

2012 MYA SYAN AWARD – Presented to Ali Law of Buchanness Club



In recognition of his outstanding contribution to model yachting Ali Law of the Buchanness Club was awarded the 2012 MYA Syan Award.

Ali has for well over 20 years been a stalwart not just within his home club of Buchanness but also the Scottish District and the UK Model Yachting Association. His enthusiasm and generosity is unbounded towards all aspects of the sport and anyone that wants to start model yachting. He devotes an enormous amount of his free time, travels widely to promote model yachting, encouraging newcomers, supporting existing clubs, building boats, measuring boats, repairing boats, publicising events in the media, organising events, acting as PRO at club and major MYA events as well as setting up Racing Rules Seminars.

For several years Ali has maintained the MYA Personal Sail Numbers Database, dealing with several enquiries every week. This voluntary service not only satisfies the demand for members to have their own sail numbers but also provides annual revenue to the MYA.

In his role over the past few years as Scottish District Racing Secretary Ali liaised between all the Scottish District clubs and the UK MYA Racing Secretary to ensure that all planned events were incorporated into a coordinated Annual District Sailing Calendar.

Another important activity for Ali is his passion to keep alive the tradition of the free sailing Fifie boats which have been active in Peterhead for nearly a century. He has built and raced many of this class of boat and was instrumental in setting up a Fifie building evening class at the local leisure centre aimed at getting youngsters and elderly alike involved in the traditional skills of model yacht building. He has also written several articles that chronicle the heritage of this vintage class.

In radio sailing Ali is a very active IOM competitor regularly winning at Club and District events. He won the 2012 District Wooden IOM event with a double-ender Graham Bantock design he built himself. He has represented GBR at several European IOM Championships establishing friendships with many overseas competitors.

Ali is one of the longest serving Measurers in the District and has built several Measuring Tanks and trained up new Measurers. He also volunteered to be Race Officer at major events held in Scotland such as the 2006 R6M, 2007 IOM and 2008 RA UK National Championships. These were not just very successful but Ali looked to the future. He invested his time with these events to train up local skippers in Race Management duties and to work with the management of the Castle Semple Centre in Lochwinnoch to ensure that the best facilities were provided. This effort has left the legacy of a very good venue and quality racing that is now recognised as one of the most popular within UK.

He has established good links with the RYA and followed their courses to first become a qualified Regional Judge and then to become a qualified National Judge, one of only a few within MYA.

In summary, Ali Law has made a sustained and outstanding contribution to model yachting through his enthusiasm and commitment over many years. He is always ready to give of his time and effort, often at considerable personal cost, to help anyone or do anything that will promote the sport of radio sailing.