

MYA Scottish District AGM 2008

MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Scottish District of the Model Yachting Association, held at Royal Tay Yacht Club, Dundee, on Saturday 18th October 2008

Present

Richard Ennos (Chairman)	Levenhall
David Loomes (Secretary & Treasurer)	Paisley
Gordon Allison	Paisley
Boab Hughes	Greenock
Hugh Shields	Greenock
Ian Dundas	Aberdeen
Colin Deakin	Buchanness
Mel Percival	Brechin
Brian Robertson	Buchanness
Neil Jardine	Brechin
Jimmy Rodger	Brechin
Boyd Baird	Brechin

- 1 Apologies were received from Ralph Knowles, John Owens, Colin McGinnis, Steve Taylor, Ali Law and Richard Rowan
- 2 Minute of 2007 AGM. The minutes of the 2007 AGM were adopted without modification, proposed by Ian Dundas, 2nded by Colin Deakin.
- 3 Matters Arising It was requested that the minutes of this year's AGM be produced sooner and that they should be made available via the district website as soon as possible..
- 4 Chairman's Report. Richard Ennos presented a written report to the meeting. A copy of this is attached to these minutes.
- 5 District Councillor's Report. Ian Dundas presented the District Councillors report. A written copy of the report is attached to these minutes.
- 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 funds totalling £3.60. The report was proposed by Richard Ennos and 2nded by Boyd Baird. There followed some discussion on why the district held any funds at all, since there are rarely any transactions. It was proposed that the £3.60 balance be given to D. Loomes to pay for the stationery expenses in preparing for the AGM, and that in the the District should hold no funds. This motion was proposed by Richard Ennos and 2nded by Neil Jardine. The motion was carried unanimously.
- 7 Racing Secretary's Report. With the racing secretary unable to attend the meeting, a written report was submitted and this was presented to the

meeting by Ian Dundas. A copy of the report is attached at the end of these minutes.

Following the report, there was a great deal of discussion of the effect of starting advantages during the previous racing season – particularly concerning their application in 2 fleet races. In particular it was noted that if the course is too short, then the start advantage can result in increased problems at the first mark or in great difficulty for the scratch boats winning anything. In the end, the following suggestions were agreed upon.

- We should keep the starting advantages for the coming 2009 season.
- For 2 fleet races, the starting advantage should apply to B-fleet only. In A-fleet heats, all boats start off scratch.
- Handicaps are only lost as a result of places gained in A-fleet.
- If prevailing conditions limit the sailing area, then race officers should consider extending the course by adding additional laps so that it is possible for scratch boats to catch up with those with starting advantages.
- The racing secretary should put these proposals in writing and make them available to the clubs for the coming season.

These suggestions were proposed by Jimmy Rodgers and 2nded by Gordon Allison. They were then unanimously agreed by the meeting.

- 8 Senior Measurer's Report. Since Ralph Knowles was unable to attend the meeting, there was no measurer's report. The meeting noted however that there had been no measurements made at the ranking race at Castle Semple this year, and only one of the travellers series featured checks on boats.

The general feeling of the meeting was that measuring boats regularly is a good thing and that we should try to have some form of measurement made at each travellers event. Ralph Knowles to contact the individual club measurers to arrange this

- 9 Reports by the Clubs. These are included separately at the end of these minutes.
- 10 Election of District Councillor Ian Dundas indicated that he was willing to continue in the post of District Councillor, and in the absence of any other nominees, he was duly elected.
- 11 Election of Officers The committee for 2009 will be
- Chairman – Richard Ennos – proposed B Baird, seconded J Rogers.
 - Secretary David Loomes – proposed B Baird, seconded G Allison
 - Racing Secretary – Colin McGinnis – proposed Colin Deakin, seconded H Shields

- Senior Measurer Ralph Knowles – proposed B Baird, seconded J Rodgers
- Publicity Officer Ali Law – proposed Ian Dundas, 2nded R Ennos

12. Program of Racing for 2008

- Since the issue of starting advantages had already been discussed at length, the meeting moved on to consider the racing program for the coming season.

