

MYA Scottish District

Minutes of a Meeting of the Northern Ireland Clubs in Belfast on 21st December 2015

1. Present

Richard Rowan (District Councillor)
John D'Arcy (Carrickfergus MBC)
Neill Suitor (Gortin Lake MBC)

2. Apologies

Wayne Lavery (Belfast Waterworks MBC)
Brian O'Neil (East Down Yacht Club)

3. Introduction by District Councillor

RR prepared a set of notes prior to meeting - these notes were circulated to all of the NI clubs. The notes are attached as Appendix A and were reviewed at the meeting.

4. Topics from the full SD AGM

(i) Scoring and heat management

Report by RR on the work being done by David Smith on the development of skills in managing the score board and scoring computer programme for one and two heat District events.

(ii) Safety in the SD

Report by RR on the focus on health and safety within the District. In particular each club should prepare documents as per the list on the DS website. Noted the particular need about to do in the event of a member becoming ill at the pond side.

(iii) Chairman's report - membership development

RR reported that this topic started off at the 2014 MYA AGM when the topic of an aging membership profile was raised. The MYA Council setup a project group which produced a very interesting report at the May Council meeting (the Project Group report is available on the old MYA Knowledge Base. RR went further by saying that it seemed to him that the momentum that might have been built up following this report has not materialised.

RR also advised the meeting that it had been agreed at the SD AGM to put more emphasis on improving the visibility of the sport and in recruitment of new members.

NS 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 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.

NS advised that he was using a private Facebook page to communicate with members and "friends" of the Gortin Lakes club. He agreed to review whether his Facebook page could be made more publically visible

(iv) Racing Secretary - 2016 calendar

RR advised that the first version of the 2016 District calendar had just been published on the District web pages. He noted that there were no NI club events listed and encouraged the NI clubs to let the Racing Secretary know of any events being held.

NS advised that he hoped that the Ulster Championships would be held in 2016 at a venue near Enniskillen.

(v) Senior Measurer's Report - IOM measurers for N. Ireland

JD advised that Carrickfergus member Sam Penny was an MYA registered official IOM measurer. NS reported that IOMs in the west were currently being allocated numbers and being measured via the IOM Irish National Class Association.

(vi) Reports from

- the Tayside club : IOM Workshop
- the Greenock club : IOM training day

RR noted that Two very good training events had been held in Scotland in 2015. The Tayside was the district event, was well prepared and had a good attendance from MYA club members from the north and east of Scotland clubs. Attendance from the south west was poor. Consequently, a smaller version was held at Greenock for the benefit of a smaller group of local IOM sailors. It was also well received.

RR advised that the smaller version could easily be brought across to N.Ireland. He also encouraged NI skippers to come across to the proposed 2016 workshop to be held in Greenock.

(vii) AOCB items

(a) new SD website

RR reviewed plans to upgrade the Scottish District web pages.

(b) Visibility of rc yacht racing in the District and recruitment of new participants

Covered in item 4 (iii) above.

(c) Venues for major UK events

RR reported that it became very apparent in 2015 that Castle Semple now has issues with the walkway along the waters edge. A number of skippers have fallen in. The District has been searching for a new venue with no too much success. A site that was used many years ago (ie Drumpelie Park to the north east of Glasgow) is going to receive a more detailed assessment in early 2016.

(d) The problems of aquatic weed growth

This has been a big problem for almost all the Scottish clubs in 2015. The District has resolved to try and accumulate information on weed treatment.

- (f) MYA budget allocation for Scottish District
The MYA Council has allocated a sum of £500 to each District. A substantial proportion of the SD budget is expected to be spent on travelling, particularly between NI and Scotland
- (g) 2016 workshop
The date for the 2016 District workshop has now been set for 23rd April and will be held at Greenock

5. Club reports

Belfast Waterworks MBC

No report received.

Carrickfergus MBC

At the moment we have 11 sailing members. A usual turnout would be 4-6.

We do not have a Club League but race in Carrickfergus Harbour from a pontoon, all the marks are 'laid and lifted' on the day.

The racing is 1 metre and the boats are all old designs and not competitive.

About half of the members are elderly and would not travel to compete, others race full size boats.

