

**MYA Scottish District**  
**2015 AGM – 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**  
**Minutes**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish District of the Model Yachting Association, held at Royal Tay Yacht Club, Dundee, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Present :**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>
<b>Ian Dundas ***</b>	<b>Aberdeen</b>
Steve Taylor	Aberdeen
John Owens	Aberdeen
<b>Gordon Neil ***</b>	<b>Ayr Bay</b>
Laurie Stewart	Brechin
<b>Cathy Reid ***</b>	<b>Buchanness</b>
Bill Odger	Buchanness
Ian Thompson	Buchanness
<b>Richard Rowan ***</b>	<b>Greenock</b>
<b>Sandy Mackay ***</b>	<b>Kinghorn</b>
<b>Richard Ennos ***</b>	<b>Levenhall</b>
<b>David Smith ***</b>	<b>Paisley</b>
<b>David Williams ***</b>	<b>Tayside</b>
Mel Percival	Tayside
<b>*** = Club voting representative</b>	

**1) Apologies**

Nick Cowern, Boyd Baird, Brian Summers, Hugh Shields

**2) Confirm Minutes of 2014 AGM**

a) Proposed : Ian Dundas    Seconded : Cathy Reid

**3) Matters arising from the 2014 Minutes**

**a. Scoring and heat management :**

- i. Deepen knowledge of scoring throughout SD.
- ii. A tutorial system was suggested. **Action:** David Smith

**b. SD publicity :**

- i. Useful to have publicity material available at pond side to hand out to people interested in starting r/c sailing. **Action:** All SD Club Secretaries
  - **Much more publicity material now available within SD from MYA including flags and banners.**

**c. "Karachi Cup" :**

- i. Draft proposal by David Smith is appended to the 2014 minutes.
- ii. The event to be run between Eastern and Western SD clubs to be organised at a neutral venue if possible.
  - **Helix Centre was expensive and had access issues.**
  - **George Beacroft contacted for return of trophy for future use.**
  - **2016 is SD 25th Anniversary – a "Karachi Cup" opportunity?**

**iii. Email communication and prevention of identity theft advice :**

- iv. Emails are addressed to sender and use "BCC" for distribution lists and in opening lines of email, identify to whom email is being sent (club, committee, etc.) **Action:** all SD District Committee & SD Club Secretaries
  - **Remind everyone of best practice to use BCC (protect privacy and first level security). Action: All SD Committee and Club Secretaries.**

**d. Safety in the SD :**

- i. Availability of a defibrillator in the SD: **Action:** Richard Rowan to discuss potential funding with MYA.
  - **The MYA council declined to fund a defibrillator.**
  - **If possible, First Aider to be nominated for every event. Action: All SD Club Secretaries and Race Officers.**
- ii. The embedding of the individual club safety case and role of the Responsible Person should be refreshed and kept live. **Action:** All SD Club Secretaries
  - **Example safety case to be sent out to SD Committee & SD Club Secs. Action: John Owens**

**4) Reports by SD Committee Officials for 2015 (attached) – as read**

**a. Club Measurers administration**

- **Action: Some club measurer personnel updates to be included by SD Senior Measurer.**

**5) Reports by SD Clubs for 2015 (attached) – as read**

**6) Draft racing programme for 2016 season (Richard Ennos)**

DATE	EVENT	CLASS	HOST CLUB	VENUE
<b>February</b>				
<b>13</b>	M SD CHAMPIONSHIPS & GAMES 2	MARBLEHEAD	Ayr Bay	Irvine
<b>March</b>				
<b>12</b>	IOM TRAVELLERS 1	IOM	Ayr Bay	Irvine
<b>26</b>	IOM SCOTTS OF GREENOCK	IOM	Greenock	Cowdenknowes Dam
<b>April</b>				
<b>9</b>	IOM SD CHAMPIONSHIPS	IOM	Levenhall	Castle Semple
<b>17</b>	UKRCLATT	Laser	Ayr Bay	Irvine
<b>May</b>				
<b>7</b>	IOM TRAVELLERS 2	IOM	Tayside	Forfar Loch
<b>June</b>				
<b>11</b>	IOM WOODEN HULL CHAMPIONSHIPS	IOM	Kinghorn	Kinghorn Loch
<b>July</b>				
<b>August</b>				
<b>September</b>				
<b>10</b>	IOM TRAVELLERS 3	IOM	Buchanness	Peterhead
<b>October</b>				
<b>16</b>	RC LASER SD CHAMPIONSHIPS	Laser	Ayr Bay	Irvine
<b>22</b>	SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM			Royal Tay Yacht Club
<b>November</b>				
<b>December</b>				

Drumpellier seems to have potential as a future sailing location. It is proposed to trial this location.