In light of the Racing Secretary's proposal to reduce the travellers' series to 3 events rather than the normal 6, Richard Ennos pointed out that During the past year, hosting 2 major events meant that too many people had already committed too much time to be able to run a full travellers' series as well as supporting club events. Whilst some people are enthusiastic enough to travel to 6 events, many find it simply too expensive.

In the end, the racing secretary's proposal to run a 3 event series this year instead of 6 was carried by the meeting.

- In addition, the meeting approved holding a 2 day event at Loch Winnoch to be entered in the MYS calendar as the Scottish District Championship. Although to be held over 2 days, it is hoped that this event can be maintained on a smaller scale than the ranking races to avoid too many Scottish skippers again being involved in the organisation instead of sailing.
- The provisional calendar did not include the Scotts of Greenock trophy event. Hugh Shields asked that this be added in the first weekend in April.
- In order to avoid weed problems which can occur at the southern venues later in the year, it was decided to swap the early season northern event with the late season southern event. This would place the southern event at the end of April, at which time weed will not be a problem.
- Race teams for each Travellers event should be the joint responsibility of the two hosting clubs.

13. Any Other Competent Business

It was noted that 2008 should have produced updates to the RRS. Ian Dundas explained that the updated rules are available via the web from ISAF.

Ian Dundas stated that the north east clubs would be running a winter series of 6 races and invited all to attend. He also stated that the NE/SW competition – held at Bristol this year – had been a great success again, with team scoring increasing the involvement and enthusiasm of all participants.

David Loomes stated that Richard Rowan had asked that all members be reminded to participate in the IOMICA AGM.

There being no further business, the chairman declared the meeting over.

Scottish District Chairman's Report

During the past year the District has been very fortunate to benefit from the services of two new appointments. At last year's AGM Colin McGinnis agreed at short notice to take over from Richard Rowan as District Racing secretary. Over the past year he has brought both energy and organisation to the role. With the resignation of Richard Rowan the post of Scottish district councillor was also left vacant after the last AGM. I am very happy to say that with very little persuasion Ian Dundas agreed to take on this task. We are very grateful that he is in post to represent the Scottish interest at MYA council where relevant issues arise.

The past year has been a very busy one for the Scottish District. We have been involved in organising two major events at Castle Semple. The first of these, over the weekend of 19th and 20th April, was the IOM ranking event which attracted an entry of 36 skippers. As race officer I received magnificent support from a race team of eight drawn from Levenhall, Buchanness, Brechin and Paisley. The event was a great success, helping to retain the high standing of the Scottish District in the MYA, and its reputation for organising testing and highly competitive racing at a great venue.

The second event to be held was the RA National championships over the weekend of 7th and 8th June under the direction of Alistair Law. Despite a few grumbles about the remoteness of the location from a few of the RA sailors in the south, the reputation of Castle Semple as a venue attracted a fleet of 23 magnificent RA yachts and a very competitive but enjoyable time was had by all. Ian Dundas, as event secretary did a magnificent job in ensuring that the social side of the event was not neglected. Once again the services of members from Buchanness, Aberdeen, Levenhall, Brechin, Paisley and Greenock were enlisted to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

On top of these commitments at the National level, the District once again organised the Travellers series of races at each of the six Scottish clubs. Unfortunately weed was a problem during the year. The event scheduled for Paisley was successfully relocated to Greenock, but the Levenhall event had to be cancelled. Participation in the Travellers series was generally high, with a mean entry of 15 yachts. However numbers of entries at Greenock (10) and in particular Buchanness (8) were disappointingly low.

In the future I believe that it is important that we confront the problems that have arisen this year and plan the Travellers series accordingly. Weed growth is predictably worst towards the end of the summer, and it may be prudent to avoid this period when drawing up the calendar. This is also the time when skippers may be away on family holiday. We must also acknowledge that we should not be asking the smaller clubs with limited members to put in the commitment needed to run a Travellers event if the turnout is likely to be low (as at Buchanness this year). I thus commend to you the proposal by our racing secretary for a slimmed down Travellers series of three events in which each event is jointly hosted by two clubs from whom the race team can be drawn. These events have been timed to avoid the late summer period.

