

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating
and Marine Tourism, Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament
26th February 2019**

Name	Organisation
Stuart McMillan MSP	Convenor
James Allan	CEO/Secretariat, RYA Scotland
Pauline McGrow	Secretariat, RYA Scotland
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Jonathan Mosse	Inland Waterways/Keep Canals Alive
Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland/Seagull Trust Cruises/Private Boater
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Andrew R Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
David Adams McGilp	VisitScotland
Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
Kenneth Gibson MSP	
Barry Schafe	Forth Estuary Forum and Scotboats
Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
Ian Dewar	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
Emma Harper MSP	

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association/Keep Canals Alive
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
Myles Farnbank	
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highlands and Islands Moorings Association

Daniel Steel	SailScotland
Esther Brooker	Scottish Environment Link
Mike McGregor	
Jim McLachlan	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Alison Harris MSP	
Catherine Topley	Scottish Canals
David Hill	British Marine Scotland
Richard Davies	Keep Canals Alive Alliance/Inland Waterways Association
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
Donald McLaren	Clyde Yacht Clubs Association
Alison Harris	Holy Loch Port/Cruise Scotland
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Jackie Baillie MSP	

Welcome and Apologies

GDPR

SMCM advised everyone before the meeting commenced the following:

The names of individual members are listed on the CPG website alongside the list of organisation members. The parliament's guidance states that "The name of an individual is considered to be personal data so if you are holding the names of those attending CPG meetings and minutes of what was said, then those minutes include personal data." The names of CPG attendees will be on the public record of the meeting. If anyone does not wish their name to appear on any publicly available CPG documents, please let Pauline McGrow know. This notice will be read at the start of future CPG meetings.

2. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: Gordon Daly

Seconded: Sarah Kennedy

Action Points from Last Meeting

1. 2020 Year of Coasts and Waters

Ongoing discussion taking place.

2. **Invite Aberdeen Harbour to a future meeting**

SMCM reported that invite was sent but unfortunately Aberdeen Harbour were unable to attend due to other commitments. It was agreed to invite them to a future meeting.

3. **Oban Bay Developments**

Ongoing action.

4. **Mission Blue Hotspot Nomination, Argyll and Isles**

PM reported that further information will be sent to MSPs once available.

3. **Update on EU/Brexit**

SMCM reported that there is no update available and all is still under discussion.

JA reported that the RYA continues to represent boaters at UK level on the following -

- Red Diesel
- Border control
- Sale of boats
- Irish border

SMCM asked if there will be impact on people working here. JA explained that this could have an impact on qualifications, independent charter companies, training schools in Mediterranean and RYA colleagues and they are making representation to Westminster. SMCM explained that there are Scottish and UK websites offering guidance on this.

Action: PM to circulate the website links.

Update ON Marine Tourism Strategy/Events

SMCM reported that Martin Latimer has sent his apologies and an update on Marine Tourism Strategy and events will take place at the next meeting.

4. **Future Business**

SMCM asked the members thoughts on future business items and the following suggestions were made;

- **Scottish Tourism Strategy** – JA reported that we have had positive response from the Scottish Tourism Alliance and it would be useful to hear more about the consultation and suggested inviting the Scottish Tourism Alliance to a meeting. This would enable discussion on how smaller bodies can be involved and to represent marine tourism. DAM concurred that smaller and medium enterprises should be involved and it would be good for CPG to influence the stakeholder engagement.

Decision/Action: It was agreed to invite Scottish Tourism Alliance to a future meeting.

City Deals

SMCM suggested looking at City Deals and contacting the different City Deals to obtain further information.

Kenneth Gibson MSP reported that the Ayrshire Growth Deal have signed off their agreement. KG further stated that a review is taking place on the future of Cumbrae. There is an opportunity there to look at both Cumbrae and Ardrossan. KG will provide further detail once this becomes available.

DAM reported that Argyll and Bute have submitted a growth deal. Another initiative is the West Coast Marine Collaboration where there is representation from VisitScotland and the RYA. DAM stated that each one of the initiatives success will depend on the level of business sector buy in. DAM stated that both the public sector and business sector need to work together in partnership.

KG gave an example of the scale of funding and explained that the public sector sets the agenda locally and then then Scottish government will then look at funding of these priorities. SMCM asked whether there would be scope for urban regeneration. KG provided an outline of various initiatives and further explained that they also look at areas that are already successful to build on these. DAM gave an example of the VisitScotland Toolkit and if this model works it could work across other local authorities in Scotland. (Link noted below)

<https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/marketing-toolkits/year-of-coasts-and-waters-2020>

Emma Harper MSP then joined the meeting.

