

# **MYA Scottish District**

## **2020 AGM – 31st October 2020**

### **Virtual meeting**

#### **Minutes**

##### **1) Confirm Minutes of 2019 MYA Scottish District AGM**

- a) Votes For – 8                      Against – 0                      Abstentions – 3
- b) Motion carried

##### **2) Matters arising from the 2019 MYA Scottish District AGM Minutes**

- a) See attached Appendix 1

##### **3) Review of MYA Scottish District spending in 2020**

- a) The MYA sets aside money for Districts. As approved by the MYA Treasurer, on behalf of the Scottish District, the MYA SD Committee applied for and received £108.83 for equipment to supplement the [Scottish District Event Resources](#):
  - i) 2 x Aquapac large classic waterproof VHF cases for walkie-talkies (NB All four MYA SD walkie-talkies now have such covers)
  - ii) 10 x Yellow hi vis vests (Size XXXL) for MYA SD event race team members
  - iii) 1 x A4 waterproof clipboard for recording finish line results
  - iv) 1 x Large plastic storage box for race team equipment

##### **4) Election of MYA Scottish District Committee Officers for 2021**

- a) The 2020 Scottish District Committee officers indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.
- b) No other candidates were nominated.
- c) There was a unanimous vote **FOR** all the nominees. Therefore, the 2021 MYA Scottish District Committee is:
  - District Councillor – John Owens
  - District Racing Secretary – Brian Summers
  - District Senior Measurer – Steve Taylor
  - District Secretary – Cathy Reid

##### **5) Motions raised by clubs**

- a) No Motions were raised

##### **6) Reports by MYA Scottish District Committee Officers for 2020**

- a) See attached

##### **7) Reports received from MYA Scottish District Clubs for 2020**

- a) See attached

##### **8) Draft racing programme for 2021 season**

- a) Owing to the current Covid-19 situation and consequent uncertainty, a 2021 MYA SD Racing Calendar will be drafted at the appropriate time early in 2021.

## Appendix 1 - Matters arising from the 2019 minutes

Action	Status
<b>Item 3 - John Owens</b> to ensure the guidance notes and Request for Expenditure form be placed on the Scottish District's website.	Done
<b>Item 3 - Cathy Reid</b> to add item to the 2020 Agenda 'Review of spending in 2020'.	Done
<b>Item 5 - Brian Summers</b> to organise a training event.	Cancelled due to Covid-19
<b>Item 5 - Brian Summers</b> to encourage clubs to organise open events.	Cancelled due to Covid-19
<b>Item 7, a</b> - Addition of a news section to the Scottish District website.	Done
<b>Item 7, b - Brian Summers/John Owens</b> to put together a list of the race team resources available to clubs holding MYA SD events and post on the SD website.	Done
<b>Item 7, c, iv - All clubs</b> should ideally be in a position to host a SD event including providing a suitable Race Team.	Ongoing
<b>Item 7, c, iii - Brian Summers</b> to revise the event Guidance version to be posted on the SD website prior to the 2020 MYA-SD Racing Season.	Done
<b>Item 7, c, iv</b> - It was noted that the MYA contribute to the Race Teams expenses for their events. <b>Brian Summers</b> to liaise with the MYA to produce a formal guide of what the SD should pay for and how much should be paid.	In progress
<b>Item 7, e - All clubs</b> to keep looking for new sailing venues.	Ongoing
<b>Item 8, a - John Owens</b> to obtain valuation of the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup and have trophy covered by MYA insurance.	Done
<b>Item 8, c, i - Brian Summers</b> to contact Darin Ballington to discuss and then prepare arbitration documents with hyperlinks to be put on the SD website for using at club level.	Done

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

#### **MYA Scottish District Committee**

It has been a very challenging year for everyone. Behind the scenes, the 2020 MYA SD Committee (Brian Summers, Steve Taylor and Cathy Reid) have put in a lot of effort on behalf of the eleven clubs and their members in Scotland and Northern Ireland. I would like to thank them for their time, support and wise counsel.