## 7) Election of SD Officers for 2014

Officer	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
District Chairman	David Smith	Gordon Neil	Cathy Reid
District Secretary/Publicity	John Owens	Richard Rowan	David Smith
District Racing Secretary	Richard Ennos	John Owens	Ian Dundas
District Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	David Smith	Richard Rowan
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	John Owens	Cathy Reid

Officer	Nominee	Votes for
District Chairman	David Smith	Unanimous
District Secretary/Publicity	John Owens	Unanimous
District Racing Secretary	Richard Ennos	Unanimous
District Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	Unanimous
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	Unanimous

## 8) Any other competent business

### a) Proposal for a new SD website to be created - estimated cost is £50 funded from the budget allocated by the MYA to the Scottish District.

- i) Unanimous support to convert current SD website to modern system with hope to include functionality for Club Secs to update their club info and news.

- **Action: Richard Rowan (Project Manager) to purchase web hosting and SD domain name (budget assigned by MYA), report to SD Committee and develop SD mock-up site.**

### b) Improving the visibility of radio controlled yacht racing in Scotland and Northern Ireland and recruitment of new participants into the sport.

- i) **Recommendation:** Most new sailors are attracted by clubs, not at MYA or SD Committee level.
- ii) **Recommendation:** Flags and banners displayed in prominent places attracts walk-in interest.
- iii) **Recommendation:** Sail where there is visibility to the public.
- iv) **Recommendation:** Publicise in Yachts & Yachting, Sail Caledonia, Sailing Life and local press, etc.
- v) **Cost:** Dragon Force 65 and RC Laser are low cost entry boats vs. IOM's, Marbleheads and 6M's.
- vi) **Recommendation:** Promote the technical aspect of what we do.
- vii) **Recommendation:** Emphasise the social side, workshops and non-intense sailing days.

### c) A review of the search for suitable venues at which to hold major UK National and Ranking events.

- i) Partially driven by safety issues at Castle Semple and weed issues at other locations.
- ii) Helix Centre (proven not suitable due to cost and access), Strathclyde Loch (challenges to fit in sailing events due to other users), Loch Lomond (some access issues), Rowardennan (car parking issues) and Drumpellier have been visited.
- iii) Use a scoresheet with specific criteria to evaluate sites.

- **Action: Steve Taylor to share scoring template with SD Club Secretaries.**

- **Action: SD Club Secretaries to return sheets to Steve Taylor.**

### d) A review of the disruption caused by aquatic weed growth at so many of the Scottish clubs this summer and what might be done about it.

- i) Kinghorn have some control over cutting. Most clubs do not.

- **Action:** Richard Ennos to send to SD Club Secretaries guidance for report on weed in different sailing locations.
- **Action:** SD Club Secretaries to provide reports to Richard Ennos.
- e) **A review of the incorporation of the Northern Irish clubs into the SD.**
  - **Action:** Richard Rowan to visit Northern Ireland clubs to develop relationships, support and encouragement.
- f) **MYA budget : £500 allocated to SD for 2016**
  - i) SD able to call-off for expenditure.
  - ii) Proposals accepted to use £50 for website and for DC travelling expenses to Northern Ireland (see above).
- g) **2016 workshop.**
  - **Workshop to be planned located in centre of Scotland. Action:** Richard Ennos & Ian Dundas.

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Last November, following discussion with skippers from MYA clubs in Northern Ireland earlier in the year, I pressed for their transfer from the Northern District of the MYA to the Scottish District. The committee and the existing Scottish clubs were consulted by e-mail in order to progress this change in time to appear in the 2015 Yearbook.

I must extend an apology to Rhu Radio Lasers for again failing to visit them. My only competitive outing this year was to the 1st IOM Travellers Event at Levenhall. I was one of many attending the Training Day at Forfar in April. It was instructive and successful although I don't think we had as many entrants at any competitive event during the year as we had at the Training Day. I called in at Kinghorn Radio Sailing Club in the course of another outing as I was almost passing them.

