

MYA Scottish District
2016 AGM – 22nd October, 2016
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 22nd October 2016.

Present:

Name	Club
Ian Dundas ***	Aberdeen
John Owens	Aberdeen
Steve Taylor	Aberdeen
Pat Johnston ***	Ayr Bay
Laurie Stewart ***	Brechin
Ali Law ***	Buchanness
Ian Thomson	Buchanness
Richard Rowan ***	Greenock
Sandy Mackay ***	Kinghorn
Mel Percival	Kinghorn
Richard Ennos ***	Levenhall
David Smith ***	Paisley
Brian Summers ***	Tayside
Boyd Baird	Tayside
David Williams	Tayside
*** = Club voting representative	

1) Apologies

Gordon Neil, Hugh Shields

2) Confirm Minutes of 2015 AGM

There was discussion regarding District Councillor travel expenses for visiting the Northern Ireland clubs and whether this was agreed or not. As no expenses were incurred, it was agreed that no further action was required.

Proposed: Boyd Baird. **Seconded:** Richard Ennos. **Abstentions:** Richard Rowan

3) Reports by SD Committee Officials for 2016 (attached) – as read

4) Reports by SD Clubs for 2016 (attached) – as read

5) Summary of actions arising from the 2016 SD AGM

#	Issue	Action
1	Racing Calendar: One of the SD IOM Travellers events could become the SD IOM Championship.	Kinghorn accepted the invitation to host (SD IOM T2 -10th June,2017).
2	The SD will benefit from deepening race team skills around the clubs.	All SD Clubs try to develop their skippers with race team experience.
3		Kinghorn SD IOM T2 / SD Championship race team to shadow UK ranking event race team. John Owens / Sandy Mackay to liaise.
4	Useful to have publicity material available at pond side to hand out to people interested in starting r/c sailing.	All SD Club Secretaries
5		Refresh SD club contact material and share (John Owens)
6		Continue publicity via Y&Y, Caledonia Sailing as well as MYA & SD websites (John Owens).
7	Email communication and prevention of identity theft advice:	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.) - all SD District Committee & SD Club Secretaries
8	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.	Richard Rowan to purchase web hosting & SD domain name (budget assigned by MYA), report to SD Committee and develop SD mock-up site by early/mid 2017.
9	Improving the visibility of radio controlled yacht racing in Scotland and Northern Ireland and recruitment of new participants into the sport.	All SD clubs to review this matter and consider what entry boat they prefer. Club Secretaries to share info.
10		DF65's to be invited to the 2017 SD training event organised by Aberdeen (Ian Dundas).
11	Continue search for suitable venues at which to hold major UK National and Ranking events.	Visit Drumpellier (Richard Ennos), Helix Centre & Steve Taylor/David Smith
12	A review of the disruption caused by aquatic weed growth and what might be done about it.	Richard Ennos to receive updates from SD Club Secretaries and compile a report.
13	The embedding of the individual club safety case and role of the Responsible Person should be refreshed and kept live.	All SD Club Secretaries
14	Adoption of guidelines for running Scottish Travellers events.	The recommendations, including the role of observers, will be issued by Richard Ennos as a Guidance note (including version numbers and date).
15	MYA budget allocation management & associated SD governance.	John Owens and SD Committee to issue appropriate guidance note and templates to support requests for funding of proposed expenditure.

16	Future reorganisation of MYA.	Information was presented by Steve Taylor on the potential reorganisation of the MYA council. The SD Committee response will be subject to future developments at MYA Council.
17	Time constraints and the efficient running of future SD AGM's.	The SD Committee will review the organisation and running of the next AGM.
18	The HSE challenges of Castle Semple's lower walkway. (Tich Summers)	Ali Law to negotiate with Castle Semple
19	Sail numbers - there is to be a reversion back to a previous sail number convention such that a zero must be used as a prefix for single digit sail number.	When available, clarification to be circulated by Steve Taylor (SD Senior Measurer) .

6) Draft racing programme for 2017 season (Richard Ennos)

DATE	EVENT	CLASS	HOST CLUB	VENUE	Status
January					
28	SD MARBLEHEAD CHAMPIONSHIP	MARBLEHEAD	AYR BAY	Irvine	Confirmed
February					
4					
11					
18					
25					
March					
4					
11	IOM TRAVELLERS 1	IOM	LEVENHALL	Levenhall	Confirmed
18	SCOTTS OF GREENOCK	IOM	GREENOCK	Murdieston Dam	Confirmed
25					
April					
1 + 2	NATIONAL RANKING	IOM	BUCHANNESS	Castle Semple	Confirmed
8					
15					
22	TRAINING EVENT	IOM	ABERDEEN	Knockburn Loch	Provisional
29					
May					
6	IOM WOODEN HULL	IOM	TAYSIDE	Forfar Loch	Confirmed
13					
20					
27					
June					
3					
10	IOM TRAVELLERS 2	IOM	KINGHORN	Kinghorn Loch	Confirmed
17					

