

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating
and Marine Tourism, Committee Room 4, Scottish Parliament
27th November 2018**

Name	Organisation
Stuart McMillan MSP	Convenor
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland
James Allan	RYA Scotland
Alex Williams	University Highlands and Islands
Annabel Lawrence	University Highlands and Islands
Andrew McKenna	Thomas Telford Corpach Marina
Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Donald McLaren	Clyde Yacht Clubs Association
Michael Avril	Water Safety Scotland
Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland/Seagull Trust Cruises/Private Boater
Ian Dewar	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
Chris Cutts	Forth Estuary Forum
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Jim McLachlan	Forth and Clyde Canal Society
Liam Kerr MSP	Vice Convenor
Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
Ian White	Canalside Hub
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association

Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association/Keep Canals Alive
Mike McGregor	Port Edgar Berth Holders Association
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highland and Islands Moorings Association
Robbie Wightman	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Tavish Scott MSP	

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
Esther Brooker	Scottish Environment Link
Paul Bancks	Crown Estate Scotland
Val Coghlan	Bidwells
Sara Walsh	British Ports Association
Alison Downs	Holy Loch Port/Marina/Cruise Scotland
Sarah Riddle	Northern Light
Simon Limb	British Marine Scotland
Catherine Topley	Scottish Canals
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Angus MacDonald MSP	
Richard Walsh	Scottish Government
Emma Harper MSP	
Daniel Steel	Sail Scotland

GDPR

SMCM advised that everyone in attendance will have their name printed in the publicly available minutes of this meeting and asked if members do not wish their name to be on the publicly available minutes they must let him know.

1. Minutes and Action Points from last meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: James Allan

Seconded: Gordon Daly

Action Points from Last Meeting

1. **Year of Coasts and Waters 2020** – On agenda, decision taken to have joint meeting with Tourism and this will take place on 15th January 2019.
2. **Labour Market Survey** – This was circulated on 16th October.
3. **Aberdeen Harbour Expansion** – invite will be sent out once dates has been set for 2019.

Scottish Canals

SMCM reported that £5.35 million of additional funding has been awarded by the Scottish Government to invest in the repair of the locks at Caledonian Canal, this is a great investment and proves that the work of the CPG is making a difference and gave his thanks.

Update on EU/Brexit

SMCM reported that the Brexit agreement was signed on Sunday 25th November, this will then be voted on by Westminster on 11th December. The Scottish Government have published a paper on Brexit. SMCM encouraged members to contact their MPs and MSPS to provide input to the process.

2. **Update on Thomas Telford Corpach Marina, Andy McKenna, Chair of Thomas Telford Corpach Marina**

AM gave his thanks for opportunity to update Cross Party Group, also for support of Chair in helping us raise profile of project and secure critical funding and provided an outline on progress to date.

- reminder of key aspects of project (location, number of berths, public slipway, refurbishment of all existing Scottish Canals buildings) and it's expected benefits - excellent fit with the Scottish Marine Tourism strategy
- all consents in place, and almost 80% of the required funding - work goes on apace to bank the final amounts needed, its hard work in today's financial climate but we're confident we shall get there. After meetings earlier today with Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, and Kate Forbes MSP, project more hopeful to access funding from Crown Estates Scotland and Coastal Communities Fund which to date have not been available to project because of devolving issues.
- intensive work has now completed to de-risk the designs of all project elements (car park and slipway, building refurbishment and floating infrastructure) - this is bearing fruit with an anticipated 10% reduction in overall budget
- Civils (dredging/slipway/car park) procurement completed floating elements and buildings procurement in progress

- legal issues - (leases) moving more slowly than we would like - what's new! - but we are driving to get everything signed off by Christmas or early New Year at the very latest
- we are also fine tuning our close working relationship with Scottish Canals, who will manage and operate the facility on behalf of the community owners, Caol Regeneration Co, and with both parties cooperating in shaping policy and offering a high quality product
- lots of discussion locally about Loch Linnhe and marine tourism developments - cruise ship visits growing and discussion about possible harbour authority development
- all being well, we start building civils in February and commission entire project end July next year - that's only 8 months away, after many many years of dedicated community effort.
- so we are now turning our minds to realising the benefits, and delivering our part in "Awakening the Giant"!

There then followed an opportunity for questions

LK asked about the project optimism about opening in 2019. AM stated that with all funding in place, this is completely achievable.

GR asked about marketing. AM explained that Corpach Marina looking to make use of app for online berth booking to minimise overheads managing marina. Difficult to promote "open for business" at present time.

LK thanked AM for very comprehensive update.

3. **Update on the Marine Tourism Strategy and Events**

ML reported that the Scottish Tourism Alliance has stepped back from Chairing the Marine Tourism Development Group and will now look at what can be achieved to deliver the strategy and put plans in place for future. The marine tourism strategy has assisted with funding applications and managed organic growth. A letter will be going out to partners to reflect and introduce a different format for the group and will be more project based and will be linked to industry and careers. We will re-write the strategy delivery and will align with Year of Coasts and Waters and launch at end of 2019.

Events

There are a number of groups coming together to discuss events such as "cruise in companies" and Classics Regatta and other flagship events. There will be 2 tranches of funding opportunities. We will have legacy events, projects going forward and will look to raise profile.

LK asked how will the events be co-ordinated and managed. ML stated that the Events Scotland Steering group will pull them together into a programme and have working group assisting with delivery. Event Scotland will be the focal group and there will be a strategy group to design. LK asked about how events will be tied in for the North of Scotland. ML

stated that there will be events such as the Portsoy Boat Festival and explained that Event Scotland are interested in anything that is coast based that can be included in the programme.