I supported the 2nd IOM Travellers Event and the Scottish District IOM Championships both held at Castle Semple Loch in May by leading the scoring; likewise the IOM Wooden Boat Championships at Forfar in June and the 3rd IOM Travellers Event at Knockburn Loch in September. Some training in scoring and race management took place during these events although the numbers of entrants did not call for fleet board management.

I again assisted with the running of the Yacht Design/Build/Test Project for 2nd Year Undergraduate Naval Architects at Strathclyde University. Owing to the size of the class this year the racing at the Acre Road towing tank took an extra afternoon and it was not possible to invite the students to sail at Paisley. However a group of students organised their own outdoor event at Bardowie Loch which clashed with the 2nd Travellers at Castle Semple. I anticipate repeating this assistance in Session 2015-16.

In the early part of the year I joined an Online Working Group of MYA looking at attracting new members and retaining them. A report was presented at the May Council Meeting but does not appear to have been circulated to the clubs or wider membership. A questionnaire was developed and circulated to the full membership in August. The results are expected to be available at the MYA AGM. In the meantime a formal proposal on the way ahead was to be presented to the September Council Meeting.

I arranged a visit with Alistair Law to the Helix at Falkirk with high hopes of access to the Lagoon there. However the management have an income stream from pedal boats and sought significant compensation for exclusive use of the lagoon for any event. Vehicular access to the water's edge for offloading and recovering equipment was also going to be restricted to the start and end of an event. We therefore decided not to proceed with organising any event at the Helix.

I visited Strathclyde Loch with Bill Lees (who organised the visit) and Robert Rooney with a view to holding events at the very southern end. The management there have plans for a boom to protect that area from weed and algae for triathlon swimming; we could benefit from that protection. However the area is intensively used for water sport already and that could limit our access at our preferred times. There are café, toilet and parking facilities but parking in particular could be heavily in demand at the same time as we might wish to hold an event. The western clubs proposed to hold a trial event there but it didn't happen and I believe Strathclyde Loch may have suffered from weed like our other venues.

Gordon Neil and Pat Johnston explored Loch Lomond and came up with two possible sites – Ardlui in the north west corner and Rowardennan on the east shore. I haven't visited Ardlui but I would be concerned about wind conditions given the prevailing south westerly stream. It is also a long drive from Glasgow along a single carriageway road

that is very busy in summer. The road from Tarbet to north of Ardlui is also the subject of major roadworks to be undertaken in the near future – consultation with local communities is under way.

I did visit Rowardennan which also has an access problem being at the end of a long stretch of single track road with passing places. The site has a significant amount of parking with toilets and refreshment may be had at the nearby Rowardennan Hotel. However a daily fee is charged for the car park which is used extensively by walkers proceeding to Ben Lomond. In principal the old pier at Rowardennan could provide a launching point and control area but it is currently dilapidated, dangerous and in need of repair. If repaired it may once again be used as a calling point for the water bus service around and across the Loch.

The profusion of weed across our sailing waters was again a problem this year. The summer wasn't particularly summery; however many of us were deprived of sailing during 'summer' by the weed. By the same token we were deprived of the opportunity of presenting our sport to the public during the summer months and recruiting new members through that route.

Alistair Law stepped down as Racing Secretary during the year and I thank him for his service to the Committee and to the sport in Scotland over many years. Richard Ennos readily agreed to return to the Committee as Racing Secretary and I extend my thanks to him and the other members of the Committee for their contribution to sailing in the District over the past year.

In the course of supporting Robert Rooney, Commodore of Paisley MYC, in his research into the history of the Paisley club which demonstrated that it had been founded in 1895 and not 1896 as previously believed and therefore was 120 years old in 2015, I came upon articles in the modelling press which suggested that the Scottish District will be 25 years old in 2016, having been formed in 1991. At the appropriate point in the meeting I will propose that the District runs a suitable celebratory event in 2016 with national input in the absence of a formal MYA national event.

I should advise the Committee that I returned to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of Paisley MYC at their 2104 AGM. However I am willing to continue in office as Chairman for another year if the District in Committee is willing to have me.

**David L. Smith, Chairman**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

In the year since the last AGM, I have attended in person the 2014 MYA AGM and all 3 Council meetings held in 2015, all of which events have been held in Birmingham. My DC reports to Council have also been published on the Scottish District web pages.