24					
July					
1					
8					
15					
22					
29					
August					
5					
12					
19					
26					
September					
2					
9					
16	IOM TRAVELLERS 3	IOM	PAISLEY	Barshaw Park	Confirmed
23					
30					
October					
7					
14					
15	SD RC LASER CHAMPIONSHIPS	RC LASER	AYR BAY	Irvine	Confirmed
21					
28	SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM			Royal Tay Yacht Club	Provisional
November					
4					
11					
18					
25					
December					

There was discussion about the opportunity for additional events versus the challenges of holidays, weed, distance to travel, etc.

Proposed: David Smith **Seconded:** Ian Dundas **Vote:** unanimous
The racing calendar was accepted.

- **Action: One of the SD IOM Travellers events would become the SD IOM Championship. Kinghorn accepted the invitation (SD IOM T2 -10th June).**

7) Election of SD Officers for 2017

Officer	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
District Chairman	David Smith	John Owens	Steve Taylor
District Secretary/Publicity	John Owens	David Smith	Sandy Mackay
District Racing Secretary	Richard Ennos	Boyd Baird	Pat Johnson
District Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	Ali Law	David Smith
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	David Smith	John Owens

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) Matters arising from the 2015 Minutes and 2016 AGM

a. The SD will benefit from deepening skills around the clubs:

- **Action: All SD Clubs try to develop their skippers with race team experience.**

- i. Kinghorn SD IOM T2 / SD Championship race team to shadow UK ranking event race team.

- **Action: John Owens / Sandy Mackay to liaise**

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**

- **Action: Refresh SD club contact material and share (John Owens)**

- ii. Much more publicity material now available within SD from MYA including flags and banners.

- **Action: Keep using and display prominently**

- **Action: Continue publicity via Y&Y, Caledonia Sailing as well as MYA & SD websites (John Owens).**

c. "Karachi Cup":

- i. 2016: SD 25th Anniversary – "Karachi Cup" was a successful event and will be part of the future SD racing calendar.

d. Email communication and prevention of identity theft advice:

- i. 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**

e) 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.

Richard apologised for his lack of action, this being due to pressure of commercial work

- **Action: Richard Rowan to purchase web hosting & SD domain name (budget assigned by MYA), report to SD Committee and develop SD mock-up site by early/mid 2017.**

f) 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.
 - **Action:** All SD clubs to review this matter and consider what entry boat they prefer. SD Club Secretaries to share info.
 - **Action:** DF65's invited to the 2017 SD training event organised by Aberdeen (Ian Dundas).
 - vi. **Recommendation:** Promote the technical aspect of what we do.
 - vii. **Recommendation:** Emphasise the social side, workshops and non-intense sailing days.
- g) 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. Drumpellier and Helix Centre to be visited.
 - **Action:** Richard Ennos (Drumpellier) & Steve Taylor/David Smith (Helix)
 - ii. Use a scoresheet with specific criteria to evaluate sites.
 - Steve Taylor published the results of the location evaluation via the SD website.
- h) A review of the disruption caused by aquatic weed growth at so many of the Scottish clubs and what might be done about it.**
- **Action:** Richard Ennos to receive updates from SD Club Secretaries and compile a report.
- i) A review of the incorporation of the Northern Irish clubs into the SD.**
- i. Richard Rowan met NI club reps. The clubs have been very quiet in 2016 and have not been active in mainland activities.
- j) MYA budget: £500 allocated to SD for 2016**
- i. No money has been claimed from MYA by SD in 2016.
- k) 2016 workshop.**
- i. A very successful workshop was held at Greenock organised by Ali Law & Richard Rowan assisted by Ian Dundas and Steve Taylor.
- l) 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**
- i. Example safety case was sent out to SD Committee & SD Club Secs.
 - **Action:** SD Clubs to refresh and regularly refer to their safety case including appointing a Responsible Person for every event.

9) Any other competent business

Proposer: Richard Ennos

Motion for AGM: Adoption of guidelines for running Scottish Travellers events.

Reason for Motion: Providing the best possible experience at Travellers events for skippers at all levels (refer to SD Racing Secretaries report).

Summary of recommendations:

- ✓ Race Officer to be an experienced skipper drawn from the host club.
- ✓ Race team to comprise a minimum of five members.
- ✓ Fleet size not to exceed 12 yachts.
- ✓ Course set to minimise potential conflicts (port rounding, windward/leeward course, properly set gate, long initial windward leg etc.).
 - **Action:** The recommendations, including the role of observers, will be issued by Richard Ennos as a Guidance note (including version numbers and date).

