

# Model Yachting Association

## Scottish District Report to the February 2016 Council Meeting

Prepared by Richard Rowan (Scottish District Councillor)

date 31/01/2016

### 1. District AGM and Officers

The District AGM was held on 24th October 2015. The following Officers were elected:

Chairman	David Smith	Paisley MYC
Secretary	John Owens	Aberdeen MYC
Racing Secretary	Richard Ennos	Levenhall RYC
Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	Aberdeen MYC
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	Greenock MY&PBC

### 2. Arising from the AGM

#### 2016 Sailing and Events Programme

The 2015 District sailing and events programme is taking shape as this document is being written. The main IOM Travellers events are in place and now the District Clubs are finalising their programmes. This year sees the IOM Travellers and District Championship events being held out with the main summer months due to the possibility of disruption due to weed. The only event being held at Castle Semple will be the District Championships. No information is currently available concerning the search for new venues.

Word has been received from the Gortin Lakes club in Northern Ireland concerning the Celtic Championships. They are hoping to run the event at a venue on Lough Erne in the west of the Province.

#### District Workshop

A workshop will be held at Greenock in the SW corner of the District in April. This year there will be two speakers with the focus being on racing strategy and the rules.

#### Membership development

The aging membership profile was discussed and it was agreed to put more emphasis on improving the visibility of the sport and in recruiting new members. A re-work of the District website was also agreed.

#### N.Ireland clubs

There being no NI club reports or attendees at the AGM, it was agreed that a member of the District Committee would visit the NI clubs in order to develop relationships and provide support and encouragement. Accordingly, as part of a personal visit to N Ireland over the Christmas period, a meeting of the NI clubs was hosted by the District Councillor. This was held in Belfast on 21st December. Unfortunately, representatives from only 2 out of the 4 NI clubs could attend. However, the meeting was considered to be useful and a minute of the proceedings has been on the District web pages [link to the minutes of the meeting](#)

#### Evaluation of new venues

The first draft of a spreadsheet which sets out to evaluate venues for hosting district and national radio yachting events has been prepared by Steve Taylor (District Senior Measurer).

### **3. Issues for Consideration by MYA Council**

#### Criteria for selection of venues for holding major events

This topic was raised in my September report. I am pleased to advise the Council that the District has taken action on this topic as reported above.

#### Budget allocation to Districts

Council was informed at the September 2015 Council meeting that a budget of £500 would be allocated to each District in 2016, this funding to be spent on projects as determined by each District. Subsequently, there was discussion within Council which suggested that the fund might be appropriated to help with UK wide development proposals.

At the forthcoming Council meeting, the District Councillor will seek clarification of any rules and criteria which might be applied to this funding and will also seek detailed information of any rules on how to actually make claims on the budget for each District.

#### On the topic of Membership

Dissatisfaction with the what the MYA does for the average club skipper is a topic that continually rumbles along at what might be perceived to be at a low level. Periodically, the Council addresses the topic in various ways.

However, it seems to me that late 2015 saw what might be described as an increase in the volume of the rumblings of discontent in the Scottish District. I see the following as being evidence of this:

- There was some discussion following the District AGM concerning a point that was raised by a club member at the District AGM. This particular discussion ranged over a number of topics but for the purpose of this section of the DC report, the member was concerned that the forthcoming EGM, which was necessary as a result of the late issue of the necessary notice, might then lead to what the member saw as a “probable cost of £2000”. The member referred to his perception of a 250% increase in affiliation fee over the period from 2003 through to 2015 and made comment on what he saw as “a larger corporation type management with added expenses including travel.”
- I have heard a rumour that one of the major Scottish clubs is thinking of not affiliating to the MYA on the grounds that the MYA doesn't do very much for the members of that club. Personally, I think it very unlikely that the club will leave the MYA, but it is very discouraging to those working in the administration of the MYA to hear such rumours.
- Another discouragement is the reluctance of a senior member of the District to currently take any part in the administration of the District or of the MYA
- One of the NI club reps remarked at the meeting of the NI clubs in Belfast stated that he found that it was very difficult to find information for prospective new participants to the sport on the new MYA web site, especially with respect on how to start sailing IOMs. He noted that there was a big problem in sourcing low cost boats. He additionally thought that the anticipated DF95 class could prove to be a good way to get into radio sailing. He went on to say that he had found it difficult to find out how to join the MYA and how make payment of new member subscriptions. He drew a comparison with the British Model Flying Association and its web site - he found that the BMFA web site made it very easy to find out how to join, how to get advice, and how to buy new and second hand model planes. He drew a conclusion that the success of the BMFA in increasing its membership in recent years was very much assisted by its web site.

This report has also been published on the Scottish District web pages.