### **SUMMARY OF MYA COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

This year a lot of the MYA Council activities were undertaken by a number of senior officers who had one or more sub-committees or project groups working for them including but not restricted to the following :

- The Digital Communications Officer who is currently undertaking the redevelopment of the main MYA web sites. The first phase was, namely the replacement of the "main" web site was more or less ready by the beginning of the year. The second phase which aims to replace the Members Area has reached the point where members of Council are able to review what is being proposed.
- The MYA Ranking Officer who is responsible for the Racing programme including the MYA National and Ranking events, the Ranking lists, the Racing Systems and Rules, and the management of the Class Captains.
- The Technical Officer who is responsible for all matters to do with the measurement and certification of the International and MYA classes, including maintaining a list of accredited measurers throughout the UK.
- The Development officer who has been involved with various projects including Training seminars and information documents. As a result of my raising the topic at the 2014 MYA AGM, a Project Group was set up to review how to recruit new members and to develop MYA membership. At least two MYA club members from Scotland served on that Project Group.

### **MYA AGM**

The MYA AGM will be held in Birmingham on Saturday 28th November at 1:45pm following the MYA Trade Show. Motions and nominations for Officers will be issued at the beginning of November.

### **MYA NATIONAL SAILING PROGRAMME**

After not being able to agree to host an MYA National or Ranking event in Scotland in 2016, I am pleased to note that the District will be holding an IOM Ranking weekend in early 2017.

**Richard Rowan, District Councillor**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE RACING SECRETARY**

Racing events organised by the MYA Scottish District in 2015 were run successfully according to the published calendar. Timing of the events outside the summer period ensured that problems with weed, though not entirely absent, were kept to the bare minimum. The events run, their locations, numbers of competitors, and event winners are given in the table below :

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>Venue/Club</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of competitors</b>	<b>Event winner</b>
IOM Travellers 1	Levenhall	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	19	Richard Rowan
IOM Travellers 2	Castle Semple /Greenock	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2015	15	Ian Dundas
IOM Travellers 3	Knockburn Loch /Aberdeen	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	9	Ian Dundas
IOM SD Championships	Castle Semple	23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	16	Alistair Law
IOM Wooden Boat Championships	Forfar Loch /Tayside	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	12	Steve Taylor

The overall result of the Travellers series, based on the two best scores, was a win for Ian Dundas (200pts) followed by Richard Rowan (194 pts) and Steve Taylor (179pts).

I would like to thank all those race officers and their teams from a wide variety of clubs in the district, for passing over the opportunity to race in order to provide first class racing for the competitors. Special thanks are also due to Cathy Reid who put a lot of her time into the administration and scoring of a number of events to ensure that they ran smoothly.

Over the summer period the racing secretary was involved in visiting a number of potential alternative venues for holding large scale district events to ensure that we are not wholly reliant on Castle Semple. Drumpellier Park is one promising venue, and it is planned to hold an informal event there in 2016 to determine its suitability.

The calendar for 2016 is provided. This has been sent to the MYA and will appear in the year book. Travellers events will be held across the length and breadth of the Scottish District, from Ayr Bay to Buchanness. In response to the questionnaire that was sent out to Scottish District members, the Scottish District Championships for 2016 will be a single day event, with an opportunity to meet together on the Friday night preceding the racing. We are also taking the opportunity to hold the IOM Wooden boat championships at the newly formed Kinghorn club in Fife.

**Richard Ennos, Racing Secretary**



## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE SENIOR MEASURER**

On taking over the Senior Measurer's role from Ralph last year I was given a good introduction by Roger Stollery (MYA Technical Officer) initially to introduce himself but then following a lengthy phone conversation detailing expectations and the working methodology of the technical committee.

I will point out that the technical Committee do not have a regular meeting structure but have a system where technical issues, when they arise, are fully distributed and discussed online via E-mail and conclusions actions agreed.

Roger Stollery writes up a quarterly council overview on the issues being tackled or solved each quarter. To keep our district measurers up to speed I have started to circulate this report on a quarterly basis from the beginning of this year.

Key items worked during 2015

1. The Districts measurer's database (see Appendix 1) has been updated and contact details amended to reflect on going changes. Measurers please let me know if your contact details change in any way or if we need to bring on board a new measurer.
2. The measurement form has been tidied up and posted 1st March but we failed to get agreement with IOMICA to simplify the bureaucratic process regarding adding additional rigs. Thus if you have a certificate with only A & B rigs and want to add a C rig it requires the owner to submit an additional rig measurement form. I put some effort into producing a Step-by-Step process to the team (See Appendix 2) to bring a little more simplicity and clarity on what needs to be done than the current MYA web instructions, but it has not made it to the web page yet!
3. Goose neck fittings containing carbon fibre plate that attaches boom, mast swivel and Kicker control, These fittings have been around for some time (D. Potter & P. Gonnet are examples) however a further type was put before technical committee that brought about the debate of the physical size and added wind enhancing effect they might have. This has resulted in the following
  - a. An Emergency rule change specifically aimed at the World Championships making these existing fittings legal rather than being subject to measurer rule interpretation.
  - b. New rule limiting new fittings to 20mm coming in on 8th September.
  - c. Still awaiting on the position of IOMICA on this style of fitting and the new limiting size used on yachts prior to March 2015. i.e. do grandfather rights apply or not?