Proposer: Steve Taylor

Motion for AGM: MYA budget allocation management & associated SD governance.

Reasons for Motion: Agree the Governance and Method of allocation of MYA funds within the District.

Summary of recommendations:

- ✓ Agreement / recommendation by the Scottish District club secretaries that any budget offered by MYA will be administered centrally by the Scottish District Secretary/Treasurer who will be accountable to the Scottish District committee, clubs & membership in its use.
- ✓ Agreement / recommendation that a proposed budgetary sheet be prepared and agreed at the districts AGM for areas of potential spend for the following year. Suggestions include Training, Extraordinary Travel Expenses, Development, Maintenance & Replacement, Publicity, etc.
 - **Action: John Owens and SD Committee to issue appropriate guidance note and templates to support requests for funding of proposed expenditure.**

Future organisation of MYA (Steve Taylor)

Following recent attendance at a MYA Council meeting, a number of observations are germane:

- A number of MYA Council positions are vacant.
- Acquaint has no editor and is not being published. This was a significant form of communication between MYA and members.
- Meetings could be more efficient.
- A reorganisation is being considered to do things more efficiently with the intent of stronger alignment between Council and Districts.
- Yearbook published in November? Hence, Districts need their 2017 material ready earlier (2017 elected committees, racing calendars, etc.)
 - **Action: The SD Committee response will be subject to future developments at MYA Council.**

Efficient running of future SD AGM's (Steve Taylor)

How to streamline future SD AGM's so that important matters are given appropriate time and we do not spend disproportionate time on less important matters?

- **Action: The SD Committee to review the organisation and running of the next AGM.**

Acknowledging the advantage of Britpop's and youth, etc. (Boyd Baird)

High cost boats can give an advantage. What about entry level boats and how to encourage the skippers?

- **Action: Continue discussion at next AGM.**

The HSE challenges of Castle Semple's lower walkway. (Tich Summers)

The lower walkway poses safety challenges for competitors and public alike. This event is a prestigious UK ranking event and consequently many people will attend from all over the UK. It is noted that many of the CS staff have changed out. Thus, we need to contact CS to discuss solutions such as to let us use the top walkway and to cordon-off the parking area by say 4 ft with cones/tape so the public can have access or find an alternative that satisfies all parties.

- **Action: Ali Law to negotiate with Castle Semple**

Sail numbers.

There is to be a reversion back to a previous sail number convention such that a zero must be used as a prefix for single digit sail number.

- **Action: When available, clarification to be circulated by Steve Taylor (SD Senior Measurer)**

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The decision to transfer the MYA clubs in Northern Ireland from the Northern District of the MYA to the Scottish District has not turned out to be entirely beneficial; two of the four clubs failing to affiliate any members in 2016.

I became involved in a lengthy telephone and e-mail conversation with an individual club member on the conduct of the District AGM and on the budget to be devolved from MYA central funds to the Districts, and in particular to the Scottish District. In the absence of guidance from MYA centrally on the budget we have not progressed in the latter area.

I supported the 1st IOM Travellers Event at Irvine by sailing and the Scottish District IOM Championships at Castle Semple Loch by leading the scoring. I was unable to attend the IOM Wooden Boat Championships at Kinghorn in June or the 2nd & 3rd IOM Travellers Event at Forfar and Buchanness. A training event at Greenock in April was well attended by skippers from across Scotland.

I again assisted with the running of the Yacht Design/Build/ Test Project for 2nd Year Undergraduate Naval Architects at Strathclyde University. This year the racing at the Acre Road tank was concluded in a single day and a group of students spent a subsequent afternoon sailing at Paisley. I anticipate repeating this assistance for three more Sessions up to 2018-19. A group of former students organised their own outdoor event at Bardowie Loch in 2014 & 2015. I arranged to join them in 2016 – accepting that I would miss the 2nd Travellers at Forfar. As things turned out, access to Bardowie Loch was not possible and Mini-SUSA 2016 took place at Barshaw Park, Paisley.

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.

George Beacroft, the captain of the winning 2005 English team in the Karachi Cup, repatriated the Cup at no cost. It was therefore possible this year to run the new version of the Karachi Cup competition whereby the scores of the best skippers in a fleet racing event were aggregated to calculate team scores representing three areas within the Scottish District – North East, South East and West. Appropriately in the twentieth anniversary of the first Karachi Cup this year's event was also sailed at Barshaw Park, Paisley, with several skippers from the original Scottish team still leading the fleet. After a full day's sailing in tricky light winds West won the Cup on countback from a tie with the North East. Regrettably I missed the opportunity to link this event with the twenty fifth anniversary of the formation of the Scottish District of the MYA despite the presence of some of the founding members.

