MYA Scottish District

2014 AGM - 25th October, 2014

<u>Minutes</u>

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Scottish District of the Model Yachting Association, held at Royal Tay Yacht Club, Dundee, on Saturday 25th October 2014.

Present:

Name	Club
Ian Dundas ***	Aberdeen
John Owens	Aberdeen
Patrick Johnson ***	Ayr Bay
Cathy Reid ***	Buchanness
Ali Law	Buchanness
Ian Thomson	Buchanness
Richard Rowan ***	Greenock
Richard Ennos ***	Levenhall
David Smith ***	Paisley
Brian Summers ***	Tayside
Boyd Baird	Tayside
Ralph Knowles	Tayside
*** = Club voting representative	

1) Apologies

Gordon Allison, Gordon Rae, Gordon Neil, Hughie Shields and Steve Taylor.

2) Confirm Minutes of 2013 AGM

a) Proposed: Ian Dundas Seconded: Brian Summers

3) Matters arising from the 2013 Minutes

- a) Scoring David considered the SD "expert" and will help SD RO's build their expertise by having an "understudy" at 2014 events. **Action :** David Smith i) See "Any Other Competent Business".
- b) Weed continues to be a SD challenge. Is there a strategy for 2014? Recommended that SD clubs share issues and success stories. Also, approach MYA for a UK-wide survey/study/recommendations/report. **Action:** Ian Dundas i) See "Any Other Competent Business".
- c) The 2013 DC report covers the forthcoming MYA AGM motions and officer nominations and consequent actions required of SD Clubs. Comments from meeting to be passed to MYA. **Action:** Ian Dundas ... closed.
- d) Useful to have publicity material available at pond side to hand out to people interested in starting r/c sailing. **Action :** All SD Club Secretaries
 - i) See "Any Other Competent Business".
- e) Publish 2014 SD racing calendar on SD website. Action: John Owens ... closed.
- f) Fastnet not supported in 2013. Is there support for continuing in same or adapted format and if so, where would be it be hosted? **Action :** Pat Johnston ... closed.
- g) SD IOM Travellers overall score all race team members should receive points. **Action :** Pat Johnston ... closed.
- h) SD Constitution to be placed on website. Action: John Owens ... closed.
- i) "Karachi Cup": Draft proposal by David Smith is appended to these minutes.
 - i) The event to be run between Eastern and Western SD clubs to be organised at a neutral venue if possible.
 - ii) See "Any Other Competent Business".

4) SD Officials reports for 2014

a) Chairman's report (attached) - actions arising

i) Hardcopy scoring sheets proposed for convenience of clubs to be placed on SD website as pdf download. <u>Action</u>: John Owens

b) District Councillor's report (attached) - actions arising

- i) SD Development Officer (John Newton) has created draft coaching material. **Action:** Ian Dundas willing to support use of this material in SD when ready.
- ii) MYA AGM 2014: Raising annual fees by £1 p.a. to cover IT costs, IT officer title and some MYA Constitution wording clean-up.

c) Racing Secretary's report - actions arising

- i) There was a vote of thanks to all SD IOM Travellers race team members as without them the events would not have been run, yet alone so successfully.
- ii) UK IOM ranking event (Castle Semple) was a great success and credit to SD.
- iii) Vote of thanks to Ali Law, Cathy Reid & Carl Burrows for their contribution to the race teams at both the SD IOM Wooden Boat and IOM Championships.
- iv) Recommendation for SD clubs officials to encourage 1) don't score regular club events (reduces tension) 2) <u>calmly</u> discuss incidents when on the bank with knowledgeable people to improve general club standard of rule understanding. **Action**: All SD club officials and members.

d) Senior Measurer's report - actions arising

i) Quiet year, Bill Odger replaced Colin Deakin (Buchanness)

5) Reports by Clubs for 2014 (attached) - actions arising

- a) Who is the Brechin club Sec? Action: John Owens to contact Mel Percival.
- b) In order to ensure quality sailing, what are the preferred SD sailing locations for Travellers and Championships events?
 - i) Buchanness, Aberdeen (Inchgarth), Tayside (Forfar Loch) and Castle Semple are preferred locations.
 - ii) These are not to the exclusion of other locations. NB Race teams can be mobilised to the different venues.