The content of this report is very much aimed at the IOM which is the main yacht used in the Scottish District and by far the one making up the main focus of the group. I have observed a good level of compliance this year at both travellers and championship events in terms of key components, rigs, and measurement.

At the Championships at Castle Semple this year we check weighed yachts prior to the start and decided not to sample check during the regatta. Would suggest this similar regime is followed into 2016 into both Championship and Travellers events.

**Steve Taylor, Scottish District Senior Measurer**

**Appendix 1 – Current Scottish District Measurers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Phone No</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>
Allison, Terry	Paisley	01355 230511	1m	
Baird, Boyd	Tayside	01382 480000	1m	
Ennos, Richard	Levenhall	01314 412864	1m	
Johnston, Patrick	Greenock, Ayr Bay	07710 754051	1m	M
Knowles, Ralph	Brechin	01382 477962	1m	
Law, Alistair	Buchanness	01779 473086	1m	M
Odger, William	Buchanness	01779 821032	1m	
Rooney, Robert	Paisley	0141 883 3791	6M	
Shields, Hughie	Greenock, Paisley	01475 802808	1m	
Taylor, Steve	Aberdeen	01224 740160	1m	

**Appendix 2 – Flow chart for yacht measurement/certification**



## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM ABERDEEN MODEL YACHT CLUB**

Membership has remained stable albeit very low. Nevertheless, as per previous years, several of the remaining members are very active having participated in the UK IOM Nationals, UK IOM ranking events, SD IOM Travellers series, SD IOM Championship and SD IOM Wooden Championship. Members have also regularly sailed with the Tayside and Buchanness clubs.

Following the closure of Inchgarth Reservoir for sailing activities, Aberdeen MYC has built a very constructive relationship with the owners of Knockburn Sports Loch. Club members. Along with the site manager, AMYC put much effort into weed clearance using a "Weed Razor" and home-made weed rake. In addition, along the bank, low hanging branches cut away and grass walkways cleared. This has resulted in an excellent sailing facility : good visibility, easy access from ample car parking, access to "amenities" and a heart defibrillator. In addition, lockable storage space has been allocated to AMYC by the owners for the dinghy and course buoys.

The initial efforts to prepare the site and continual weed management resulted in good quality sailing. AMYC members were regularly joined by Buchanness members. The experience with Knockburn resulted in the confidence to host the scheduled SD IOM T3 event in September. Unfortunately, a pair of swans arrived and decided to feed on weed, the remains of which drifted down onto the race course throughout the event.

By continuing to build a constructive relationship with the Knockburn Sports Loch owner and management, it is hoped that a longer term resolution of the weed issue might be implemented.

**John Owens, Secretary**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM AYR BAY RADIO YACHT CLUB**

The current membership is twenty three including four members paying their MYA dues through other Clubs. Attendance at the pond has generally been poor throughout the summer.

The r.c Laser continues to dominate our fleet with new, skilled, members showing us the way forward. Total of twenty one Laser skippers participating, particularly throughout the Winter months. Our IOM fleet has increased to eighteen boats of various designs. Reluctance of most to travel away from home Club. The Marblehead Class has remained fairly dormant but with two new self-built boats taking to the water in the period.

Sailing skills are definitely improving and competition becoming more apparent, with very close racing as a result. Weed in the pond this year has again affected our summer sailing at Irvine which has not been stopped but boats have been stopped / slowed up quite badly on occasions.

A survey of Loch Lomond was carried out to determine if a suitable weed free venue could be found for the holding of major events. Two locations were identified, one at Rowardenan and one at Ardlui. Results of the survey were forwarded to the SD Racing Secretary for comment.