They will describe some of their work in their reports but this barely recognises the hours they have expended on activities within in the District and further afield. Some highlights include the work undertaken to compile the revised [MYA SD SSI's](#), [RO Guidance notes](#) and the [MYA Scottish District – Guidance for Return to Competitive Sailing](#) by Brian Summers. In addition, Steve Taylor has been liaising with the MYA Technical Officer (Graham Bantock) to influence the direction and teaching of future MYA sail and boat certification.

#### **Interface with MYA Council on behalf of the MYA Scottish District (SD)**

It is hoped that during 2020, I have represented you (the MYA Scottish District affiliated members and Clubs) in a timely manner addressing matters between MYA Council, its officers and yourselves as and when appropriate.

On behalf of the MYA SD, I have submitted quarterly reports to MYA Council which have been published on the MYA SD website (see "[District Committee](#)" tab). In addition, part of the role is to participate in regular online meetings with fellow MYA Council officers to manage matters arising. There are also regular emails and Council forums to keep abreast of matters and ensure the MYA SD is properly represented. An important innovation this year has been the use of video conferencing which saved both travel time and money.

During 2020 I was a member of a small dedicated team that has been monitoring changing COVID-19 government regulations and guidance and the consequences for MYA activities. This has resulted in Scotland and Northern Ireland being represented in the formally agreed MYA Guidance documents which have been adapted as circumstances dictate. Without this formal documentation (and the MYA Scottish District Guidance mentioned above) the restrictions on our sailing activities would have been far more onerous.

An important milestone for the MYA in 2020 was the EGM which overwhelmingly voted for the new [MYA Constitution](#). Whilst this may not be of interest to many members, it brought in some important and useful changes to the streamlining of MYA governance. I was part of the small team that spent many hours over several months honing the revision. It was very rewarding to know that almost all of the Scottish District clubs voted in the EGM.

#### **MYA – MYA SD funding**

The MYA sets aside money for Districts. The MYA SD Committee applied for and received £108.83 for equipment to supplement the [Scottish District Event Resources](#):

- 2 x Aquapac large classic waterproof VHF cases for walkie-talkies
  - NB All four MYA SD walkie-talkies now have such covers
- 10 x Yellow hi vis vests (size XXXL) for race team members
- 1 x A4 waterproof clipboard for recording finish line results
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#### **MYA SD website**

The revised [MYA Scottish District website](#) as undertaken by Austin Guerrier (MYA Digital Communications Officer) and David Ross (MYA Scottish District webmaster) has been very successful. David Ross has now handed-over the reins to me (I can assure you that this is not a power-grab to add to my titles!☺). I would like to thank David for his invaluable services at an important time. It is hoped that all skippers in the Scottish District access

this excellent resource to keep abreast of news and events and review the useful material to support club and skipper activities.

### **MYA SD affiliated members (as of September 2020)**

For the last three years, the MYA-affiliated membership of the Scottish District has continued to slowly grow. In 2020, the membership increased by 10 to 155.

<b>MYA-SD Club</b>	<b>MYA affiliated members</b>
Aberdeen	5
Ayr	19
Buchanness	19
Carrickfergus	13
Greenock	10
Kinghorn	14
Levenhall	12
Mid Argyll	15
Paisley	12
Rhu	16
Tayside	20
<b>Total:</b>	<b>155</b>

### **The Sir Thomas Lipton Cup**

At the last AGM, the adoption of the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup was discussed ([AGM Minutes, Item 8a](#)). The Cup is silver and has important historic ties to sailing and Sir Thomas Lipton.

As agreed, it was valued for insurance purposes including (i) replacement value and (ii) historic value. This was communicated to the MYA Treasurer and it is now included in the MYA Trophy Insurance list at no cost to MYA SD. Thus, as per agreement at the AGM and given the above, the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup has been adopted by the MYA SD as the trophy for the overall winner of the annual MYA Scottish District IOM Travellers series.

A [recent event](#) was the first opportunity to belatedly present the Sir Thomas Lipton Cup to Ian Dundas as the winner of the 2019 MYA Scottish District IOM Travellers series.

### **2021 look ahead**

Trying to be positive when planning for 2021, it was mentioned above that the Scottish District has an excellent reputation within the MYA for being well organised. In addition, over many years, we have a well-deserved reputation for organising high quality racing events. This has resulted in the MYA Scottish District accepting an invitation to host the UK IOM Ranking Races 1 and 2 at Castle Semple in April 2021. More details will be announced later.