DAM stated that the “deals” will be more important and there are more similarities between the various deals.

BS stated that when looking at marine tourism, the industry is much stronger in the west and it is difficult to get a voice in the east. There is investment in marinas, both on the Forth with Port Edgar continuing to grow and the new waterfront at Granton and we need to ensure that the east is represented.

SMCM stated that to increase the level of engagement between the sector and the government we require to be clearer on what it provides. There is an opportunity to provide good news stories from the electorate, businesses and the constituents and this would provide an opportunity to learn. DAM stated that VisitScotland are happy to share these good stories and circulate through their channels.

Emma Harper MSP reported that VisitScotland have come to Dumfries and there is work going on in Solway Yacht Club with Lasers and are also engagement with Solway Council, working in multi deprivation areas.

Emma Harper MSP reported that there is potential for developments on the coast and they are working with sportscotland to see if they can get funding for infrastructure for parking facilities.

SMCM encouraged the CPG members to increase their level of dialogue with politicians.

East Coast

Action: BS suggested inviting East coast marine industry to the meeting and invite SMCM to some activities that are going on in the east.

MSP Challenge Board Game – RF suggested having this game available to people to try out, this game demonstrates the relationship between marine activities and eco system.

SMCM stated that having that game here in the parliament is a good idea and we could put on an event and invite MSPs along. It would provide an element of fun and be educational and will show the economic impact to communities. RF says that the garden lobby would be suitable place to do this.

Action: It was agreed that event be arranged for the MSP Challenge Board Game in the Garden Lobby of the Scottish Parliament.

SMCM stated that the group has progressed since its inception in 2009 and we require to do more to get the message out there. It is good to get the message to local authorities to demonstrate the economic impact of the marine tourism industry. GD also endorsed individuals lobbying their politicians and gave an example of how lobbying achieved a successful outcome with the securing additional funding from the Scottish Government for canals.

SMCM suggested inviting politicians to come out and see activities during the 2 month Parliamentary Summer Recess, this would enable MSPs to learn about what is going on in the area.

Events

There then followed detail on some events that are taking place during the summer:

Skiffie Worlds 2019 Coastal Rowing Championships

AR reported that this is a World Championship event taking place with 60 clubs from all over the world including South Africa and New Zealand. Emma Harper MSP reported that Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs will be attending.

Years of Coasts and Water Activities

DAM reported that there is a full events programme being planned for the Year of Coasts and Waters in 2020. They are looking at Stranraer as a prime waterfront location and there are various sites round the country taking part. DAM further stated that coastal rowing is an example of joined up thinking that can pay dividends.

Push the Boat Out

GD suggested inviting an MSP to Push the Boat Out event taking place at Solway Yacht Club (first weekend in May).

SMCM provided background to the themed years and how this can provide an opportunity to boost the economy.

Pipeathon 2020

SMCM reported that he will be taking part in a Charity Pipeathon around the 32 local authorities during Easter 2020 that will tie in with the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 events. SMCM will provide further information once available.

Canal Carnival

GD reported that Lowland Canals Association and Lowland Canal Volunteer Group are holding a Canal Carnival over the weekend, 24th to 26th May 2019. GD provided an outline of the programme. All MSPs from the local authorities will be invited.

Action: Details to be circulated to CPG members.

Marine Litter

GR stated that waste disposal/recycling/marine litter is an ongoing issue for marinas and local authorities. GR reported that he attending a meeting along with Marc Turner (Communications and Marketing Manager RYA Scotland) with Keep Scotland Beautiful to look at Beach Cleans and other environmental matters.

SMCM stated that there an opportunity for a shared service to your local authorities. SMCM provided an example of joint working between local authorities. GR stated that this would require further discussion with the local authorities to see what is possible.

DAM reported that the 2020 Working Group has committed to environmental messages about protecting the maritime environment and stated that recreational boaters also have responsibilities too. Education is required however Visit Scotland will assist in the marketing side. DAM indicated that he was happy to feedback to the working group. It will be an opportunity to influence local authorities.

Action: It was agreed that we contact Audit Scotland provide information on the various recycling schemes.

SMCM suggested that through the wider marine tourism sector it would be beneficial to have a standard guidance document. RF stated that The Green Blue produced information on what could be recycled and suggested that the RYA could assist.

RF reported that there is a Waste Management scheme for port facilities. The current version is working with single plastics and there is nothing to prevent connections with local authorities to see if these situations could be improved and look at a more integrated approach. **Action: RF will take this back to Marine Scotland and discuss with colleagues who are involved with the marine litter aspects.**

DAM stated that this could provide a business opportunity. RF stated that the Moray Firth Partnership and Marine Conservation Society and Pilots observe where marine litter ends up and take photographs. **Action: RF suggested inviting the Project Officer from the "Scrapbook project". Action: GR suggested inviting Keep Scotland Beautiful to a future meeting too.**

Action: Emma Harper MSP suggested inviting FEDRA to discuss nurdles and this was agreed.