A discussion took place on the various events. ML stated that there are plans for a Trade Expo in 2020 and informed LK that it was likely to be held in August.

ML stated that it would encourage people to take their events to Event Scotland. If you are in trade, approach British Marine Scotland and Sail Scotland. There will be a trade expo and they will use Year of Coasts and Waters. LK asked where this will be. ML stated that he was unsure but it was likely to be August. GD stated that in the South West they are looking to see how many sea locks that you can sail a mirror on. ML asked that GD speak to Event Scotland. We need to make decisions by May and funding applications require to be in by March. TS asked if anyone had bid for the Tall Ships race. JA explained that the Events Group 2 and a half years ago pursued some avenues but it was unable to be taken forward due to cost and insufficient lead in time. They also looked at Extreme Sailing but came up against similar issues.

University of Highlands and Islands BA (Hons) Marine and Coastal Tourism Degree Update

Alex Williams introduced herself as the Programme Leader for Marine and Coastal Tourism Degree at the University of Highlands and Islands and outlined her presentation (please see attached). There then followed an opportunity for questions - GD asked why not Rockall. AW stated that going out of Mallaig and can prove challenging. MMCG asked what courses had they been on originally. AW stated there had been Adventure Activities based in Fort William.

GR stated that there are opportunities for people to do day modules. AW stated that we require to promote what we do more. SMCM asked what feedback had been received from studies. AL stated that areas where they can work is opportunities distribution, marine conservation and organisations and take people out on the water. AL stated that the MPA and the Coastal Community Network see a real niche.

SMCM asked what activities are being undertaken to promote the course. AW stated that as they are a very small college they will require to identify key target markets. SMCM suggested that Skills Development Scotland being an avenue to pursue to assist with promotion. AW stated that Lawrence Durden currently sits on their panel. SMCM suggested contacting COSLA and local authorities to assist with promotion. SMCM gave his thanks to AW for very informative presentation.

AOCB

Clyde Marine Planning Partnership

ML explained that since 2016 British Marine signed on to the CMPP Clyde area, there are 11 marine planning areas and asked for clarity on how the regional marine plan and CMPP's

statutory position is planned to work/be delivered in practice, who will be consulted, who responds, where the competencies will lie? Is this the 3 person current staff team - if so where is the technical knowledge? Or is it the membership group - how does that work, where are the resources? Who has the time?

ML asked how will it be managed and funded and how will landward and seaward work together. SMCM asked has Marine Scotland given any indication on how they will deal with this. GR provided an outline of CMPP and further explained that RYAS will not be part of the partnership but we will work with them. GR further reported that workshops are being held to discuss this in further depth.

Stirling Pontoons

GR reported that Stirling Council have installed a pontoon in the Riverside area of Stirling and would encourage people to use it. They are also looking to install a slipway to have small boats using the river. GD stated that he will be meeting with Stirling Council to assist.

Climate Change Adaptation

GR reported that he attended a meeting in Oban and it is a Scottish Government programme and it is their 2nd programme. There has been a sea level rise and storm change, sector needs to be aware and consider for long term.

Action: Climate Change Adaptation link to be circulated to CPG members.

Scottish Rowing Association Green Flag Awards

RW reported that a selection of rowing clubs have been awarded the Green Flag Awards in recognition of having been at the forefront of reducing waste and caring for the coastal environments. The first 2 Green Flags were awarded retrospectively to 2 trailblazing clubs: Isle of Seil for their work on fish farm detritus and St Ayles, Anstruther for event impact, for reduced environmental impact of activities including events

The other clubs were -

- Girvan
- Isle of Aran
- Glasgow Coastal Rowing Club – personal detritus.

Scottish Canals

- RM reported that on Friday there was an announcement from the Government that £5.35 Million is going to be invested in the locks at the Caledonian Canal.
- There is going to be a new smart canal at Forth and Clyde Canal, they are going to take surface water from houses in North Glasgow and unlock 5000 new houses and will be keeping boats moving along the canals.
- In 2022 it will be 200th anniversary of the Caledonian Canal and there will be a flotilla to mark the occasion.
- In May 2019 they will bring boats together for the opening of the Twechar and Bonnybridge bridges.

AL reported that the Coastal Community Network have nominated Argyll and Isles to be a Mission Blue Hotspot, this demonstrates a good area of marine conservation and decision will be made in February 2019. If successful this will help attract more people to the area and will be internationally recognised.

Action: It was agreed to contact MPs/MSPs/Councillors to make them aware of the Argyll and Isles nomination to be a Mission Blue Hotspot.

4. **Date of Next Meeting**

SMCM outlined the dates of meetings for 2019 –

- Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 6pm – **Joint Meeting with Cross Party on Tourism**
- Tuesday 26th February 2019
- Tuesday 25th June 2019
- Tuesday 24th September 2019
- Tuesday 26th November 2019

Action: PM to issue dates for 2019 to CPG members.

The meeting closed with a 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>Aberdeen Harbour</u> Invite Aberdeen Harbour to a future meeting.	SMCM/PM	26/6/18	Invite will be sent out once dates has been set for 2019.
3.	<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

4.	<p><u>Mission Blue Hotspot Nomination</u> <u>Argyll and Isles</u> MPs, MSPs and Councillors to be made aware of nomination.</p>	SMCM	25/11/18	
5.	<p><u>2019 Meeting Dates</u> PM to issue dates for 2019 to CPG members.</p>			Circulated 7 th Dec 18