6) Draft racing programme for 2015 season

2015	Date	Class	Event	Host Club	Location	Comments / status
March	Sat 21	Laser	TT event for UKRCLA	Ayr Bay	Irvine	
	Sat 28	IOM	SD IOM T1	Levenhall	Levenhall	
April	Sat 18	R6M	SD Championship	Paisley	Paisley	
May	Sat 2	IOM	SD IOM T2 + Scotts of Greenock	Greenock	Greenock	
	Sat 1	RM	SD Championship	Paisley	Castle Semple	
	25-26	IOM	SD IOM Championship	SD MYA all clubs	Castle Semple	
June	Sat 6	IOM	SD Wooden Boats Championships	Tayside	Forfar Loch	
July/Aug						
Sept	Sat 12	IOM	SD IOM T3	Aberdeen	Aberdeen?	
	Sat 26	IOM	SD Team Races	SD MYA	Falkirk	Details to be decided
Oct	Sat 1	RM	M Games Event	Ayr Bay	Irvine	
	Sat 24		MYA SD AGM	SD	RTYC, Dundee	
Nov	14-15	IOM	2015 Ulster & Celtic Challenge	Belfast Waterworks MBC	Lough Money	Details to be decided
	Sat 28	Laser	Scottish RC Laser Champs	Ayr Bay	Irvine	

SD Fastnet race removed from calendar due to lack of interest.

7) Election of SD Officers for 2014

Officer	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
District Chairman	David Smith	Pat Johnston	Boyd Baird
District Secretary/Publicity	John Owens	Ali Law	Ian Thompson
District Racing Secretary	Ali Law	Tich Summers	Boyd Baird
District Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	Ian Dundas	John Owens
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	Hughie Shields	Gordon Rae

Officer	Nominee	Votes for
District Chairman	David Smith	Unanimous
District Secretary/Publicity	John Owens	Unanimous
District Racing Secretary	Ali Law	Unanimous
District Senior Measurer	Steve Taylor	Unanimous
District Councillor	Richard Rowan	Unanimous

8) Any other competent business

a) 2014 Scottish District Committee members:

- i) A vote of thanks was given recognising the efforts and services of the outgoing MYA SD Committee officers (Ian Dundas, Ralph Knowles and Pat Johnson) for their services to the District in 2014 and previous years.
- ii) A vote of thanks was given recognising the efforts and services of continuing DC members for their efforts in 2014.

b) Scoring and heat management:

- i) Deepen knowledge of scoring throughout SD by encouraging inexperienced skippers to become familiar with practicalities of scoring responsibilities, HMS and SD scoring spreadsheets at events.
- ii) Management of the fleet board is an integral part of this.
- iii) A tutorial system was suggested. Action: David Smith

c) Weed:

i) There is no single answer as weed varies each year and there are different solutions. There is knowledge within the SD and via the MYA website.

d) SD publicity:

i) Continue to ensure material available at pond-side, contact SD Secretary (John Owens) for website updates required. **Action :** All SD Club Secretaries.

e) Karachi Cup: SD team racing:

i) This to be an internal Scottish "Karachi Cup". **Action :** Pat Johnson and Ian Dundas to present firm proposal for a one day event by 1st January 2015.

f) Email communication and prevention of identity theft:

- i) It is strongly advised that:
 - (1) Emails are addressed to sender and use "BCC" for distribution lists.
 - (2) In opening lines of email text, identify to whom email is being sent (club, committee, etc.)
 - (3) Action: all SD District Committee and SD Club Secretaries

g) Safety in the SD:

- i) Availability of a defibrillator in the SD: Discussed ability to pay the substantial cost and practicalities associated with storage, training in its use, where would it be kept, etc. **Action:** Richard Rowan to discuss potential funding with MYA.
- ii) The embedding of the individual club safety case role of the Responsible Person should be refreshed and kept live. **Action:** All SD Club Secretaries

