



Chairman's Newsletter March 2015

Hello to All Members

Following the AGM your Council met at the beginning of February and many topics were covered with actions decided upon. These are being managed by those responsible on Council with some complete or nearing completion and others still work in progress. We meet again in early May and progress will be reviewed at that time

As the winter recedes and spring is nearly upon us the racing season begins to gather pace I thought it a good time to give you a brief update on Council activities so far

Firstly following the AGM there have been a few changes to Council. Chris Cook who was the Midland DC kindly agreed to take on the vacant position of Secretary to Council. Chris was co-opted into that position in January. This of course led to a vacancy for the Midland job and just recently Peter Shepherd has taken on the DC position. Also after the AGM Derek Barrett was appointed as the Met & Southern DC. Richard Rowan also became the Scottish DC after Ian Dundas stood down after many years in the job. Finally with John Taylor once more taking to the seas on his submarine (maybe it should be 'in' his submarine!) Vinnie Zammit took on the role of IOMICA representative for GBR. I welcome all the new Officers to the MYA Council

As I indicated in previous communications I was struck by the comments made at the AGM on age profile and recruitment. To follow up on this we have created a Project Group to fully review the needs of the Association to fully understand and propose what action needs to be taken. We have recruited members of all types, ages and gender to get a good overall view of what needs to be done. We have deliberately sought 'outside help' for this so we get fresh views from fresh faces. The Group has been recruited and work has started. We will have a first look at initial proposals and comments in May with I guess more work to be undertaken. This may involve a member survey to better understand the views of the membership on a number of topics

You will have all now seen the Phase I development of the website which I think is a good development, particularly the area on 'New to the Sport?' We have had good feedback on this including one club in Australia wishing to use the format. Your club may well wish to think about something similar for your web sites? Phase 2 is under development but is a bit harder to do. This includes data management issues for clubs and members and a reformat of the current Knowledge Base to make sure we retain all the important information created over the years. Darin our Digital Communications Officer is 'on the case' although he has been a bit delayed by being much involved in our stand at the RYA Dinghy Show.

Talking of the Dinghy Show we took a fairly radical new approach to our stand this year. We took the view that we were very much promoting the sport rather than the previous approach of perhaps promoting the classes. We used video footage on a flat screen TV to show this. The stand was revitalised with new graphics. I have asked for a summary report on the good and not so good points for the May meeting so we can learn for the future. It is important that I thank the volunteers who gave their time to attend the show in support of the Association

The race team have been busy with some developments for the racing scene. Regrettably we had to take the decision to suspend the Radio League for this year. We sort of had no option as we have a vacant position for Radio League Secretary following Alan Chidgey's decision to 'retire' after many years service. But we also want to have a good look at the purpose of the league to ensure it rewards performance in the best possible way

The race team has also been looking at National Championship race fees in conjunction with the objective of making these events the 'pinnacle' of our sport with great venues, great facilities and a first class race team. We also want to ensure that clubs supporting these events get a suitable reward for their efforts. We have created a budget document to assist the clubs in planning the event including a minimum of required support facilities, which in turn leads to a realistic fee for entering the event. Our aim is to raise standards for these important events. This is to be used for all MYA adopted or affiliated classes

John Newton organised a rules seminar presented in conjunction with the RYA in January. The discussion this created on the day meant we were unable to complete the session on Protests so a further seminar is planned for July. Much of John's support material for clubs will be posted on the website once Phase 2 kicks in. Clubs are using this material on an ad hoc basis. If you think you need some support please make contact with John

There is plenty more going on managed by various Council members but the points above are a 'heads up' on perhaps the most significant aspects being worked on

I wish you all well for the forthcoming season and I particularly wish success for Team GBR going to the IOM Worlds in St Francisco. We are fielding a very strong group of skippers

Kind regards

Keith Coxon
Chairman MYA