellers/District Championships suffered from damp and very little wind; the R6m District Championships was terminated early when the wind disappeared completely and the September round of the club R6m championship was abandoned due to rain.

Good numbers have participated in the monthly IOM club Championship races on Sundays, and in the equivalent R6m events. Informal sailing has taken place most Wednesdays since about Easter – evenings in June to August and afternoons spring and autumn. Interest in One Metres remains high and a sizeable fleet of Widgets is being assembled.

Conditions on the water have generally been good. PMYC put in straw bales early in the year. There was a hint of a weed problem in August when strong sunlight and a lower than usual water level included some ‘added resistance’ to the One Metres, but it did not develop. Renfrewshire Council have carried out some repairs to the clubhouse roof, but the work is not complete.

Strathclyde University’s event for students’ Strathclyde 70 yachts was less competitive than in recent years with only 6 boats participating and most of those had problems with water ingress. Tye schools event ran again in 2006 with 13 boats. The winner was Euan Jarvis of Johnstone High School who won all 10 races; comfortably early on then in closer contests. It will run again in 2007.

Having seen the gear in action at Lochwinnoch we invested in a Mainlink Countdown system after our stalwart cassette tape machine finally gave up the ghost and its replacement was stolen from the pondside.