### **2020 Summary**

COVID-19 has caused severely curtailed sailing activities. However, on other fronts, it has been an extremely busy year preparing guidance documents to support our safe and healthy resumption of sailing. Apologies if you feel you have been bombarded with excessive communications – this was not the intent.

Keep healthy, keep well

**John Owens, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE RACING SECRETARY**

This year had been a bit of a wash-out with the Covid-19 pandemic striking in the spring and lockdown being imposed just a week before our first SD IOM Travellers event was due to take place at Ayr Bay on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. A five mile travel restriction was initially introduced making the running of any events impossible resulting in SD IOM T2 being cancelled as well. Once the five mile rule was lifted some clubs were able to get back to limited sailing but still with restrictions in place.

In August, the MYA Scottish District Committee in consultation with RYA Scotland was able to introduce a protocol to allow radio sailing competition to resume within the governments rules/guidelines. By forming what the legislation refers to as 'a field of play bubble' to keep the competitors and race team separated from the public, club sailing and events could resume with more people involved than that allowed by the normal Covid restrictions.

SD IOM Travellers 3 to be run by Aberdeen MYC on the 19<sup>th</sup> September was changed to the Scottish IOM Championship as this was to be the only one of the series to be held this year. On the day six skippers gathered at Forfar Loch but no wind appeared. It was decided to postpone until the 17<sup>th</sup> October (no wind again) and now 7<sup>th</sup> November (yet to happen at the time of this report).

The only Scottish District event which has been completed to date was the SD IOM Wooden Hulled Championship at Forfar Loch on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October. This had been postponed from the previous Saturday due to an extremely light wind forecast and amber weather alerts for heavy rain and flooding. Ten skippers enjoined a great days sailing with Ian Dundas coming out on top sailing his new Corbie 6.

Again due to the pandemic no Scottish skippers have been able to take part in any national events this year.

**Brian Summers**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT SENIOR MEASURER**

As with sailing activity not a lot has happened this year on the technical front although my weighing scales did come out at the recent attempt to run the Scottish District IOM Championship on the 19<sup>th</sup> September!

I have worked with the MYA Technical Officer (Graham Bantock) by phone and e-mail reviewing new documentation concerning certification of measurer's and possible protocol to manage this for the future (2022 & beyond).

The documentation guidance I developed in 2019 for Scottish District IOM Measurers has been taken on board by the MYA TO and incorporated into a wider Measurement Control document. I am pleased to say the IOM section is a guide to what other classes need to achieve.

I would like to point out that I'm NOT a believer that all measurers have to attend and pass the RYA sail measuring course. However, if it's an initial step as a means to an end on a road that the MYA can demonstrate to the RYA that we have our own robust processes in place, then so be it.

During the year I have communicated these issues to John our District Councillor who has submitted the Scottish District's concerns both in writing and at Council meetings.

We will have to see how this moves forward in 2021 when training and interaction might again be opened up and a dialogue can resume regarding timescales and training around this important issue.

Keep safe

**Steve Taylor**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM ABERDEEN MODEL YACHT CLUB**

In 2020 Aberdeen Club membership remained stable at 5.

Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions have affected Aberdeen club sailing activities for a large part of the year. However, by following "field of play bubble" guidelines and by reducing numbers participating, members were able from late August onwards to enjoy some great days on the water.

No suitable model yachting venues have been found local to Aberdeen so the Club continues without its home water to sail at the neighbouring clubs of Buchanness and Tayside.

During the Covid-19 lockdown period members took the opportunity to focus on construction and further development of wooden IOM boats. This remains a popular activity with all club members.

Aberdeen club supplied the race team to organize and run a Scottish IOM Championship at Forfar Loch in September. Unfortunately, the event had to be abandoned due to lack of wind and is currently rescheduled for early-November.

**Ian Dundas**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM AYR BAY RADIO YACHT CLUB**

The club has very little to report again this year as at the Beach Park Pond, Irvine we sailing stopped due to Covid-19. The pond has also been weeded since mid-May and is only now beginning to clear.

When the opportunity arose, we started to sail at Castle Semple in line with Scottish Government restrictions. We were given permission by Muirshiel Country Park and made very welcome by the local sailing club.