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I must extend an apology to Rhu Radio Lasers for again failing to visit them. My only competitive outing this year was to the $1^{\rm st}$ IOM Travellers Event at Levenhall

I supported the IOM Ranking Races held at Castle Semple Loch in April by leading the scoring; likewise the 2nd IOM Travellers Event at Paisley in May and the combined UKRC Lasers Travellers Event and Scottish District Championships at Irvine in September. I regret that I was unavailable to sail at any other of the formal District Events this year, principally Buchanness and Forfar.

In the run up to the 2013 MYA AGM I engaged in a lengthy e-mail correspondence with Chris Durant, the then Secretary to the MYA Council, regarding the wording of certain proposed changes to the Constitution. I believe I helped improve clarity and consistency in the clauses we discussed.

I again assisted with the running of the Yacht Design/Build/ Test Project for 2^{nd} Year Undergraduate Naval Architects at Strathclyde University.

The profusion of weed across our sailing waters was again a problem this year. For the second year in a row we had some summer weather during the summer; however many of us were deprived of summer sailing by the weed. By the same token we were deprived of the opportunity of presenting our sport to the public during the good summer weather and recruiting new members through that route.

The 'Effects of Scottish Independence Committee' (myself and Pat Johnston) met informally on two occasions – once before the Referendum Vote when we concluded that as Independence seemed unlikely we would continue with a 'wait and see' approach and once after the No Vote had been determined when we decided that our first conclusion had been well-founded and that the Committee need not meet again unless Independence seriously returned to the political arena.

I contacted the Helix at Falkirk and arranged to meet one of the management at the pond-side in early February for a demonstration sail of an IOM and a discussion of our requirements. I had a very pleasant sail but the management representative did not appear. When I tracked down his lair – the management offices are at the Falkirk Football Stadium south of the Helix – thanks to information from two park users who had engaged me in conversation about radiosailing, he had gone in to a lengthy meeting and was unobtainable. I had no response to a follow up request and as the year progressed I was aware that the Helix had significant events of its own to organise – its own official opening (and that of the Kelpies sculptures) in April, and promotions in June and July relating to the Commonwealth Games.

I returned to the Helix, unannounced, early in September, and had another pleasant sail and a coffee in the Café. Although I made my way to the management offices again I was unable to meet my contact as the offices were closed for the Falkirk Autumn Holiday. Nonetheless I am still hopeful of meeting the Helix management and putting our case to them before the end of the year with a view to having a demonstration event there early next year and an East v West Team Event for the Karachi Cup next Summer.

As part of my involvement with Strathclyde University I offered to host students and their yachts at Barshaw Park, Paisley, for an afternoon's sailing and hoping for a reasonable turnout I was looking for a simple paper scoresheet and heat record sheet. I eventually updated a pair of printed sheets in use at Paisley for some years with the

current abbreviations. I enclose .pdf versions with this report intending that they will gain wider circulation across the District and become the standard for club racing when computer support is not available.

In conclusion I am willing to continue in office for another year if the District in Committee is willing to have me.

A view of the walkway/promenade on the west side of the Lagoon at Helix Park. The Café and Toilets are in the building just right of centre. The remainder of the perimeter is a gently sloping shingle beach as seen in the foreground. The vegetation, bottom left, is in a bounded space.