Some members have been active this year participating in the more formal MYA events. We have been represented at the IOM Nationals, the SD Championships, the Wooden Boats event and in Travellers Trophy events. The Tri-Club IOM Summer series was drastically affected by weed at Castle Semple resulting in very few races being completed. As a result the series is being incorporated in the Winter Tri Club series. This is a good series of races between Paisley, Greenock and ourselves with any number of members from each Club participating but only the results of the best three skippers in each Club counting towards the final scoring in the series. So, no matter your skills, you can race against the better skippers without your score necessarily affecting the Clubs overall results. Individual skippers results are also used to identify the South West of Scotland Winter IOM Champion.

The MYA SD r.c. Laser Scottish District Championship is again to be held later this year as will be the SD M/Head Championship, both hosted by ourselves. We continue to participate in the UKRCLA Travellers Trophy events on an annual basis.

**Gordon Neil, Secretary**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM BRECHIN CASTLE CENTRE MODEL BOAT CLUB**

We are a small group of "yotties" working amicably within a model boat club. The main aim is to enjoy some sailing. To this end racing is informal and there is more in the way of boat handling and basic rules.

As with most clubs we have a weed problem. Dye over the past year seems to have helped a little, but this may be a subjective judgement and there are probably other factors. We have tried other mechanical methods and have maintained a sufficient channel to sail but not race.

Some are experimenting with keel designs to deflect weed rather than trawl it up. All out of class of course, but the One Metre Weed Beater might be feasible. Although we are an IOM club we have four Dragon Force boats, maybe a sign of things to come.

**Laurie Stewart, Secretary**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM BUCHANNESS RADIO YACHT CLUB.**

#### **Membership**

We have seventeen paid up MYA members and three associate members. As in previous years we started the sailing with the Frostbite Regatta on 2<sup>nd</sup> January with hot eats and drinks supplied in the main by the ladies of the club, a very good day.

#### **Dragon Force RG65 Yachts**

Five of our members have come into the club by way of the Dragon Force RG65 yachts in the past nine months. These yachts have proved very successful in attracting new blood into our sport. The yachts have provided a tremendous amount of fun and exciting sailing doing everything they were designed to do and more at very low cost. For money value they are probably better than an IOM and are as good to sail. We have at this time eleven DFs in the club with a regular six plus sailing every Thursday evening. Also we have a monthly Saturday league event which is well attended and we are about to embark on a winter programme.

#### **IOM**

IOMs continue to be the backbone of the club with ten skippers sailing them. Up to now three DF owners have stepped up to buying IOMs with others in the pipe line. We sail through the summer months every Wednesday evening. We run a monthly Saturday league event for ten months of the year which proves popular with good turnouts. BRYC is very appreciative of the support we receive from our Aberdeen friends and try to support them in return when the opportunity arises, hopefully now that they are about embedded at Knockburn we will be able next year to build on this. Buchanness ran an open event in August. The reason we did it in August is that we are very fortunate in that we do not suffer from weed to the extent that it is in the race area and wanted to give skippers in Scotland the opportunity to have some quality summer sailing, this we did and also forged a link with the local dinghy club.

#### **Fifies**

Fifies are alive and just well with only five skippers taking part in racing and as it is very dependent on wind direction we did not achieve the amount of races we would have liked and we only sail from April to the end of October. Next year we are looking at alternative nights to supplement the Tuesday we use at the moment.

#### **Workshops**

January through to April saw three workshops with guest speakers. In January, Ian Dundas spoke on the technical aspect of what makes a yacht tick followed in March by Peter Cowe with a short course on pond side first aid. In April, Ali Law discussed the rules. These all helped to keep interest in the club and gave us the opportunity to meet for a social evening. In June we played host to the local Salvation Army men's fellowship and taught them how to sail a radio yacht. We then set up a few races this was rounded off with hot drinks and a word of thanks from Major Bram Williams.

#### **Summary**

There is a very good club atmosphere and camaraderie amongst the members - the best for years. Everyone is involved in making the club a success. We find one to one conversations and our flags draw people in. Also, the relatively low cost of the DF interests visitors. Finally, making links with the local community is important. We believe we must look to build up our club and have the gates open every Saturday without fail. We feel that if clubs look to building strong clubs this will build a strong district.

#### **Ali Law**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM GREENOCK MY & PBC**

Greenock currently has 11 members affiliated to the MYA of whom only 4 are regularly sailing IOMs.