Since moving to the harbour we have gained 4 new members, hopefully this will continue.

A footnote from RR concerning Carrickfergus MBC - as part of some research in my archives, I saw that the club was affiliated to the MYA in 1990. It remains the longest affiliated SD club.

East Down Yacht Club

No report received.

Gortin Lake MBC

No report received.

6. Any other competent business

- (i) Intention by RR to propose that the SD Committee has a new committee member added - namely "Spokesperson for the Northern Ireland clubs". This would be brought forward by way of a proposal to the 2016 District AGM.
This item was considered at the meeting but no conclusion was reached.

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Notes by District Councillor

The MYA

Some key points

The Model Yachting Association (MYA) is an **association of clubs** dedicated to encouraging and promoting model yacht sailing in all its formats. It is the recognised National Organisation in the UK.

The MYA was founded on 18th February 1911, so has now been in existence for over 100 years.

The MYA works for the benefit of its clubs and the members of those clubs who are affiliated to the MYA.

The MYA:

- Organises and runs national events for the national and international recognised classes;
- Manages the rules and technical issues of the recognised classes within the overall international framework.
- Promotes the sport at various levels
- Provides third-party insurance for affiliated members, and for club officials while carrying out MYA approved activities.

MYA Management

The MYA is managed by the elected Council of Officers who have ultimate responsibility for the governance of the sport within the UK. To help with this the UK is broken down into 6 districts each with their own committee who are responsible developing the sport locally including organising district events for club members.

The MYA management structure also includes Class Captains whose remit is to develop and encourage greater participation of members within their class.

How the MYA communicates

The MYA uses a number of methods to communicate with its affiliated clubs and members. Primary contact is via the club representative who is responsible (amongst other things) for keeping club member details up-to-date, for collecting and forwarding the annual affiliation fee and for disseminating important MYA communications to club members.

The MYA posts the MYA Year Book and Acquaint directly to affiliated members.

In line with the times, the MYA is adopting electronic methods of communication via the internet, including the main web site (which comprises various sections), the MYA on-line forum and the use of short information type messages via email. The latter facility is used not only by Council but is also available to Class Captains and District officials.

The Scottish District

The Scottish District was set up about 25 years ago and now comprises some 9 clubs in Scotland and, with effect from 2014, 4 clubs in Northern Ireland.

Over the years the District has always run good "Traveller" event series which has maintained a good standard of competition within the District. This has then led, over the years, to a number of Scottish skippers achieving top level results at national UK level. The District is held in high regard throughout the UK for the standard of national level events held in Scotland. Individual members of the District have been influential at National level.

Having said the above, I do think that the Scottish District has a sort of independent streak (this even before the recent Independence Referendum) - perhaps this is because we are a bit remote from the MYA centres of activity - it's a long drive up the M6, across the border and then up the M74.

Currently, the District is focussing on development of club level skippers by holding training workshops and is very conscious of the health and safety of a membership that is increasingly comprised of "older" individuals.

The connection with the Northern Ireland clubs has built up over a number of years thanks in no small measure to Brian O'Neill and his willingness to travel to Scotland on the most unsociable ferry crossings available. Brian has also been instrumental in improving the visibility of Northern Ireland throughout the UK particularly via the Celtic Championships annual event. The development of latter event has been assisted by members of Scottish clubs coming across to take part in and to assist with the running of the event.

More recently, the development of regular club level racing between the Gortin Lakes club and the sailors from Howth in the Republic of Ireland is very positive.

However, we should now forward to see how membership of the Scottish District can benefit the NI clubs and how having the NI clubs in the District can benefit the Scottish clubs. Co-operation locally between clubs in each part of the District is very important in pushing development forward, this being assisted by travelling across the Irish Sea.

Current membership levels in the District

Club	2015 membership	2014 membership
Aberdeen	7	5
Ayr Bay	19	14
Brechin Castle	4	2
Buchaness	17	14
Greenock	12	7
Kinghorn	3	3
Levenhall	16	15
Paisley	8	7
Rhu Radio Lasers	14	14
Tayside	19	17
Belfast Waterworks	5	2
Carrickfergus	11	10
East Down	3	1
Gortin Lake	3	2