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REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Over the past year, I have not been able to attend any of the MYA Council Meetings but have submitted Scottish District reports to each meeting and have actively participated in an electronic council meeting. I continue to contribute towards MYA activities by participating in the MYA Racing Regulations Group and have supported John Newton in his new role of MYA Development Officer by reviewing course material for proposed MYA Workshops on Racing Rules and on Boat Tactics around the Course.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT MYA COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

- Preparing the 2015 Racing Calendar, National Championships and Yearbook
- Maintaining Ranking Lists for MYA recognised classes
- Appointment of Class Captains for recognised classes and incorporation of the newly affiliated classes RG65, Dragon Force and Footy.
- Negotiating Third Party Liability Insurance
- Liaising with Sailing Authorities (IRSA, RYA) and Class Associations (IOMICA)
- Drafting Revised Rules and Best Practice Guidelines for Race Management
- Development of MYA training workshops
- Publicity at Boat Shows Trade Fairs and other exhibitions
- Publishing the Acquaint Magazine
- Development of the MYA website, Members Area and Forum and maintenance of Club and Member databases.

MYA AGM

The MYA AGM will be held in Birmingham on Saturday 29th November at 13h30 following the MYA Trade Show. There are 3 Motions that require Clubs to vote. Details have been sent to club secretaries but are attached here for reference.

Clubs are reminded to send details of their members for 2015 and the appropriate subscriptions to MYA Treasurer by the due date of 31st January 2015.

2015 MYA SAILING PROGRAMME

The Scottish District Racing Secretary has been liaising with MYA Racing Secretary to produce the sailing programme for 2015. The Scottish District is not expected in 2015 to host any UK National Championships or ranking events so are free to hold our own District events such as a District IOM Championship at Castle Semple in May.

Notice of Motions to be placed before the 2014 Annual General Meeting

This document is hereby issued to all MYA club secretaries (or their nominated alternatives) by email / i-contact under Constitutional reference 10.1(e)

No motions were received by the MYA Secretary to Council by 31st August 2014 from any Affiliated Clubs, District Committees or Class Associations.

There are three sections of motions this year:

- A. Council Motions relating to Officers of the Association
- B. Council Motion regarding subscriptions:-
- C. Council Motions relating to more extensive proposed changes to the Constitution dated 23rd November 2013

They are all related briefly below, and motions A and C have attachments to this Formal Notice explaining the detail of the proposed changes.

A - Council Motions relating to Officers of the Association - being amendments to the Constitution (para 9.1) dated 23rd November 2013

A1) The Executive Office of Information Technology Officer shall be discontinued. Reason – that the development of modern media requires a broader management role not specific to the development of IT systems.

A2) A new Executive Office of Digital Communications Officer shall be created.

Reason – that the appointment has become necessary in response to the development of modern digital media and the need to 'future proof' the Association's communications systems. An explanatory note from the Chairman and the Office's Terms of Reference are appended as a separate attachment to these papers.

B - Council Motion regarding subscriptions:-

B1) Council proposes that for the 2015 season membership subscriptions (ref 9.1) be:-

Affiliated: £14.00 Junior: £ 7.00 Overseas: £30.00

Council has agreed a budget for the coming year based on the continuing development of services to members. The Treasurer has indicated that in order to avoid operating on a deficit budget the level of fee require for 2015 will need to be increased by £1 per affiliated member.

C – Council Motions relating to proposed changes to the Constitution dated 23^{rd} November 2013.

As these are extensive they are related, together with explanatory information, on separate pages attached to this formal notice. Members will find the most recent Constitution on :-

Knowledge Base/Association Documents/Constitution and Structure/MYA Constitution dated 23rd November 2014.

For information at this stage only (the formal Notice of Meeting for the AGM will be issued in due course in accordance with Constitutional requirements) the meeting will be held at Rowheath Pavilion, Heath Road, Bournville, Birmingham B30 1HH, on Saturday 29th November 2014 at 1.45pm.

Prior to the AGM there will as usual be an opportunity for members to meet with suppliers and class association stands at the usual trade show.

 ${\sf NOTE}$ – the doors will NOT be opened to Affiliated members and other visitors until 9.45 this year to permit stallholders to set up their stands properly before others are permitted in

Martin Dovey MYA Secretary to Council

2014 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM REPORT FROM THE SENIOR MEASURER

No report received

REPORT FROM THE RACING SECRETARY

The 2014 season progressed largely according to plan, with all clubs affected to some degree by weed. The scheduling of major events in the spring and autumn seem to be a sensible precaution and has been continued into the 2015 calendar.