I have served as Chairman for a number of years now and believe it is time for a change. However, I am willing to continue in office as Chairman for another year for continuity while MYA re-organises itself nationally but would ask the District to find a new Chairman to take over from the 2017 AGM.

David L. Smith, Chairman

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In the year since the last Scottish District AGM, I have attended in person the 2015 MYA AGM and 2 out of the 3 number 2016 Council meetings. On the occasion of the 3rd meeting, I was away on holiday and Steve Taylor was kind enough to deputise for me. All the Council meetings were held in Birmingham. The DC reports to Council as created by Steve Taylor and myself have been published on the Scottish District web pages.

SUMMARY OF MYA COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

This year in Council has been a very difficult year in a number of areas.

The official MYA membership year is effectively the calendar year but one of the significant Council difficulties started to emerge as early as the last Council meeting in September 2015, at which time Charles Smith "retired" from his post as Acquaint Editor. Although Charles had given Council plenty of warning of his decision to relinquish office, no successor had been found prior to then and it was beginning to seem likely that no successor would be forthcoming. This was effectively the start of the difficulty concerning the Constitutional requirement to deliver 3 copies of Acquaint to each member in each membership year.

The next difficulty to emerge concerned the proposed new class rules for the 3 International classes looked after by International Radio Sailing Association, ie the Radio Marblehead, the Radio 10 Rater and the Radio A classes. The final draft of these rules were issued to the National Members in mid-December 2015 with a request to respond by the end of December. The Technical Officer reported that there were a number of changes which could be described as controversial and so started a long acrimonious argument between IRSA, the MYA and Dave Holland about these rules. Added to this debate was also the need to respond to the IRSA General Assembly which also was debated at some length.

The problems with staffing Council were increased in the early part of the year when John Newton, the Development Officer, stood down due to ill health. Then right out the blue came the announcement in early June that the MYA Chairman Keith Coxon was standing down with immediate effect. As there was no Vice Chairman in place to take over, the MYA Council has been managed since June by a small sub-committee formed from the remaining senior officers.

As the summer progressed, this Council management team reviewed the various issues concerning the role of and activities undertaken by Council and submitted a review document to the September 2016 Council with the expectation that a number of proposals would be submitted to the MYA AGM in November concerning the subscription levels for 2017 and the extent and scope of Council activities. It is noted that the MYA ordinary affiliation membership fee will be reduced to £10 for the 2017 season.

However, since specific motions concerning the changes to Council were not ready in time to be issued to the Clubs prior to the required date, it is now understood that this topic will be discussed at the AGM and may then be formalised at an EGM held sometime in early 2017.

MYA AGM

The 2016 MYA AGM will be held in Birmingham on Saturday 26th November at 1:45pm following the MYA Trade Show. The formal Notice of Motions dated 25th September has

been issued to Clubs and may be found on the [MYA website](#). It is noted that proposals 1 to 3 were submitted by Ayr Bay Radio Yacht Club.

MYA NATIONAL SAILING PROGRAMME

Scotland will be hosting a MYA IOM Ranking event for the IOM class in 2017.

Reported during the AGM and appended here after the meeting

NI Clubs

In late 2015, I met with NI skippers on two occasions.

In November, I travelled to Gorton Lakes and spent a day sailing with the club. There were 8 IOMs sailing that day and all had timber hulls. Two of the skippers had travelled up from Howth for the race.

Just before Christmas, I hosted a meeting of the NI Clubs in a holiday apartment in Belfast. Unfortunately, the meeting was attended by only 2 out the 4 Clubs affiliated to the MYA at that time. The minutes of this meeting are available on the Scottish web pages.

Richard Rowan, District Councillor

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM THE RACING SECRETARY

Racing events organised by the MYA Scottish District in 2016 were run successfully according to the published calendar with the exception of the Karachi Cup that was rescheduled from 24th September to 8th October to avoid weed problems at Barshaw Park. Timing of the events outside the summer period ensured that problems with weed, though not entirely absent, were kept to the bare minimum. During the year Kinghorn Loch was used for the first time for the IOM Wooden Boats event and proved to be both an excellent venue and popular with skippers. The events run, their locations, numbers of competitors, and event winners are given in the table below:

EVENT	Venue/Club	Date	Number of competitors	Event winner
IOM Travellers 1	Irvine/ Ayr Bay RYC	12 th March 2016	15	Ian Dundas
IOM Travellers 2	Forfar Loch/ Tayside RSC	7 th May 2016	16	Alistair Law
IOM Travellers 3	Peterhead/ Buchanness RYC	10 th September 2016	10	Ian Dundas
IOM SD Championships	Castle Semple/ Levenhall RYC	9 th April 2016	14	Ian Dundas
IOM Wooden Boat Championships	Kinghorn Loch/ Kinghorn RSC	11 th June 2016	14	Ian Dundas
Karachi Cup	Barshaw Park/ Paisley MYC	8 th October 2016	14	WEST Richard Rowan

The overall result of the Travellers series, based on the two best scores, was a win for Ian Dundas (200 pts).

