

Online Cross-Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism (by teams) Annual General Meeting

Thursday 11th December 2025 at 9.15am

Minute

MSPs

Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor
Emma Harper MSP

Non-MSP Group Members and Other Attendees

Finlo Cottier, RYA Scotland CEO and Secretariat, RYA Scotland
Pauline McGrow, Secretariat, RYA Scotland
Fiona Partington, Fife Coast & Countryside Trust
Glenn Porter, Ocean Sailing Scotland/RYA Scotland
Alistair Cameron, Scottish Moody Owners Association
Gordon Daly, RYA Scotland
Anne Shedden, Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Duncan Tannahill, RYA Scotland/WHAM
David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland
Graham Russell, RYA Scotland
Sarah Kennedy,
Fort William Marina & Shoreline Community Interest Company/Chair British Marine
Scotland
Neil Kitchener, Lowland Canals Association
Christine Cameron, Lowland Canals Association

Apologies

Clare Adamson MSP
Laurie Piper, Scottish Canals
Mark Smith, Scottish Canals
Eilid Ormiston, UHI
Fred Moore, Cruise Loch Lomond
Arianne Burgess MSP
Brendan Brocker

Jonathan Mosse, RYA Scotland
Simon McDonald, Aquaculture, Fisheries Processing Consultant/TV Presenter
Calum McNicol, Paddle Scotland
Martin Latimer, British Marine
Councillor Maurice Corry, Argyll and Bute Council

Agenda item 1

Information – Convenor

Welcome and Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this stand-alone AGM meeting was being held as the last meeting on 25th November was not quorate with MSPs.

Agenda Item 2

Decision - Convenor

AGM

The following roles were agreed:

Convenor Stuart McMillan MSP

Proposed: David Adams McGilp

Seconded: Sarah Kennedy

Vice Chair Emma Harper MSP

Proposed: David Adams McGilp

Seconded: Sarah Kennedy

Secretariat RYA Scotland, agreed by all in attendance.

Agenda Item 3

AOCB/Future Business

- **Right to Roam/Land Reform Act (2003)**

Pauline read the email sent by Brendan Bocker who had asked for this item to be raised under AOCB.

Email from Brendan Brocker - This very quick e mail is mainly to ask if it is possible to raise in AOCB at the AGM , something that was highlighted in this whole case and covered at some of the meetings , The Right To Sail ! Yes as in Scotlands so called “ Right to Roam” or Land Reform Act (2003). I don’t want this aspiration to disappear and would like this minuted please at the AGM. In a political land divided by so much , this is something that All Scottish people can get behind , united again and a sure vote winner. I cannot make the AGM due to a previous commitment but please do get in touch if you wish to discuss this further.

A discussion then followed, and the following points raised:

DAM stated that we have a right to navigate in all of Scottish territorial waters in line with Marine Protected Areas. The National Marine Plan 2 should also uphold this. GR agreed with DAM’s comments, and in line with the Land Reform Act we are a corresponding member with the National Access Forum. We should inform people what their obligations are. GR further explained that if we want to raise access to the shore then the national access forum is the forum to do that. There are not any current cases that we can raise with them.

Action: SMCM requested that a one paper brief be drafted with the relevant links and be circulated to CPG members to reiterate that the information is already available.

Action: FC suggested putting a question to SPICe (Scottish Parliament Information Centre) to get their take on how the Land Reform Act and navigation interact. FC stated that he is happy to co-ordinate the paper with input from DAM and GR for circulation in early 2026.