On behalf of the whole SD I would like to thank all organisers and race officials for their sterling efforts to support our sport.

The following SD events were run in 2014:

1. SD IOM Travellers

IOM Travellers T1	12 starters	Levenhall	winner Ian Dundas
IOM Travellers T2	14 starters	Paisley	winner Ali Law
IOM Travellers T3	10 starters	Buchanness	winner Steve Taylor

Overall (based on best 2 results):

1st Ian Dundas 190 pts 2nd Brian Summers 170 pts 3rd Richard Rowan 166 pts

2. MYA IOM Ranking Races at Castle Semple

52 competitors over 2 days.

3. R6M Championships at Paisley: not run

4. IOM Scotts of Greenock trophy

12 starters, winner Bruce Davidson

5. SD IOM Wooden Boats at Forfar Loch

17 starters, winner Ian Dundas

6. Laser UK Travellers and Scottish Championships at Irvine

10 starters, overall winner Skip Reaser, Scottish Champion Robert Rooney.

7. IOM Scottish Championships at Forfar Loch

14 starters, winner Steve Taylor

8. RM Games and Scottish Championships at Irvine

6 starters, winner Robert Rooney.

REPORT FROM ABERDEEN MODEL YACHT CLUB

Membership has further declined with the transfer of an active sailing family to the USA. Nevertheless, several of the remaining members are very active having participated in the UK IOM Nationals, UK IOM ranking event at Castle Semple, SD IOM Travellers series, SD IOM Championship and SD IOM Wooden Championship. Members have also regularly sailed with the Tayside and Buchanness clubs.

Currently, there is a blanket ban for all activities on Inchgarth Reservoir as Scottish Water have reacted to fatalities at their facilities elsewhere in Scotland. AMYC is actively engaged with Scottish Water in an effort to regain access. Nevertheless, we have been examining the potential of alternative venues. This has resulted in a trial sail with the permission and warm welcome by the owner's representative of Knockburn Loch. There are limitations with this location and our preferred solution is to regain access to Inchgarth.

In the meantime, through individual membership with the Buchanness and Tayside clubs, as well as their open spirited welcome of our members, we have been able to continue sailing activities. AMYC would like to record its thanks to both clubs for their hospitality.

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REPORT FROM AYR BAY RADIO YACHT CLUB

The current membership is twenty one including three members paying their MYA dues through other clubs.

The r.c Laser continues to dominate our fleet with new, skilled, members showing us the way forward. There is a fleet of thirteen IOMs of various designs. The Marblehead Class has remained fairly dormant with no new boats taking to the water this year although interest is gathering following the Marblehead GAMES and SD Marblehead Championship held last weekend.

Sailing skills are definitely improving and competition becoming more apparent with very close racing as a result. The Club acted as host to the Troon Scout Group and gave hands on experience to some very likely good future skippers. Unfortunately, this did not attract any new members. The Club organised a sailing event as part of the "Barts Bash" events being held worldwide in tribute to Andrew Simpson. Donations received were made to Charity.

Weed in the pond this year has again affected our sailing at Irvine. This has not been stopped sailing but boats have been stopped / slowed up quite badly on occasions.

We have had another active year in association with the MYA. Members have participated in IOM open events throughout Scotland including sailing at Peterhead, Levenhall, Forfar and Paisley as well as having members represent the Club in the IOM travellers trophy series and the IOM UK Ranking event at Castle Semple. Our members were an integral part of the race management team for the event, with Pat Johnston

acting as Race Officer and others assisting. Efforts in this respect were very much appreciated.

The Tri-Club IOM Winter "Icebreaker" series for IOMs is being very well received by all and will continue this year sailing at Castle Semple. Individual skippers results are also used to identify the South West of Scotland Winter IOM Champion. We have initiated a monthly Summer Open Series for IOM's at Castle Semple which is well attended.