However to supplement these events a new two day event at Castle Semple is proposed. This would provide the opportunity for Scottish skippers to experience for themselves this magnificent sailing venue. It would also enable us to hold a social

event in the evening of the Saturday to bring together the skippers from far flung areas who usually have little opportunity, except in the heat of battle, to discuss and debate the future of radiosailing in Scotland.

My overall message is that the future of radiosailing in Scotland is bright. However in order to maintain a sustainable level of high quality racing at the district level I believe that we need to rationalise the number of events that we run. This will ensure that the demands made on busy people to organise these events are not excessively onerous. It will also mean that experienced race teams drawn from more than one club can be put together for each event so that the quality of the racing experience is enhanced. With fewer events the opportunity then arises to include in our programme a new event at Castle Semple which has the potential to draw the district closer together and provides us with a setting in which we can share our enthusiasm for radiosailing.

Richard Ennos.

District Councillor's Report

Since appointment to this post I have attended one MYA council meeting in Birmingham in January participated in an Electronic council meeting in June and submitted reports to the other meetings in April and September.

MYA COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Key points that are currently being dealt with by the MYA council are;

- Health and Safety at Club premises and at events, A risk assessment guidance document has been drafted.
- Development of training workshops to deal with Racing Rules and Boat Tuning.
- Publicity at Boat Shows and other exhibitions
- Publishing the Aquaint Magazine
- Affiliation to MYA of Micro Magic and Laser Class Associations
- Development of the MYA website and Members Area. It is expected to revamp the website in 2009 by passing much of the information onto the Members Area
- Maintaining the fleet of 6 MYA Micro Magics which are very successful at Boat Shows.
- Preparing the 2009 Yearbook which is no longer in print
- Revamping the MYA Handbook for issue in 2009
- Agreeing 2009 Sailing Calendar and National Championships for all classes
- Preparing Centenary Year events for 2011 including proposals to host the IOM World Championships at West Kirby

MYA AGM

The MYA AGM will be held in Dickens Heath Primary School, Birmingham on Saturday 29th November at 2pm following the MYA Trade Show.

I will be out of the country on that day so ask if anyone wishes to represent the Scottish District at the AGM.

There are a few motions for the AGM that concern the constitution which have been sent out to Club Secretaries. (See attached)

2009 MYA PROGRAM

The Scottish District does not have any commitments to run Ranking events or National Championships in 2009.

Ian Dundas

Racing Secretary's Report

Please accept my apologies but as most will know, I will be at work Offshore on the 18th so not be able to attend the AGM

A Total of 37 Skippers competed in the 5 events that made up this year's Scottish IOM Travellers Series and Scottish Championship. I think this is quite a healthy number from a region of our size considering the distances and expense involved.

This year's series was blighted on two occasions by weed. One race found an alternative venue and went ahead with a great turnout with a two heat system being employed. I would like to thank the Greenock club on behalf of the skippers for their usual fantastic hospitality at such short notice.

Sailing was conducted in a very enthusiastic but gentlemanly manor and with an entry of 22 Brechin, shows what the numbers can be if everyone puts in the effort. It was disappointing to see a low turnout at Peterhead because the club had put on a good race team and it's such a great venue. I hope the discussions that will follow regarding next years proposed calendar and change of series structure will address some of these issues.

The practice of having two races then a break was used successfully along with some very good discretion shown by the race officers on the day. Unfortunately, I could not attend the last two races due to work and family holidays.

The 20 second starting advantages seemed also to work quite well especially when employed only in the "B" fleet during two fleet races. The feeling was that if people pulled themselves into the "A" then they should sail from there on scratch.

The loss of handicaps after finishing in any top 3 position three times also worked successfully.

The practice of using skippers as observers in the two fleet races worked particularly well.

The Scottish district ran two National events this year, both held at Castle Semple, the RA championships and two IOM ranking races, unfortunately I never managed to attend either due to work commitments, but both were very well attended and hotly contested by all accounts.