I would again 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.

In addition to the racing events listed above a training event, following on from that organised in 2015 by Alistair Law, was held at Greenock MY & PBC on 23rd April 2016. The two speakers, Richard Rowan and Alistair Law dealt with Racing Tactics and the use of the Racing Rules of Sailing. This was followed by coaching sessions run by the speakers, Ian Dundas and Steve Taylor. We are very grateful to Greenock MY & PBC for their warm hospitality in hosting the event and providing much appreciated refreshments. On 22nd April 2017 a further training event will be hosted by Aberdeen MYC at Knockburn Loch.

The calendar for 2017 is provided. This has been sent to the MYA and will appear in the year book. Note that we will be hosting a National Ranking Race on 1st and 2nd April 2017, and organisation of a race team under Alistair Law is already in hand.

Richard Ennos, Racing Secretary

GUIDANCE FOR RUNNING OF SCOTTISH DISTRICT TRAVELLERS EVENTS (Version 1 issued 26th October 2016)

In the Scottish District three Travellers Series events are held every year. The aim of these events is to provide an opportunity for skippers to sail at venues other than their home waters and experience a level of competition that will be more demanding than they might normally experience at their home clubs. The events also allow skippers to meet fellow enthusiasts from throughout the district, and therefore serve a social as well as a purely competitive function. The aim of the events is to send all skippers away with a feeling that they have experienced a challenging but fair test of their sailing skills, while in the company of a friendly, supportive, but competitive fleet.

Travellers events must be set up to satisfy the needs of three categories of skippers. The first are those at the top of the Scottish rankings who wish to compete with the best of the skippers from other clubs in Scotland for the Travellers trophy. The second category are established middle ranking skippers eager to test their skills and improve in the company of the top skippers. The third category are newcomers to the sport who are stepping up a level for the first time. Each of these categories of skipper need to be catered for in the design and running of Travellers events.

It is only possible to satisfy all three categories of skipper if there is both careful planning and execution of the event. The following guidelines for running Travellers event are therefore provided to ensure that the chance of running a successful event are maximised.

1. Race Officer

The race officer should be an individual **from the host club** with sufficient radio sailing experience to command the respect of the top skippers and possess local knowledge of the sailing venue and facilities. Ideally they will have acted as part of a race team in the past and be aware of the problems likely to arise during the event. **Taking on the race officer role should be seen by all experienced skippers as a duty that they are bound to undertake** when events are held at their clubs in order to contribute to the general good of the sport.

2. Race Team

The race team for a Travellers event should be large (**at least 5 members from the host club in addition to the race officer**), with members being assigned to designated duties with which they are, through experience, familiar. These duties would include scorer, boatman, starting line judge, fleet assembler/finishing line judge, observer marshal. It is always good practice to use the organisation of an event as an opportunity to provide race team experience to new club members.

3. Fleet size

Fleet size should be restricted to ensure that the step up from club sailing is not so great as to lead to a loss of quality in the racing experience enjoyed by competitors. Sailing in large fleets, as seen in national ranking races, requires a high level of skill and experience. This will not be possessed by many of the competitors who are new to the Scottish Travellers series. Conditions should be provided in which these skills can be learned, and this can only happen if the step up in numbers from club to Travellers fleets is not too great.

The MYA Heat Management System (HMS) provides the means to control fleet numbers. The recommendation is that **wherever the total number of boats entered for an event exceeds 12, HMS should be used.**

4. Course Setting

It is notoriously difficult to be prescriptive about course setting due to the vagaries of the wind and the particular attributes of the sailing water. However, a few general guidelines are:

- a. When possible **Port rounding courses should be used and Starboard rounding courses avoided**. This is particularly important for rounding of the first windward mark at which the majority of problems arise.
- b. When possible the **distance from the start line to the windward mark should be maximised**. This is to ensure that the fleet has spread out before reaching the first windward mark.
- c. When possible **the first windward mark should be set so that it is both easily visible and in a situation where it is not in wind shadow**. This is to ensure that fair strategies of mark rounding can be effectively planned, and rewarded when they are well executed.
- d. In keeping with the policy for national events, **windward-leeward courses that include a gate at the leeward end should be set**.

Richard Ennos
Racing Secretary, MYA Scottish District

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR MEASURER

Another very busy year for my e-mail system following IRSA's introduction of new rules to A class, Marblehead's and 10R's, firstly on discussions with the technical team on agreeing the new rules and secondly supporting and commenting on the interpretation documents.