The MYA SD r.c. Laser Championship was again held at Irvine in conjunction with the UKRCLA TT Event. It was won by Robert Rooney who is a newcomer to our Club and rapidly becoming the man to beat. Members attended the r.c. Laser Nationals this year with Pat Johnston gaining a well-deserved 5th place.

We continue to participate in the UKRCLA Travellers Trophy events and will be hosting one of the events again next year. Our Winter r.c. Laser "Frostbite" Series continues to be very popular with twelve to fifteen skippers regularly racing, the Summer "Heatwave" Series being less well attended.

We sail every Sunday morning and Tuesday afternoons.

2014 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM BRECHIN CASTLE CENTRE MODEL BOAT CLUB

No report received.

2014 SCOTTISH DISTRICT AGM

REPORT FROM BUCHANNESS RADIO YACHT CLUB.

Buchanness are glad to report that another successful year's sailing has been completed. The membership stands at 14 MYA affiliated and 3 associate members. Colin Deakin left to join up with the Birkenhead club, back to his roots whilst Steve Heritage joined so the numbers stayed the same.

Fifie yachts are sailed each Tuesday with five skippers taking part this class is slowly losing ground. Another problem is it is very much dependant on wind direction which means we sometimes have to wait a few weeks between races which does not help but they are a great yacht to sail and very inexpensive.

IOM yachts are sailed each Wednesday with 8 skippers one Wednesday and seven the other this is due to work patterns. IOMs are sailed on Saturdays joining with the Aberdeen club members. When Aberdeen is weed free we alternate between the two venues.

Thursdays is when we sail and tune up the Dragon Force yachts with a league event once a month. This will change because of the dark evenings. We have had some interest around these yachts because of the low cost, the great way they sail, you can

buy them from a model shop and they are a true one design. At present we have seven yachts with probably a prospect of another three joining us.

Sailing in Peterhead has been extremely good natured whilst competitive which has been a good advert for the club. Buchanness ran two major events at Peterhead - an open club championship and SD IOM Traveller 3 both of which was well supported by skippers from the Scottish District. Buchanness supplied the race teams for the SD IOM Wooden Hull Championship and the SD IOM Championship. We believe it is important to be willing to participate in these activities for the benefit of the Scottish District.

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REPORT FROM GREENOCK MY & PBC

This has not been a good season for the Club, starting as it did with the new committee being faced with dealing with a number of disciplinary issues, mainly within the scale model section, but unfortunately also involving two members within the yacht Section, all of which has caused some disharmony.

Another problem which we have had to face, particularly through the summer months, has been the propagation of both surface Blanket Weed and bottom growing Canadian Pond Weed which has interfered with our summer programme and prevented any serious competition during this period. A few stalwarts have however soldiered on sailing their IOM's on Sunday and Tuesday afternoons on an informal basis. IOM's continue to be the only class sailed competitively, although there are still several Six Metres within ownership in the club.

In consideration of the potential weed problems a decision was taken very early on to transfer the venue for the Scottish District IOM ranking weekend event to Castle Semple Loch, where with the co-operation of the staff of the Clyde Muirshiel Country Park, a very successful event was hosted by the Greenock Club with Pat Johnston presiding.

The George Baxter Trophy for IOM series competition which was intended for a series throughout the summer on Tuesday evenings, was suspended early on due to the developing weed problem. It was therefore decided on the basis of the results of the races sailed in the spring. The winner was Pat Johnston with Drew Taylor second and Gordon Rae third.

The Club has during this year been able to open a dialogue with Inverclyde District Council in an effort to obtain a solution to the weed problem and develop a programme of curtailment and control. Discussion is at present ongoing but the hope is that some measures can be agreed in time for them to be implemented for the 2015.

In conclusion despite its difficulties the club remains active with a small core of enthusiastic members. No new members have joined this year and this, together with the weed problem, remains an area of considerable concern to the yacht section.