For 2008, the numbers taking part in the IOM series were made up as follows;

No one sailed in all 5 events (the sixth event, Levenhall being cancelled)

7 skippers sailed in 4 events

9 skippers sailed in 3 events

6 skippers sailed in 2 events

15 skippers sailed in what was usually their home event.

(These numbers include R/O's as having sailed in the event they were R/O)

So I think it can safely be said that 22 Skippers intended to challenge for this years series and that for various reasons (holiday, work or family commitments) only managed to compete in two or three races.

I would like to congratulate all skippers for their efforts and in particular the Race Officers without whom there would be no racing at all.

The final results are as follows,

In third place.....Richard Costigan

In second place.....Ian Dundas

And in first place

The 2008 Scottish IOM Champion and Traveller series winner.....Ali Law.....

Congratulations.

I would like to state at this point that if the region is in agreement, I would be prepared to continue in post as Racing Secretary.

However, if there is anyone who would like to take on this task and give it the energy it deserves, I would take absolutely no offence because I have had quite a time juggling all that goes on in my world.

Yours Faithfully
Colin McGinnis

Reports from the Clubs

Greenock

Boab Hughes reported that the club had received a grant for repairs to the clubhouse and for the development of storage facilities.

The pond had been free of weed throughout the year, enabling it to host two of the travellers# series events. He also reported that the club now has several young sailors who he hopes will attend travellers' series events in the coming year.

The club also expects to have as many as 5 A class boats sailing next year.

Levenhall

Membership at Levenhall currently stands at 31, with typical fleets on Saturday numbering ten yachts. A general upgrading of yachts is now complete and the fleet now includes six very competitive Lintels, five TS2s and a Topico. A bye boat system is in regular operation and has proved effective in ensuring rule observance. The approach road to the pond continues to be a cause for concern, but some work has now begun to smooth over the worst potholes. Another problem has been the appearance of weed in the late summer. This was treated by the council in late July but this was apparently too late, and the infestation unfortunately led to the cancellation of the Travellers event scheduled for 30th August. However it did not mar the celebration of Alex Chalmer's 93rd birthday marked with a wonderful picnic on the pondside and novelty races organised by Sandy McArthur, our hardworking racing secretary. Members of the club participated once again in the Sailfest event at Inverlieth which brings together a wider crosssection of model yachtsmen and is set to be an annual fixture. Levenhall was the organising club for the successful IOM ranking event at Castle Semple in April, and a number of club members gave freely of their time to provide the backbone for the race team. The club members are supportive of the move to slim down the Travellers series to three events with the addition of an experimental two day event at Castle Semple.

Brechin

Brechin membership has remained at 55, of whom 16 are affiliated to the MYA. Roughly speaking, we appear to gain 1 or 2 members each year, and lose a similar number.

Fortunately, for the fourth year in a row, no events were lost due to weed this summer, due to our combination of barley straw and chemical treatment.

10 members in total took part in the summer Sunday series, with an average attendance of 6. However, over a third of the Sunday meetings were cancelled due to lack of support, generally, when on the same weekend as Natinal and Scottish events. Summer Wednesdays had a total participation of 16 members as last year, with an average of 8.

Eighteen winter races were lost due to ice etc, three times as many as last year. Sundays attracted 13 members with an average of 6 starts per race, while winter Wednesdays achieved 18 and 9 respectively.

The wooden hull series is now attracting 7 participants in total from last year's 6, with an average of 2 or 3 starters.

Generally speaking, attendance is as previous years, and as I said at the last AGM, due to members' holiday, family or work commitments, not lack of interest.

The Scottish wooden hull Championship was very successfully and well attended. Personally, I think the highlight of the year was the revitalised all class Scottish Fastnet using a handicap system, yet only attracting our near neighbours to Brechin.

We also supported the Scottish and North East clubs travellers events to varying degrees, the most supported events by the Brechin members being home based.

Again repeating what I said last year, since the 2003 season Brechin has doubled the club meetings from 4 to 8 per month, and with one or two Scottish events during the summer months we do not seem to have an appetite for such activity.

Buchanness RYC

Buchanness Radio Yacht Club Annual report to the Scottish district of the MYA

The club at Peterhead continues to consist of two different types of sailing. One the famous Fifies and two the more modern IOM.

