

Model Yachting Association

Scottish District Report to the September 2015 Council Meeting

Prepared by Richard Rowan (Scottish District Councillor)

date 14/09/2015

1. District Officers

The District Officers are as follows:

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

Richard Ennos took over from Ali Law in June.

2. Club Activities

2015 Programme

With the autumn having now arrived, the 2015 District sailing programme is reaching completion.

In the IOM class, the Scottish District Championships was held at Castle Semple over the weekend of 23rd/24th May. 15 boats from 7 Scottish clubs plus Phil Playle from Chelmsford took part. After two days of close racing with 27 races sailed, the first two places were eventually settled over the last 3 races with Phil overhauling Ali Law to take victory.

The final IOM Travellers was held on 12th September at Aberdeen MYC's new venue at Knockburn Loch. Turnout was relatively poor but that was probably due to a very adverse weather forecast - which turned out to be accurate - the event was sailed starting in number 2 rig and then going down to number 3 rig as strong gusts and heavy rain came in at lunch time.

Club activities in Scotland

Following the successful Sail Training Workshop held at Forfar Loch in early April, a somewhat less ambitious training day was held in July at Murdieston Dam. 12 skippers from the 3 SW clubs attended and found the day useful. Subsequently, we had some really good club racing days at Greenock.

Buchanness held a very successful IOM open meeting in August which attracted quite a number of visitors from the clubs in the south of the District.

Weed has been affecting almost all the Scottish clubs to some extent. Paisley and Levenhall have been completely closed, with some of the affected club members travelling to Greenock and Kinghorn respectively to take part in joint sessions. Forfar's main sailing area has been unusable but they have been able to sail on the other side of the spit which forms the base area for their club. Aberdeen worked very hard to clear weed from their new home venue during the summer - they were hopeful that the IOM Travellers event would go off without any problems but unfortunately there was enough weed present to affect the racing.

Buchanness, Ayr Bay, Greenock and Castle Semple have all had some weed in and around the sailing areas at their venues, but it hasn't been bad enough to affect the sailing overmuch.

Club activities in N.Ireland

A number of the N Ireland clubs have been relatively dormant over the summer months, this being due to a lot of the more active skippers indulging in full sized yachting activities. Neil Sutor from Gorton Lakes reports that there have been regular cross border meetings with the IOM fleet from Howth. However, it seems that a lot of wooden boats are being built and it is expected that these will appear on the water as the autumn and winter radio sailing gets under way.

Regretfully, the anticipated Ulster Championships and Anglo-Celtic Challenge Cup event for IOMs, which was due to be held in mid November, has been cancelled for this year. Probably as much as anything due to Brian O'Neil being up to his eyes in nappies and things to do with his newly born twins.

New venues for major events

I reported in my last report to Council that we thought we had found a new venue for holding major events at the Helix outdoor activity centre near Falkirk. Unfortunately, several conditions laid down by the management has meant that we will not using this venue at all. A search is continuing to find somewhere else.

A knowledgeable reader will possibly think at this point "what is wrong with Castle Semple". I have to report that the District Committee have become very concerned about issues to do with skippers falling in (at least 3 this year in the two main IOM events held there), the lack of maintenance to the planks forming the edge to the walkway and the congestion that now occurs due to the effective constriction of the width of the lower walkway caused by large boulders having been placed along the landward edge of the walkway.

3. Issues for Consideration by MYA Council

Concerning the fact that there will be no National or Ranking event in Scotland in 2016

The District Committee wishes to have the following text added into the minutes of the September Council meeting:

"Following some adverse comment on the MYA forum which implied that the Scottish District was unwilling to hold either an IOM National or Ranking event in 2016, the Committee would like to state unambiguously that Scotland was willing to hold the IOM Nationals in 2016 but agreement could not be reached with the MYA Racing Officer / Class Captain concerning the date. The District Committee is very conscious of the obligation to hold events in good sailing conditions and so the Committee is simply not willing to run major events over the summer period where there is a likelihood of weed infestation."

Major events in Scotland in 2017

Noting that the District is currently in the process of arranging to run an IOM Ranking race in the spring of 2017.

Criteria for selection of venues for holding major events

Arising from the report above of our search for a new venue to hold major events, the District Committee consider that it would useful if the MYA could set out criteria for assessing both existing and new venues for major UK events (this probably applying only to the IOM class due to the size of the entry at all recent UK Ranking and National events).

Application for funding for district domain name and web hosting

A similar application for funding has been submitted to the September 2015 Council meeting by the Midlands District. Accordingly, on behalf of the Scottish District, I would like to request a sum of £50 to be used to setup the domain www.mya-scotland.org.uk and to create a new and more modern district website. It is anticipated that a tool such as the dreaded Wordpress would be adopted to permit more direct interaction by the District team. Following a suggestion by the District Secretary, the new facility could also offer those Scottish Clubs who haven't already got a web site the ability to upload content and to make their presence visible on-line. It is also anticipated that a forum will be introduced to facilitate on-line discussion by the District Committee with involvement also being extended to the Scottish and N.Ireland club reps.

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