

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating
and Marine Tourism, by Conference Call
26th June 2020 at 11am**

Welcome and Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting held for this group.

1. **Minutes and Action Points from last meeting**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: Simon Limb Seconded: Emma Harper MSP

SMCM gave his thanks to Emma Harper MSP for chairing the last meeting on 3rd March.

Action Points from Last Meeting

Lack of Diesel Engineers under age of 50

A discussion took place on point raised by David Vass at last meeting:

- SMCM asked if there had been a higher demand for modern apprenticeships as a result of COVID-19. SL stated that it has been a difficult time for the self-employed sector and the Furlough Scheme has assisted greatly.
- ML stated that we need to find some other vehicle for providing availability for jobs/training.
- Suggestions were made on the channels for promoting and recruiting for these roles:
 - Use social media/radio to attract younger audience.
 - Older people can promote the channels to younger people.
 - SMCM suggested using more localised media outlets for modern apprenticeships/diesel mechanics.
 - GD suggested that that this should be the role of the Schools Careers Officers.
 - LD stated that there is a website where employers can advertise and promote roles.

Future Meetings Action

PM reported that all actions currently pending on the action list are invitations to future meetings and due to Covid-19 we will require to decide about the meetings going forward for remainder of 2020.

Update on EU Brexit

SMCM provided an update and outlined the following:

- Brexit Committee met with Michael Gove (**Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**). UK position is that we will leave the EU by 31st December 2020 and there will be no extension. There is dialogue ongoing and there will be WTO trade terms. BC stated that there will be product tariffs and this will have a higher impact on cost goods.
- SMCM provided an outline of Irish protocol and the implications on agriculture and the movement of goods and services.

Red/White Diesel

JA provided an outline of the HMRC consultation and explained that Donald McLaren, Clyde

Yacht Clubs Association has been in discussion with the Cruising Association. In April 2022 white diesel will come into effect.

The following comments were made:

- Suppliers have indicated concern and have raised this with HMRC.
- Emma Harper MSP asked about whether infrastructure will be in place for red/white diesel for fishing ports. SL stated that there should be a commercial rebate but was unsure if you would be able to fill up tanks. SL raised concern that powered vessels will have a hike in costs.

Action: JA will share the HMRC consultation with CPG members.

Marine Tourism Strategy Update

ML reported that British Marine British Marine Scotland have appointed James Stuart as spokesperson to look at what's next for the Marine Tourism Strategy.

JS explained that he looked at whether the tactical situation has changed due to Covid-19 and concluded that it had. The Strategy is still relevant and we are now looking to herald a partnership approach.

The next steps are:

- Produce a partners' pack and public appointment.
- Form the partnerships
- SL stated that the Marine Tourism Partnerships will provide opportunities in the following:
 - Commercial benefits
 - Unique selling point
 - Staycations
 - Home Market
 - Element of new markets and people coming into Scotland
 - Coast destinations

There then followed an opportunity for questions:

- SMCM asked if there is dialogue taking place with local authorities. SL stated that this is planned.
- ML explained that they are looking at the promotion of growth deals so that they are ready for staycation markets.
- JS stated that there are place based partnerships that would tie in with the 14 objectives and in turn could encourage others to adopt a similar approach.
- JL stated that we require to address the broader spread of focus on "pay per play and "community access" that will create a focus for the future.

Corran Ferry – Graham Russell

GR declared interest as involved with the Sea Cadets.

GR reported that there is a proposal to build a bridge over the Corran Narrows to replace the current ferry to Morvern.

GR outlined the current issues:

- Maximum air draught of 40 metres
- Height comes with a cost and impact on other sectors.
- Cruise liners may be an issue
- Tall mast yachts may be a hazard.

There then followed an opportunity for questions:

- GR asked for Gordon Daly's view was on how much gap is required to allow room for the safe passage of mast and bridge. GD stated that 2 metres in general is the rule of thumb.
- **Sarah Kennedy and Gordon Daly had a discussion on the clearance limits. SK explained that there are foldable radar masts that can be used and also suggested that a swing bridge using electricity turbines could be an option. GD stated that he did not think that a swing bridge would be an option for open tidal water. SK asked about the 100m and GD explained that 100m would require tugs for each large vessel.**
- FD stated that Corran Narrows is a major navigational route and we require to look at longer term outlook (40-50 years) so that we don't block access.
- SL asked about the implications on super yachts as this is a target market.
- GR stated that an appropriate bridge may be the best solution.

RM (Scottish Canals) stated that we also require to look at deepening canals and this is at feasibility study stage and require to align and work together. RM also gave an example of silt accumulation at Laggan Spirit and they are awaiting notification from the Scottish Government whether they can proceed with the works.

