

Model Yachting Association

Scottish District Report to the January 2015 Council Meeting

Prepared by Richard Rowan (Scottish District Councillor)

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1. District Officers

At the District AGM on 25th October 2014, almost an entirely new team were elected, as follows:

Chairman	David Smith	Paisley MYC
Secretary	John Owens	Aberdeen
Racing Secretary	Alistair Law	Buchanness
Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	Aberdeen
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	Greenock

2. New clubs

In November and December 2014, the Scottish District welcomed a number of new clubs.

Firstly, in late November, a new club, Kinghorn RSC, was set up on the north shore of the Forth Estuary at just south of Kirkcaldy, some 13 miles from the Forth Road Bridge. The club came about as a result of a search to find alternative locations to sail following problems caused by weed at the Levenhall RYC east of Edinburgh.

Also, in November, the MYA affiliated clubs in Northern Ireland agreed to re-affiliate to the MYA through the Scottish District. This came about because of a number of personal contacts and interclub sailing between the Irish and Scottish clubs. Then in December, some of the Northern Irish sailors located in the west of N.Ireland set up a new club at Gortin Lakes just north of Omagh.

3. Club Activities

Ulster Championships at Lough Money in Northern Ireland

Again this event in mid November 2014 was favoured with good weather and had the added excitement of a strong contingent of top English sailors taking part. Scotland and Southern Ireland were also well represented with a number of their top sailors present. Due to a late call off by the designated race officer, Scottish skipper Pat Johnston stepped in literally at the last minute to run the event. The event reports can be read elsewhere but it is safe to say that the event turned out to be a wee classic, a lot of this being down to Pat and the race team's low key (even laid back) but also expert race management. I would be failing in my duty as a reporter if I didn't mention the enthusiasm and hospitality of Brian O'Neill and the local Ulster sailors.

2015 Programme

The 2015 District sailing programme was been established in conjunction with the MYA Racing Officer and has been published on the Scottish District web pages. In 2015, Scotland

will not be hosting any UK National events, the only major event planned for Castle Semple is the IOM Scottish District Championships in late May.

Club activities in Scotland

Winter Club activity throughout the District is continuing as might be expected over the winter. However, a couple of what I would describe as our more desirable sailing locations were badly affected by weed - in December ! - obviously, this down to an unseasonably warm late autumn. Locations affected included Castle Semple and Forfar Lough.

Unfortunately, in late 2014 the Aberdeen club had access to their sailing water on the Ingarth Reservoir completely withdrawn by Scottish Water - this wasn't down to anything that the club had done, it was in response to an accident that led to a death by drowning on one of the Scottish Water active reservoirs. Aberdeen are now searching for another sailing location but so far have not found many suitable locations near by.

However, Aberdeen are not down and out yet - Ian Dundas will be acting as PRO for the two day IOM Scottish District Championships which will be held at the end of May at Castle Semple. As well as running the event in the efficient manner that we have all come to expect, he is planning to offer members throughout the District the opportunity to join the race management team in order to gain experience in running larger events.

Your reporter has heard of many new boats appearing throughout the District (including one very green Cheinz named Fearghus Uain - if any one is interested in the connection here, then they should contact me separately).

A number of individual training and information evenings are known to be taking place in the Buchanness and Levenhall clubs even as this report is being written. Ali Law (our Racing Secretary) is planning a workshop to be held in the early part of the season - initially this is likely to be held at Forfar on the east coast but might also be repeated in the west coast later in the year. It is anticipated that topics covered could include designing and building boats, yacht set up and tuning, designing and manufacturing sails, race management, and of course rules on and off the water.

Club activities in N.Ireland

Brian O'Neill tells me that the Northern Irish clubs are currently quite active with lots of enthusiasm present. A number of new boats of current design are appearing, potential new members are being recruited from the full sized sailing arena and regular cross border race meetings are being held with the Irish sailors in and around Dublin, these being sailed in both IOMs and Dragon Forces. And a fleet of the more traditional A boat class is also slowly building up in the area.

Brian has also expressed interest in receiving training sessions with the objective of translating the enthusiasm into solid skills and success on the water.

4. Issues for Consideration by MYA Council

Defibrillator for the Scottish District

At the 2014 Scottish District AGM a motion was proposed by Boyd Baird to request financial funds from the MYA to purchase a defibrillator for use in the Scottish District. Accordingly, I would ask the MYA Council to consider the following request:

- that the MYA provides all or some of the funds necessary to enable the Scottish District to purchase a defibrillator for use in the Scottish District. The purpose of the unit would be to provide appropriate first aid for members of the racing fraternity in the event they became ill at a sailing event. The unit would be kept at a central location and would be taken to all major events by someone qualified in its use. The cost of such an item is in the region of £1000 upwards.

Emergency Procedures for sailing venues

As the new District Councillor, I am intending to bring this topic to the forefront in the District in 2015. I know that a number of the District clubs have already taken action in implementing appropriate health and plans but that the implementation might not be 100%. Following the lead from the MYA and taking account of pockets of activity and knowledge in the District, I would also like to promote training sessions on first aid.

The following item is carried forward from the report submitted to the June 2014 Council meeting by Ian Dundas. I think it is important that this matter is not allowed to simply disappear into the archives.

Maintaining the MYA Knowledge Base and adding new material

The MYA Knowledge Base is a valuable tool to hold and share best practice and to file key race management and administration documents and records. It is only of value if it is kept current and if its content and updates are made aware to those who need to use it. With the IT Officer post now vacant, Council may wish to consider how the Knowledge Base will be kept up to date and who should have responsibility to feed in new material.

The existing Members Area

More recently Ian and other members of the District have expressed concern about what is happening to the MYA Members Area as a whole. Having worked on the development of the Members Area, Ian is aware of how much effort and detailed fine tuning was required to get the overall facility to the position that it is in today, and that moreover, whilst it might appear to be boring and dull, for those who understand how it works, its value to the MYA as a working tool is immense. Ian goes on to caution that replacing the existing facility should be considered very carefully and the cost and effort required should not be under estimated.

Report also published on the Scottish District web pages.