This year's sailing season has been somewhat up and down. The club was scheduled to hold an IOM Scottish Travellers in conjunction with the Scotts of Greenock Trophy in early May. However, due the Council lowering the water level suddenly just prior to the event, the IOM Travellers was moved to Castle Semple but the Scotts Trophy was held over for a later date. At the about the same time, the pond was suddenly affected by a thick green algae weed which gathered in a wide band around the edges of the dam but which only affected the sailing area for a short while.

Subsequently the water level was quickly restored and despite some weed around the edges of the dam, club racing continued right through the summer without too much disruption. Greenock were very happy to welcome members of the Ayr Bay and Paisley clubs on a number of occasions.

In the middle of July, a mini training seminar for IOM sailors was held at the club. 11 skippers from the Ayr Bay, Greenock and Paisley clubs took part. The seminar took the form of a presentation by Richard Rowan in the morning covering boat rigging and tuning and a bit on race tactics. In the afternoon, the skippers got help with tuning their boats on the water and underwent practice starts.

The seminar created some enthusiasm and resulted in a number of Saturday club racing days being held with fleets of up to 12 boats from the 3 SW clubs.

As the season progressed into late summer, surprisingly Greenock continued to have relatively weed free club racing. Although the algae blanket remained on the dam, it did not affect the sailing very much and may have been beneficial in keeping the long stingy weed from developing. The Club then decided to re-run the Scots of Greenock Trophy in early October but unfortunately the event had to be cancelled again at short notice. The cancellation was necessary because, following the Indian summer that experienced in September and early October, the long stringy weed started to escape from the edges into the sailing area and was seen to be badly affecting the club racing in the couple of weeks prior to the event.

Most recently, the Council have removed a number of trees from the embankment at the western end of the pond - it is understood that the trees were undermining the embankment. This may change the dynamics of the wind when it is coming from the South or South West direction.

**Bill Terry, Secretary**



## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM KINGHORN RADIO SAILING CLUB (KRSC)**

First Annual report to Scottish District

#### **Membership**

Kinghorn Radio Sailing Club have almost completed their first year (18th November) Membership total is nine(9) consisting three full members, five associate members, and one non-sailing member.

#### **Race meetings**

KRSC currently race IOM yachts, on Saturday afternoon's and have to date completed 37 meetings with attendances varying from a maximum of 8 to a minimum of 3 competitors averaging just over 5 per meeting.

#### **Loch sailing conditions**

Through the months November until June, Kinghorn Loch has been weed free and racing courses have been set with ease. The Summer months June through till the end of October courses are a little more difficult to achieve weed-free but to-date only three meetings are recorded with an unreasonable interference during race meetings

**Sandy Mackay, Secretary**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM LEVENHALL RADIO YACHT CLUB**

Club membership currently stands at 18. During the year we welcomed back the return of Robert Brown who retrieved his Britpop from John Mathieson and has been racing very competitively throughout the summer period. In August one of our honorary members, Alec Chalmers celebrated his 100th birthday with a birthday party attended by a number of club members. On a sad note, one of our longstanding members, Jimmy Nicolson, passed away in September while on a visit to his native Orkney.

Nick Cowern has taken over as Racing Secretary and has ensured a smooth programme of racing throughout the earlier part of the year when the Levenhall pond has been weed free. Average fleets on a Saturday have been around seven or eight, with occasional turnouts of up to eleven. At the beginning of the season we ran a well-attended and lively session at Musselburgh East Education centre on the Rules of Racing. In May the club participated in the 'Big Nature Festival' sponsored by RSPB and held at Levenhall Links, taking the opportunity to provide the general public with hands on experience of radiosailing. Despite enthusiastic uptake of this opportunity, we failed to recruit any new members by this route. This festival is due to be held at Levenhall again next year, and greater publicity of the opportunity to try out radiosailing may help to produce some converts.

Sailing conditions at Levenhall were good well into June. Weed cutting was instituted by the council, but this took place before the Big Nature Festival, far too early, and resulted in very little weed removal. As a consequence subsequent weed growth was extremely prolific, and at the time of writing (mid-October) is still preventing any competitive sailing. Nick Cowern has been in communication with the council to see whether more effective weed control can be arranged in 2016. Those members able to do so have been sailing at Kinghorn Loch over the summer months where, although weed problems are still present, it is still possible to organise competitive races.

**Richard Ennos, Secretary**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM PAISLEY MODEL YACHT CLUB**

Despite adding two new members during the year the number of members of Paisley MYC remains small and their average age remains high. Attendance at Wednesday sailing is stronger than at weekend sailing, except for formal events.