The Scottish District does not sail these classes and I have little experience of them so I have kept communication of this matter to SD Club Measurers to an absolute minimum whilst supporting the technical team to their higher level approach and comment.

Why this particular issue has caused so much acrimony is difficult to say, but looking and listening to others a distinct lack of dialogue and communication in the initial inception stage is probably the route cause - some things in life don't change!

From a Scottish District perspective not much has changed : the IOM has been very quiet this year with only the 2016 measurement forms updated in April on the MYA website and the resignation of the long term Registrar Dave Stewart effective at year end. I am delighted to hear that our new Registrar will be local to some of you and is Nick Cowern who has kindly offered to take on the role - well done Nick!

We have not done too much test weighing at events this year. Traveller's events we can debate but I certainly think at ranking events this discipline should be executed for both the fin and the boat. The Scottish District has the measurers and check weights so if you are not sure, get your boat re-weighed! Remember digital scales are fine but they can be 10 to 20 grams out when checked with test weights. Interestingly at the GB IOM Nationals due, I think, to the late arrival of the measurer & kit, weighing did not take place. I personally feel we need to be a little more robust in this area.

That's about it for 2016. Wish you all good sailing as we move into 2017

Steve Taylor, Scottish District Senior Measurer

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM ABERDEEN MODEL YACHT CLUB

Since moving to Knockburn Sports Loch in 2015 Aberdeen MYC has built a very constructive relationship with the owners, management and the other users of this facility.

Club members, along with the site manager, put much effort very early in the season into weed clearance using a "Weed Razor" and home-made weed rake deployed from the club inflatable and from the bank. This initial effort was followed up in April using a Field Harrow towed behind a larger boat although this exercise was curtailed due to engine failure. Whether it was the timing or the depth of cut or just natural conditions, the weed did not cause a serious issue on those occasions we sailed there. 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.

Experience over the year has shown that the quality of sailing depends on wind direction with Northerly or Southerly winds giving the best courses.

Opportunity was taken when possible to sail in mid-week giving members the chance to tweak and tune ahead of Travellers events and to test new boats.

AMYC members were regularly joined by Buchanness members. Membership has remained stable albeit very low. However, the close proximity to other sporting activities at Knockburn Loch has resulted in several people showing interest and during the winter this may convert into more participation.

As per previous years, several of the 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 at Peterhead with the Buchanness club.

By continuing to build a constructive relationship with the Knockburn Sports Loch owner and management, it is hoped that the weed issue can be kept at arm's length and that the Club will attract new members.

In 2017 AMYC is pleased to organise the District Training Day that has been scheduled in April.

John Owens, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM AYR BAY RADIO YACHT CLUB

Twenty-six, including four members from other home clubs. The r.c Laser continues to dominate our fleet with ALL of our members regularly sailing and racing these one design boats. We now have a growing fleet of twenty IOM's of various designs. The Marblehead Class has remained fairly dormant but we still host the Scottish District annual Marblehead Championship which attracts about six skippers who really enjoy racing these fantastic boats. [Event won this year by Robert Rooney.]

Club skipper skills continue to improve with competition becoming more apparent. Very close racing as a result particularly with the new influx of enthusiastic members. Sadly, most members do not feel the urge to sail at other venues apart from the staunch few who really enjoy the challenge.

Weed in the pond this year has again affected our sailing at Irvine which has not been stopped but boats have been stopped / slowed up on occasions.

We have had another active year in association with the MYA. Members have participated in IOM Open events throughout Scotland including Peterhead, Levenhall, Forfar and Paisley. We hosted a very successful SD IOM Travellers 1 event this year. Members competed in the wooden boats event, the Scottish / Ulster competition and in the IOM Nationals. The Tri-Club IOM series for IOMs is being very well received by all and will continue this year, sailing at Castle Semple. Ayr Bay took the Club award this year, for the first time. Individual skipper's results are also used to identify the South West of Scotland IOM Champion. The MYA SD r.c. Laser Scottish District Championship will again be held at Irvine, later this month. This will be an annual event. We continue to participate in the UKRCLA Travellers Trophy events and will be hosting one of the events again next year.

Our Winter r.c. Laser "Frostbite" Series continues to be very popular with twelve to fifteen skippers regularly racing, [On one occasion we had nineteen boats racing!], the Summer "Heatwave" Series, for Lasers and IOM,s, being less well attended.

We sail every Sunday morning and Tuesday afternoons. ALL very welcome to visit and participate.

Gordon Neil, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM BRECHIN CASTLE CENTRE MODEL BOAT CLUB

At present we have 8 IOM owners (some have more than one). Of these 6 also have DF 65. Some of these are recent new members.

Weed is still a concern. We have maintained dye treatment, and although it continues to be a problem the weed does not appear to have been so extensive this season.