We have now returned to Irvine and hopefully will be sailing again in November. The club has a strong membership (21 skippers) which is good for these troublesome times. The turnout of members at club sailing when allowed has been good. The club is mainly sailing Lasers and some DF95's but only a few sail IOM's.

**Bill Lees**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM BUCHANNESS RYC**

To date BRYC have seventeen MYA affiliated members and three others affiliated to the club. Our sailing calendar runs from 1<sup>st</sup> of January till 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

The first event of the year is held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January each year and usually takes the form of a very loose team racing event. Lunch is provided by skippers with the help of partners. This event is a much looked forward to.

The club sails each Wednesday and Saturday with DF-65's and IOM's. We hold an IOM monthly event which is a scoring regatta and other Saturdays are club meetings and are not usually scored which gives more relaxed and friendlier sailing.

DF-65's are sailed on Wednesdays and Saturdays depending on wind strength with a monthly scored event. Again, we find that the non-scoring events are conducted at a more leisurely pace and promote more friendly and enjoyable sailing.

Normally we try to have our club IOM championship in August each year and we open it to other members of the Scottish District because we are weed free. However, due to Covid-19 we were unable to run the event this year.

Tuesday evenings in the summer months is Fifie night but the last two years the wind direction has not been very favourable resulting in very few races being held and Covid-19 has not helped.

We have followed the MYA SD Guidance and enjoyed the return to sailing.

**Cathy Reid**



## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM CARRICKFERGUS MODEL BOAT CLUB**

Our year started with a dinner at the golf club which as usual was enjoyed by all present. We also started with 13 members, lost one and gained 4 new for this season. Hopefully this is a future trend with the average age dropping about 10 years! Our membership has been largely model makers and enthusiasts but the new members are all good sailors which will drive the racing side onwards.

Most of our season has been lost due to Covid-19 but with regulations easing in Northern Ireland we have been gathering in small numbers from mid-June with those members shielding not attending.

Due to influx of new talent we decided to start a serious autumn series in September which has been very successful with eight boats competing each week. Prior to this event we arranged our regular regatta event to which nine boats competed and turned out to be an enjoyable day during which we compete for the Sam Penney Memorial Cup. It was a bit restricted as no food or bar was available at the sailing club due to Covid regulations.

I am afraid that there is not much to report other than our club is going from strength to strength and racing is the normal pursuit with more series planned. It is just a pity that the other two clubs in Northern Ireland have ceased to exist. It is thought that one club in Cork exists (but I have had no success in contacting them). And another possibility in the Dublin area. If we could compete in Ireland I think the sport might prosper as it is quite costly to travel to Scotland for now.

One problem we have experienced is organising new possible members with boats at a reasonable cost as they may not be ready to invest in top of the line models until they have tried the sport for a while and in most cases possible sellers will not post to Northern Ireland. We continually get asked if DF 95 is the answer but would prefer to stay all the one class. I think we have lost possible members over this issue as we continually have lots of spectators in the Harbour around us whom we actively encourage to try a boat.

I hope this finds you all safe and well.

**Roy Younger**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM GREENOCK MY & PBC**

There is very little to report from Greenock due to Covid-19. Sailing was stopped due to lockdown. When the government gave the OK to resume sailing we organised a WhatsApp group to ensure the regulations were followed allowing us to get some sailing before the pond became weeded up. At the moment no members are booking slots on the WhatsApp group and there seems to be little interest from our members who are mostly in the "at risk group".

Our AGM has been postponed indefinitely until the situation improves.

**Ian Davidson**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM KINGHORN RSC**

No report received.

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM LEVENHALL RYC**

No report received.

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM MID ARGYLL RADIO SAILING**

Mid Argyll Radio Sailing Club started in March 2019 and currently has fifteen members. We sail in Loch a Bharain by Lock 9 of the Crinan Canal. It is a beautiful setting and works well for sailing, although the wind can vary in direction in different areas of the loch which makes for added challenge! We have a small floating pontoon which we rent from Scottish Canals and the addition of railings, made and installed by one of our members, has made it a good platform for accessing the water. Since the Crinan Canal runs beside us, we have quite a number of walkers and bicyclists who stop and watch our boats, occasionally having a go when that was previously possible before the virus.