Paisley MYC held a successful IOM Open event on 11th April with 16 skippers attending including 2 from Northern Ireland and 1 from the Republic.

The R6m Scottish District Championship took place on 18th April. 5 skippers entered and Robert Rooney was the winner.

The continuing use of Club premises is in doubt due to the change of ownership from the local authority to a charitable Leisure Trust. We understand there are plans to (re-)develop the Golf Club part of the building but the implications for Paisley MYC and the Model Engineering Club are as yet uncertain. Our Commodore, Robert Rooney, has been heavily involved with Friends of Barshaw Park, to ensure ongoing support for the Park and for our presence there.

Despite assurances by the local authority that the pond was being treated for weed it became unsailable in May and was not clear until late September. Robert Rooney and John Mathieson put in a lot of effort in physically removing weed from the pond during September.

Before and during the weed closure Robert carried out detailed research into the Club's history and heritage to demonstrate its contribution to the town and people of Paisley. This led to the discovery that the Club was formed in 1895 and not 1896 as we had previously understood. In consequence, after the weed cleared, a special event was organised on 17th October to celebrate our 120 year anniversary. 14 IOM skippers from 5 clubs attended and had a successful and enjoyable day's sailing despite early mist and light winds. Richard Rowan won comfortably and was presented with the 1895 Trophy by the Leader of Renfrewshire Council who has promised that the Council will tackle the weed problem more rigorously next year.

As a result of the publicity the club gained in the Paisley Daily Express for its 120 Years Celebrations, a cameraman from STV Glasgow filmed at Barshaw Park on Wednesday 21st October and a short feature on the Club and Model Yachting appeared on their 'Riverside Show' that evening.

With much help from Richard Rowan the club has a new website which went live in September. The address is [www.paisleymyc.org.uk](http://www.paisleymyc.org.uk)

During the weed closure a small group of members visited Greenock to sail One metres (when Greenock was free of weed) and another small group fairly regularly visited Ayr Bay at Irvine with RC Lasers.

**David L Smith, Secretary/Treasurer**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM RHU RADIO LASERS**

Rhu Radio Lasers continue to race at Rhu Marina, courtesy of Quay Marinas every Thursday afternoon between 1300 and 1500hrs. all year round. We are only affected by seaweed in particular tidal conditions. Fleets have averaged about 5 out of a membership of 14 and life-jackets are worn on the pontoons. Members then usually retire to Cafe Rhu at the marina after racing for a coffee and good conversation

**Iain Duncan, Secretary**

## **2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM TAYSIDE RADIO SAILING CLUB**

Tayside Radio Sailing Club is now in its second year and membership stands at a healthy 26 although participation has been a little down over the summer months as members pursue other interests. We continue to be based at Forfar Loch with an affiliation agreement with Forfar Sailing Club allowing us access to their facilities. Forfar Sailing Club have also been of great assistance in providing catering for events we have hosted through the season. Our membership continues to be a mix of those who only sail at Forfar Loch, those who are also members of other radio sailing clubs and some who no longer sail but wish to retain contact.

This year we hosted a highly successful first Scottish District workshop day headed up by Ali Law from Peterhead and included contributions from Ian Dundas (setup & tuning), Richard Ennos (boat design) and Tich Summers (sail making) during the morning session. After lunch the day continued with practical boat setup and mass fleet racing.

We also hosted the Scottish Wooded Hulled IOM Championship which brings together beautiful mostly home built radio controlled wooden IOMs. Boyd Baird was race officer with help from the Peterhead timing team and Murph in the safety boat.

Our own club activities have again centred around our Wednesday afternoon IOM racing with a total of 18 members taking part in the series along with several guests and visitors from other clubs. Scheduled sailing on Saturdays afternoons has been much less popular.

Weed has come to Forfar Loch in much more quantity than has ever been seen by Forfar Sailing Club. We moved to the bay to the north of the clubhouse at the start of July where we are still sailing. Whilst not as open water this area of the loch is much deeper and with minimal weed clearing along the shore to allow launching, racing had been allowed to continue throughout the summer relatively weed free.

We now look forward to sailing through the winter and planning for next season.

**Tich Summers, Club Captain**

**2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

**REPORT FROM BELFAST**

Report not received.

**2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

**REPORT FROM CARRICKFERGUS**

Report not received.

**2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

**REPORT FROM EAST DOWN**

Report not received.

**2015 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

**REPORT FROM GORTON LAKE**

Report not received.