JA stated that we can demonstrate the difference that recreational boating has made and use these good news stories to show the impact of sport.

Action: JA suggested Cross Party Group on Sport, have a joint meeting in the future (this was agreed)

5. AOCB

- **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Consultation** - GR reported that the consultation is now live. **Action: Link to be circulated and GR encouraged CPG members to read through consultation even if you do not wish to submit a response.**
- **Boat Building and Boat Repair Course**
AM reported that British Marine Scotland have been working on Boat Building and Boat Repair and the framework has been approved. Invitation will be sent to members for the launch event and promotion will take place to generate interest. GR suggested that the new BBC channel may be a good way to promote. SMCM stated that he was delighted that this has been taken forward. AM asked for assistance in spreading the word to the sector. SMCM stated that this would be a good opportunity to promote to politicians and start engagement process.
- **Kinloch Castle Friends Association, Rum** – SK reported that she has been liaising with SNH as the castle is in a state of disrepair. Marine Harvest (MAWI) have 10 swinging moorings in Loch Scresort that is a good facility. There has been a good increase in yachts with 23 mooring at any one time. There are shore facilities and an open castle bistro. They are also looking at nature tourism and there are 11 cruise ships going in this year. **Action/Decision: It was agreed to invite Kinloch Castle Friends Association to a future meeting.** DAM stated that he is happy to come along to look at this in regards to marine tourism development and endorse strategy on the number of the moorings. In the Marine Plan planning consents are more likely if it can be demonstrated that it will achieve objectives across various sectors. GR stated that the small areas should all work in partnership.

SMCM asked if there are any future business items that members would like to raise please let him know.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th June 2019 at 6pm incorporating the AGM, SMCM advised that the date may change at short notice if there are bills due to go through in the lead up to the end of parliamentary session.

The meeting closed with vote of thanks to the Chair.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/DECISIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised	Completed
1.	<u>2020 Year of Coasts and Waters</u> Look into events for 2020 Year of Coast and Water. To be discussion topic together with discussion about attracting sailing events to Scotland.	ALL	27/2/18	Ongoing
2.	<u>Oban Bay Developments</u> Survey to be circulated. Consideration to be given to inviting CMAL to a future meeting.	PM	26/6/18	Circulated 28 th June 2018 Ongoing
3.	<u>Mission Blue Hotspot Nomination Argyll and Isles</u> MPs, MSPs and Councillors to be made aware of nomination.	SMCM	25/11/18	Circulated 9 th May 19
4.	<u>Brexit</u> SMCM explained that there are websites offering guidance on workers. Action: PM to circulate the website links.	SSMCM/PM	26/2/19	
5.	<u>Future Business Items</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Scottish Tourism Strategy</u> Invite Scottish Tourism Alliance to a future meeting. • <u>East Coast</u> Invite a representative from the East coast marine industry to the meeting/ invite SMCM to some activities that are going on in the east. • <u>MSP Challenge Board Game</u> – RF suggested having this game available to people to try out, it demonstrates the relationship between marine activities and eco system and invite SMCM to do the challenge. 	PM BS/PM SMCM/RF/PM	26/2/19	

	<p><u>Joint Meeting with Cross Party Group on Sport</u> To be arranged.</p> <p><u>Kinloch Castle Friends Association</u> Invite to a future meeting.</p>	SMCM/PM/JA			
		PM			On agenda 25 th June 19
6.	<p><u>Canals Festival, 24th to 26th May 2019</u> Information to be circulated.</p>	PM	26/2/19		
7.	<p><u>Marine Litter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Audit Scotland provide information on the various recycling schemes. • RF to discuss with Marine Scotland who are involved with the marine litter aspects. • RF to invite the Project Officer from the “Scrapbook project”. • Invite Keep Scotland Beautiful to a future meeting. • Invite FEDRA to discuss nurdles. 	SMCM	26/2/19		
		RF			
		RF			
		PM/GR			
		PM			

				On agenda 25/6/19
8.	Climate Change Adaptation consultation on the strategy. Link to be circulated to CPG members.	GR/PM	26/2/19	Circulated 27/2/19
9.	Boat Building and Boat Repair Course Invite to be circulated to CPG members for the launch of the Boat Building and Boat Repair course.	AM	26/2/19	Information circulated in British Marine newsletter 1/4/19