Formal racing does not happen at present. The general format is to tail chase round a mutually agreed course. Racing rules do apply, along the lines of "Do I have right of way?"--and we enjoy ourselves.

It may be worth noting that most if not all members also take part in the model/electric activities of the club on non-sailing days.

Laurie Stewart, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM BUCHANNESS RADIO YACHT CLUB.

Membership

As I present this report we have seventeen paid up MYA members and three associate members. Two members came into the club by way of the Dragon Force RG65 yachts and have upgraded to IOMs.

Dragon Force and IOM Yachts

We have eleven DFs in the club with a regular five plus sailing weekly. Also we have a monthly Saturday league event which is well attended. IOMs continue to be the focus of the club with nine skippers sailing them. We sail throughout the summer months every Wednesday and Saturday. The monthly league event on Saturday proves popular with good turnouts.

Buchanness members welcome the support we receive from our Aberdeen friends and support them as opportunities arise. The year started with a frostbite regatta in January with hot eats and drinks supplied in the main by the ladies of the club.

For the fourth year in a row, we hosted the local Salvation Army men's fellowship and taught them how to sail a radio yacht. Despite the cold night we were able to set up a few races. This was rounded off with hot drinks and a word of thanks from Peter Buchan.

Buchanness ran a Club Championship/Open event in August. We are very fortunate that we do not suffer from weed and this event therefore gave skippers in Scotland the opportunity to have some quality summer sailing.

In September Buchanness hosted the SD IOM Travellers 3 at Peterhead.

Several members have been active in participating in MYA events such as IOM nationals, the SD Championships, the Wooden Boats IOM Championship and the Travellers series. An additional event this year saw the return of the Karachi Cup between NE Scotland, East and West of Scotland which was well supported by our skippers.

Fifies

Fifies are alive and just well with only five skippers taking part in racing on a Tuesday. It is very dependent on wind direction so we did not achieve the number of races we would have liked.

Workshops

January through February saw several workshops organised with guest speakers including pond side first aid, boat electrics and sailing rules refresher. In April Buchanness members attended an excellent SD training event in Greenock.

Cathy Reid, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM GREENOCK MY & PBC

The season opened in March with the Scotts of Greenock Trophy which was won by Bruce Davidson of Ayr Bay. No other major racing events were held in Greenock during the season

A training event was held on 23rd April with members attending from all over Scotland, and proved an extremely successful event. Many thanks to the instructors for their participation and advice in this event.

This year we have been reasonably lucky in that we have had very little weed in the dam.....why, who knows!!!! Unlike last year when we had weed from early April until after New Year. We did have green algae but this did not restrict the sailing and may have been the reason for the lack of weed.

We have a regular team of half a dozen sailors participating in club racing on Tuesdays and Sundays. Anyone wishing to participate will be made most welcome.....as long as they let the Greenock guys win!!!!!!!

Hugh Shields, Competition Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM KINGHORN RADIO SAILING CLUB (KRSC)

Membership

Kinghorn Radio Sailing Club have almost completed their second year. Membership total is sixteen consisting five full members, nine associate members and one non-sailing member, an increase of seven from our first year.

Race meetings

KRSC currently race IOM yachts on Saturday afternoon's and have this year completed forty-four meetings with attendances varying from a maximum of ten to a minimum of three competitors. The average sailing is slightly higher than last year at just under six skippers sailing per meeting. We were also very pleased to host the Scottish District Wooden Hull Championship and thoroughly enjoyed doing so.

Loch sailing conditions

Through the months November until August, Kinghorn Loch was weed free and racing courses have been set with ease. The summer months of August until now (mid-October) has experienced some weed approx. 10 feet out from our sailing pier. This has necessitated setting course a little further into loch. However only one day's race sheet records any detrimental effect on racing and the Loch Users Group did not see weed as a sufficient problem to use the new weed cutting machine.

Sandy Mackay, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM LEVENHALL RADIO YACHT CLUB

Club membership currently stands at 16, with a typical fleet of six to eight competing each Saturday afternoon. Following serious weed problems, sailing resumed in December 2015 and continued through to the end of May in 2016. At the beginning of July 2016 East Lothian council paid for a very thorough and successful cutting of the weed which allowed sailing through to the middle of August 2016 when the weed returned. A second weed cut was carried out at the end of September 2016, and the pond should now be suitable for sailing until the end of spring 2017. During the summer period, when sailing was not possible at Levenhall, club members made the trip to Kinghorn each Saturday where they enjoyed great hospitality and good racing with Sandy Mackay et al..