The club has 19 members on its books at present with no further additions, not for the want of trying. We displayed at the Peterhead Harbour day, we held an open day at the club reservoir which was advertised on local radio but found little or no response from either.

We also displayed and sailed at Aberdeen's Duthy park, invited to attend by Aberdeen Model Boat club. A lot of interest was shown but as to date nothing more has materialised.

The IOM side of the club has continued to operate both Wednesday and Saturday and play an active part in participating and organising its events in accordance with the 2008 sailing programme and thanks to Ali Laws guidance, we are creating quite a good race team. We do operate with Aberdeen on a regular basis which does help in improving our skills further with having more boats on the water therefore potentially more incidents, which when happen, we stop learn and listen. I think that is good training.

We hosted the IOM Scottish Travellers No 4 on 2nd August and thanks goes to the very few whom made the effort to attend.

We ran the NE clubs winter series regatta in March and will run the next in December.

We held a one off Regatta known as the Frost Bite thriller on the 2nd January, which included the wife's providing hot food at lunch break, soup, sausage rolls and mince

pies. It went down so well we are doing it again on the 3rd January 2009. All are welcome.

Ali Law ran the RA National Championship at Castle Semple.

We provided the race team for the Scottish Wooden Boat Championships at Brechin and congratulations go to Steve Taylor of Aberdeen whom won the event with a very well built Zig Zag.

The Fife side of the club had a pretty good summer season this year with racing on a Tuesday evening, having as many as six boats on the water most of the time along with a couple of the young lads whom had built their boats last year at the local heritage centre, sailing them this year.

As a result of the Scottish District Racing sec: questionnaire Buchanness had a meeting and the 5 members whom are interested in the Scottish Travellers all agreed with the proposal for 3 events a year and would very much enjoy a 2 day event at Castle Semple.

All in all, apart from the disappointment of the Scottish travellers and the lack of new members, which we will keep plugging at, the club has had a good year and so let it continue.

Colin F Deakin Hon: Sec:

Aberdeen

MYA SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM 6th October 2007 REPORT FROM ABERDEEN MODEL YACHT CLUB

In 2008 AMYC has a membership of 6, down 1 from 2007. All members are IOM sailors with 2 interested in home construction of wooden yachts.

The Aberdeen Club's sailing programme for 2008 has followed a similar pattern to the previous year with regular joint events being held with Buchanness Club.

- Hosted Scottish IOM Travellers in May
- Ran NE Clubs winter series regatta in Feb and Nov
- Assisted with running IOM Ranking and RA Nationals at Castle Semple
- 3 skippers travelled to NE/SW IOM event at Woodspring in Oct
- Held monthly regattas and training events throughout the year

Inchgarth Reservoir has been operated at higher water levels this year but a drop in level in late August caused weed problems which should subside by end October.

2009 Proposed programme

AMYC has replied to the survey issued by the Sailing Secretary. 3 members intend to travel and prefer the proposed 3 race traveller's programme and also support the proposal to have a 2 day event at Castle Semple.

Starting Advantages for 2009

AMYC supports the use of Starting Advantages as it encourages less experienced skippers to take part and enjoy their racing.

It seems however that the SA system is not favoured by all participants so it would be good to debate the point at the AGM to see if there are any improvements that can be made to the existing system or if there is any alternative system.

Paisley

Serious weed was present at Barshaw park from the end of May, making it impossible to race either R6m or IOM class boats. From the end of September, the weed started to die down enabling racing to restart. The club have approached the local council for help in tackling the problem next year, but the request has been met with little enthusiasm. At this time, no decision has been made on how the club will try to handle the problem next year.

Sailing occurs on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings., with both R6m and IOM classes being supported

The club has acquired the use of another building at Barshaw, and this is being refurbished to provide more storage for boats. The club hopes to appoint one member at each meeting to liaise with the public to encourage others to join. An application has also been made for lottery funding to provide boats for public participation to further this effort.

There is a possibility of getting access to the pond at East Kilbride which is currently used by RTA for dinghy training.