Emma Harper MSP then left the meeting.

Impact of Coronavirus

Sail Scotland – Alan Rankin

AR provided an outline of work being carried out by Sail Scotland (attached presentation)

There then followed an opportunity for questions.

- Myles Farnbank, (Scottish Adventure Activities Forum) stated that he supported the comments on the financial position as some businesses may not raise enough and the government schemes will be crucial.
 - AR stated that the Cabinet Secretary is looking at second round of funding to make it more bespoke to the profile of the business.
- JA provided an overview of the work that has been taking place collaboratively between RYA Scotland, British Marine Scotland and Sail Scotland feeding into various avenues into Scottish Government.
 - There is a campaign that is being run "Respect the Destination" to share the message across the boating community.
 - JA reported that the RYA Scotland team have produced guidance documents.

British Marine Covid-19 Support for Members and the Marine Sector (please find attached report)

B Clark and Simon Limb provided a presentation and the following points were raised:

- GP reported that there is a “Stay Safe” video available that emphasises the message of taking reasonable precautions. ML stated that on the whole recreational boaters are heeding the advice.
- B Clark reported that he has had discussions with the RNLI Campaign Manager to tie in with the “Summer on the Water” campaign and there has been a significant interest in entry level.
- Michael Avril stated that we require to ensure that we keep in line with the Scottish Government advice.
 - The risks that have been identified are:
 - Beach based areas
 - People walking along the shoreline
 - Inflatables that are used in indoor pools being taken to the beach
- Boats have been moving and there have been no real concerns and as long as boats have been serviced and properly fuelled then there is no issue.
- MA stressed that people should “Stop and think” before they carry out any activity.
- SB raised about also ensuring that we minimise the risk to wildlife and be very careful in relation to stand up paddleboards/kayaks and put out safety campaigns re wildlife.
- It was acknowledged that we should work collaboratively on campaigns.
- SMCM stated that he was very impressed with the “Summer on the Water Campaign”

SMCM thanked AR for the comprehensive overview.

British Marine COVID-19 Support for Members and the Marine Sector (please find attached report)

Addendum to Minutes

OBAN BAY – DAVID VASS

DV provided an addendum for the minutes summarising the position in Oban.

- The boundary issues in the SE corner have been resolved.
- Finance via conservancy charges has been discussed and no objection was raised by CalMac or Transport Scotland. The draft HO should be ready by end Sept/early Oct. There have been preliminary discussions on power transfer, formation of a Trust Port etc. In short progress is modest and steady.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold a virtual meeting sometime in late September/October on a Friday at same start time of 11am.

Thanks were given for all contributions and the meeting closed with vote of thanks to Chair.

**APPENDIX 2
ATTENDANCE**

	Name	Organisation
1.	Stuart McMillan MSP	Convener
2.	Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland, Secretariat
3.	James Allan	RYA Scotland, Secretariat
4.	Brian Clark	British Marine
5.	Jonathan Mosse	RYA Scotland/
6.	Josie Saunders	Scottish Canals
7.	Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
8.	Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland
9.	Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
10.	James Stuart	Spokesperson for British Marine Scotland
11.	Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
12.	Gordon Daly, calling in	RYA Scotland
13.	Eilid Ormiston	Marine Scotland/UHI
14.	Donald McLaren	CYCA
15.	Alex Williams	UHI
16.	Alison Downs	Holy Loch Port
17.	Hamish Loudon	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
18.	Kathy Gostick	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
19.	Glenn Porter	Sail Scotland
20.	Alan Rankin	Sail Scotland
21.	Barry Schafe	Scotboats

22.	David Davies	Chairman, Stranraer Water Sports Association
23.	Simon Limb	British Marine Scotland
24.	Myles Farnbank	Scottish Adventure Activities Forum
25.	Fiona Forsyth	The Majestic Line
26.	Michael Avril	Water Safety Scotland
27.	Carlene McAvoy	ROSPA
28.	Phoebe Warneford-Thomson	British Ports
29.	Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
30.	Emma Harper MSP	
31.	Paul Bancks	Crown Estate Scotland
32.	Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
33.	Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
34.	Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
35.	Esther Brooker	Scottish Environment Link
36.	Annabelle Lawrence	University of Highlands and Islands
37.	Sarah Brown	
38.	Lawrence Durden	Skills Development Scotland

APPENDIX 3

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Clare Adamson MSP	
Douglas McDiarmid	Thomas Telford Corpach Marina
David Adams McGilp	VisitScotland
Joan McAlpine MSP	
David Vass	RYA Scotland/WHAM