

Model Yachting Association

Scottish District Report to the May 2015 Council Meeting

Prepared by Richard Rowan (Scottish District Councillor)

date 04/05/2015

1. District Officers

The District Officers remain as follows:

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

Alistair Law has just stood down as Racing Secretary.

2. Club Activities

2015 Programme

The 2015 District sailing programme is moving forward apace.

In the IOM class, the first of the Scottish Travellers events was held at Levenhall in March and had an entry of 15 boats, including 2 from N Ireland and 2 from England. The second Travellers was held at the beginning of May and also attracted an entry of 15 boats, this time all from Scottish clubs.

An IOM open meeting held at Paisley in early April saw a good turnout of 16 boats again including 2 boats from N. Ireland and an IRL boat sailed by Gilbert Louis from Howth.

At the end of May, the IOM Scottish District Championships will be held at Castle Semple.

In the RC Laser class, 14 skippers came to the starting line in late March for a UKRCLA TT race at Ayr Bay and again, the fleet included 3 skippers from England.

In April there was a disappointing turnout of only 4 boats for the R6M Scottish Championship at Paisley.

Club activities in Scotland

A very successful Sail Training Workshop was held at Forfar Loch in early April. The morning session saw speakers Richard Ennos, Brian Summers and Ian Dundas talk about "yacht design and boat building", "sail design and construction" and "boat setup and tuning" respectively to a very interested audience of 27 local skippers. The theoretical knowledge gained in the morning was put into practice in the afternoon with twenty IOMs taking part in a series of races with lots of advice and coaching from the "experts".

A potential new venue for holding major events was identified in 2014 in central Scotland. This is the Helix outdoor activity centre near Falkirk ([The Helix website](#)) where there is a large circular lagoon with hard standing and walkway around some 70% of the circumference, and a nearby cafe and toilets. The only major issue with the venue presently is the lack of parking nearby the water's edge. The centre is located off the M9 almost equi-distant from

Glasgow and Edinburgh. Members of the District committee have explored the location and have opened discussions with the centre management.

Reports have come in that Buchanness is having a very positive recruitment drive using the RG65 DFs to encourage new entrants to radio sailing.

It seems that the standard and interest in top level racing in IOMs in the North East of Scotland continues to rise, as evidenced by a strong contingent of 6 boats entering the recent West Kirby National Ranking Race weekend with some top results in very difficult sailing conditions.

In my January Report to Council, I noted that the Aberdeen club had access to their sailing water on the Ingarth Reservoir completely withdrawn by Scottish Water. I am now pleased to advise that they have found a new venue at Knockburn Sports Loch near Banchory some 12 to 15 miles west of Aberdeen. Currently members of the club are assisting the centre management in clearing weed.

Club activities in N.Ireland

Neill Suitor tells me that the Northern Irish clubs continue to be very active with regular cross border meetings continuing with the IOPM sailors from the Dublin area. There are quite a number of wooden Goth XPs being built - a strong contingent of woodies is expected to come across for the Scottish Wooden Boat Championships in June. There are plans afoot to try out some IOM and A Class radio sailing in Lough Erne.

4. Issues for Consideration by MYA Council

The following item is again carried forward from my January 2015 report to Council - the comments were drawn from the report submitted to the June 2014 Council meeting by Ian Dundas.

I don't think that Ian's comments were particularly addressed at the January Council meeting.

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 underestimated.

Report also published on the Scottish District web pages.