A very significant development with respect to Levenhall is that Antony Stone, who runs 'Venturing Out', a company that organises outdoor activities including kayaking on the pond at Levenhall, has drawn together all users of the pond to lobby for restoration and improvement of the facility. Antony needs a weed free pond for his activities together with improved road access. He would also like to have toilet facilities installed at Levenhall to make it possible for disabled clients to take part in activities with dignity. A meeting to push this forward was held on 31st August 2016 and was attended by the local MP, local councillors and two representatives from Levenhall RYC among others. A working group has subsequently been formed to put forward a proposal to the council for improvements to the pond which will be accompanied by a budget for the work. Again two Levenhall RYC representatives (Nick Cowern and John Dewar) will be part of this group and the timetable for their submission to the council is December 2016.

Another development at the club has been the purchase of a fleet of Dragon Force yachts (about seven members have them) to be used to help attract new members. These were used in publicising the club at the Big Nature Festival in May but unfortunately this has not yielded any new members. It has been agreed that Dragon Force sailing will take place at Levenhall on the last Saturday of each month to continue the push for new members.

IOM racing has been very competitive over the last season with a fleet of well found yachts including many Britpops and more on the way. A session on race tuning was delivered by Robert Brown at an evening meeting in February. The club ran the Scottish District Championships at Castle Semple in early April which was won by Ian Dundas. Recently Nick Cowern has taken on the role of IOM registrar for GBR and is currently learning how to use MS-ACCESS.

Richard Ennos, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM PAISLEY MODEL YACHT CLUB

Paisley MYC added one new member and received a small number of serious enquiries which did not result in memberships during the year. The number of members of Paisley MYC remains small, the active number even smaller, and their average age remains high. Attendance at Wednesday IOM sailing is stronger than at weekends.

No R6m events took place during the year due to lack of enthusiasm for this class.

We welcomed a group of 2nd year Naval Architecture students from Strathclyde University who spent an afternoon at the end of March sailing their Strathclyde 70's in almost ideal conditions of wind and warm sunshine. In early May, just before the weed set in, we hosted a small event for (mainly) former Strathclyde students sailing a variety of small yachts under the title Mini-SUSA.

On 2nd April we hosted an IOM Tri-Series event (Paisley, Greenock & Ayr Bay). A short video was prepared from this for incorporation in or linking with our website.

Renfrewshire Council encouraged us to produce a programme of events throughout the year to publicise Barshaw Park as part of the Paisley City of Culture 2021 bid. The encouragement included high level promises regarding ongoing treatment of the pond. Despite these assurances the park management were unable to devise an appropriate treatment regime and the pond became unsailable in May and was not clear until late September. Robert Rooney, our Commodore, put in a lot of effort in physically removing weed from the pond throughout September.

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.

The change of ownership of the Club premises to the Renfrewshire Leisure Trust has not had any dire consequences so far. In fact, following maintenance carried out on the adjoining Golf Clubhouse more work has been carried out on our clubhouse, and more expeditiously, than had been done for many years. We have also developed a more collaborative relationship with our immediate neighbours the Paisley Society of Model Engineers who run the miniature railway in Barshaw Park.

We were fortunate in being able to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Karachi Cup by hosting the first event in its new format of a team competition within the Scottish District of the MYA. Fourteen IOM's competed on 8th October with West winning the Cup on countback from a tie with North East. South East came third.

David L Smith,
Secretary/Treasurer, Paisley Model Yacht Club

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM RHU RADIO LASERS

We have 13 paid up members having lost one of our founding members, John Patterson, who died in August after a long battle with cancer.

We continue to race every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm but unfortunately never get fleets of more than 6.

A Dragonflite 95 has also joined the Rhu fleet along with one new Laser member. We hope to arrange some weekend racing over the winter when dinghy racing at HSC is finished.

Iain Duncan, Secretary

2016 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM TAYSIDE RADIO SAILING CLUB

Tayside Radio Sailing Club has now completed its third season. Membership stands at a healthy 21 although participation has been disappointing over the summer months for various reasons. We continue to be based at Forfar Loch with an affiliation agreement with Forfar Sailing Club which has flourished into a mutually beneficial relationship. 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 Scottish District Travellers event with Boyd Baird as Race Officer and the Peterhead race team helping with race organisation and taking care of the scoring, much appreciated. Forfar Sailing Club again provided catering helping to make the day most enjoyable.

We continue to centre our efforts around Wednesday afternoon IOM racing with a total of 14 members taking part in the summer series although as previous mentioned some days we have been down to 3 or 4 skippers.

The good news has been that the Canadian Pond Weed which was so prolific last year has been virtually none existent this summer. The swans continue to pull weed from the bottom and allow it to drift down the loch but this has only been a real problem on two occasions.

As with most sailing clubs both radio and full size boats the main aim must be to attract more participants, but how. We will be sailing on through the winter when turn out tends to be better with members having less other attractions to take up their time.

Tich Summers, Club Captain