Most members sail Lasers or DFs and some also sail motor boats. Last summer we held an open meeting which went well and we had hoped to hold two this summer but Covid-19 stopped that. Members mostly sail on two afternoons a week and have friendly races. We were planning to run a summer race series using a handicap system to even out differently skilled skippers, however that has had to be postponed to next year. Currently, as an organised sport, we are continuing sailing with a Covid-19 policy and risk assessment in accordance with the Scottish Government rules.

**Lorna Rushton**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM PAISLEY MYC**

During the second half of 2019 the Club sailed at Knightswood Pond, north of the Clyde, with the permission of the local scale club. At the end of November 2019 the weed which had afflicted the Pond in Barshaw Park for most of the year cleared and we resumed sailing 'At Home.'

The weather at the end of 2019 and at the beginning of 2020 was wildly unpredictable and we were only able to sail together about once a fortnight until March.

The weather in April, May and June 2020 was wonderful for sailing but owing to the Covid-19 lockdown we were once again unable to sail. From the end of June until mid-September we sailed regularly at least once a week with up to six skippers, in line with the revised Covid restrictions. We did not run any formal events, nor did we record any scores but we had a thoroughly good time. It was indeed the first time in many years that we were able to sail in Barshaw Park through the summer as in recent seasons weed has developed in May or June and lasted until September or later.

Our discussions with Renfrewshire Council on a permanent solution to the weed problem were shelved owing to Covid. However, local members able to take their prescribed exercise in the Park counted large numbers of swans on the pond – up to 40 in the early part of the year - spending a lot of their time with their necks deep in the water, presumably feeding on tender weed shoots just above the bottom. The numbers had fallen by July to between 4 and 8 but by late September they were returning in strength with up to 21 being present – but the weed, if still growing, was not interfering with sailing. We have concluded that the Council may have subcontracted the maintenance of the pond to Messrs A. Swan & Co. without consulting us! ☺

Sadly, particularly for the three new members we affiliated to the MYA in September, the strengthened Covid restrictions introduced in September meant that we were limited to sailing in pairs as we were unable to establish a viable 'Field of Play Bubble' in Barshaw Park. A limited number of the least at-risk members are making *ad hoc* arrangements to sail as and when the weather permits. A number of our members were shielding or otherwise limiting their contacts with those outside their households from March onwards and have not taken part in any club activity.

**David L. Smith**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM TAYSIDE RADIO SAILING CLUB**

Tayside Radio Sailing Club has just completed its sixth year at Forfar Loch enjoying an affiliation arrangement with Forfar Sailing Club. Membership remains steady at 28 made up of a mix of members who pay their MYA affiliation fee through Tayside and others who are dual members and pay their affiliation through other clubs.

This has been the hardest year since we started with the Covid-19 pandemic hitting in the spring just as the summer season was about to start and shutting down all club activity for several months. We did however get going again as soon as the five mile travel restriction was lifted and devised a system to allow sailing to resume within the government's rules and keeping social distancing. This protocol was further refined in consultation with RYA Scotland and became the Scottish District's guidelines for returning to radio sailing competition. We were lucky at Forfar being elevated making it a bit easier to sail from a fixed location and being able to restrict public access to create our 'field of play bubble' required by the government legislation.

Since the resumption of sailing we have been meeting every Wednesday as usual and also ever Saturday to make up for some of the lost days. Wednesdays have again proved most popular with most members and Saturdays attracting our member who travels furthest.

This year we hosted the SD IOM Wooden Hulled Championship on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> October which had been postponed from the previous Saturday due to an extremely poor forecast. Ten skippers took part in a great days racing overseen by Race Officer Boyd Baird. Dave Williams did a great job with registration and results handing out printed final results minutes after the last race had been completed. Keith Furnace took care of the start/finish duties and we had the services of Scott Graham who is an RYA judge to handle any protests/arbitration and also manned the safety boat.

Thankfully, very little weed has been experienced this year, perhaps down to the very dry spring preventing fertiliser from being washed down off the fields and into the loch.

Each year we try to take on a maintenance project at Forfar Sailing Club. This year it was painting the wood lining to the external walls. Thanks to all who participated.

### **Tich Summers**

## **2020 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM**

### **REPORT FROM RHU RADIO LASERS**

No report received.