REPORT FROM LEVENHALL RADIO YACHT CLUB

Club membership currently stands at 22, with three new members joining during the year and another about to join for the coming season. Average fleets on a Saturday have been around six or seven with occasional turnouts of up to eleven. The beginning of the season saw two club nights held at Musselburgh East Education centre on the Rules of Racing, and Boat Tuning respectively. Since then, organisation of club racing has been very ably handled by Sandy Mackay who has emailed results and a short report to members every week and kept excellent records of the racing throughout the year.

Conditions at Levenhall were good up until the middle of June at which point weed growth prevented any further sailing. As a consequence a tentative, and then a much more concerted move was made to shift racing to Kinghorn Loch in Fife. This proved to be an excellent sailing water once a passage had been driven through the weed to the deeper water. This was made possible by the joint efforts of Sandy Mackay and Tom Milne. Sandy also arranged for the storage of the club inflatable at the pond and arranged buoys and courses. The main problem with Kinghorn proved to be the travelling distance from many member's houses, but we were very pleased to be joined at Kinghorn by a number of local IOM skippers who would normally sail at Lochawe meadows. In the future Sandy Mackay may establish a new club at Kinghorn, building on this local support. Sailing at Kinhorn continued until October, at which point it was learned that East Lothian council had paid for extremely effective weed cutting at Levenhall and the club returned to its home water.

During the year Levenhall hosted a successful Scottish Traveller's event contested by twelve skippers and won by Ian Dundas. Members competed in the IOM wooden boat championships, the Traveller's series, and the UK ranking event at Castle Semple. A number of new boats took to the water including new wooden builds from Nick Cowern and Richard Ennos, and we anticipate further additions and upgrades to the fleet in the near future. In the late spring Terry Connell, who put a lot of energy into the club during his time at Levenhall, moved down to Eastbourne where we trust he is enjoying the sailing with the Binks brothers.

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REPORT FROM PAISLEY MODEL YACHT CLUB

A very quiet year in 2014. We hosted the SD IOM Travellers 1 in May which attracted a good entry with close racing.

Unfortunately, we could not hold the Scottish District 6M Championships at the scheduled date as the pond weeded up again. We did attempt to reschedule this event on 12th October when we were free of weed, but we could only attract 3 skippers to enter. This did not do the event justice and it was cancelled again. As there are very few 6M skippers in Scotland now, it should be discussed at the District AGM whether it is a worthwhile event to continue in the future.

As ever, our racing schedule for next year will be planned around expected weed. We will continue being in contact with the local council to have the pond treated.

Our membership is fading away to only a handful of enthusiastic skippers who attend regularly. We are in a healthy financial position and are committed to hosting Scottish District events.

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REPORT FROM RHU RADIO LASERS

Rhu Radio Lasers continue to sail every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm in Rhu Marina. The membership is static at 12 with average starts of 6 lasers this year. After racing most members retire to Cafe Rhu, (the excellent Marina Cafe) to catch up on local news and put the world to right. Visitors and new members are welcome but please wear your lifejacket.

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REPORT FROM TAYSIDE RADIO SAILING CLUB

Tayside RSC is about to celebrate its first birthday but already can boast having 28 members most of whom sail IOM radio controlled yachts. Others are associate members who have an interest in the club and like to be kept informed of club activities. The club entered into an affiliation agreement with Forfar Sailing Club who have been based on the northern shore of Forfar Loch for many years which has been a highly successful arrangement.

This summer the club hosted the Scottish District IOM Championship and the Scottish District IOM Wooden Championship at Forfar Loch with much help, gratefully accepted from Ali Law and the race team from Peterhead. Forfar Loch is now widely regarded as one of the best venues in Scotland for the sport of radio sailing with its wide open waters and a good chance of steady winds.

Our own club activities have centred around our Wednesday afternoon sailing with 18 members taking part the series along with several guests and visitors from other clubs. We also had good participation on Saturday afternoons throughout last winter when very few days were lost to adverse weather and none to ice. Saturdays during the summer have been less popular with members concentrating on Travellers events and other forms of sailing.

Our summer season is coming to an end and we now look forward to sailing through the winter and planning for next season.