

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on
Recreational Boating
and Marine Tourism,
Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament
26th September 2017**

Name	Organisation
Stuart McMillan MSP	Convener
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland (Secretariat)
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highland and Islands Moorings Association
Kathy Gostick	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
James McLachlan	Forth Clyde and Canal Society
Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company
Gordon Reid	Dundee City Council
David Adams McGilp	Visit Scotland
Alan Rankin	Scottish Tourism Alliance
Grace Martin	Scottish Seabird Centre
Ruth Briggs	Forth Estuary Forum
Sarah Riddle	Northern Light
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland
Liam Kerr MSP	
Adrian Shield	Royal Forth Yacht Club
Chris O'Brien	Outdoor Capital of the UK
Ian White	Paddlesports Section, Canalside Hub
H Loudon	Fortwilliam Marina and Shoreline Co and Moorings

Daniel Steel	Sail Scotland
Emma Harper MSP	

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation
Alison Downs	Cruises Scotland
Jane Scott	sportscotland
James Allan	RYA Scotland
Claire Peters	sportscotland
Robert Kitchin	Portavadie Marina
Donald McLaren	Clyde Yacht Clubs Association
Richard Walsh	Scottish Government
Simon Forrest	Nova Innovation
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
Alvin Barber	
Chris Cutts	Forth Estuary Forum
Aileen Monik	British Marine Scotland
Rhona Fairgrieve	Scottish Coastal Forum
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Mike McGregor	
Marc Crothall	Scottish Tourism Alliance

1. Welcome and Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor of Cross Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the Scottish Parliament and introductions round the table were made.

2. AGM

Election of Office Bearers

Convener Stuart McMillan MSP

Stuart McMillan MSP was approved as Convener.

Vice Convener Liam Kerr MSP

Liam Kerr MSP was approved as Vice Convener.

Secretariat (Secretary/Treasurer)

James Allan and Pauline McGrow were approved as the Secretariat.

Emma Harper MSP joined as member of the Cross Party Group.

3. Minutes and Action Points from last Meeting

The minutes were approved as an accurate record with the following changes to be made –

Page 3 - Helgoland Race

Sentence to be amended to read –

A Shield (Royal Forth Yacht Club), reported that the Helgoland Race was very successful but a lost opportunity as the biggest boats did not come up for the race due to lack to berthing on the Forth for deep keelboats.

Page 5, Marine Tourism Strategy Action Plan – an update, Alan Rankin, Marine Tourism Development Group Project Manager

The following section to be added –

AR outlined the work of the Marine Tourism Development Group around: Infrastructure, Skills, Marketing, Events, Environment, Industry Monitor, 2020 Year of Coast and Water, emerging partnerships with Sweden and recent high profile marine events. AR gave his thanks to British Marine Scotland, Crown Estate Scotland, Scottish Canals and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, VisitScotland, EventScotland and SailScotland for their continued support.

Proposed: Graham Russell Secoded: Chris O'Brien/Sarah Riddle

Action Points from Last Meeting

SMCM write to the Scottish Government to raise some of the issues discussed re Brexit. -

- Write to UK Government.
- Write to Scottish Government, Mike Russell.
- Write to Welsh Assembly

- Write to sister cross party groups

SMCM reported that letters had been sent to all of the above.

Action: Letters to be sent to PM for onward circulation to the CPG members.

Community Sports Hubs – Issue information on community sports hubs and Active Schools programmes to all MSPs to encourage participation in their local areas

This letter has been sent.

Corpach Marina - SMCM to write to highlight the opportunity to Corpach Marina to Fergus Ewing MSP and Fiona Hyslop MSP and copy to Kate Forbes MSP

The letter has been issued.

1. Update on EU/Brexit

SMCM reported that there has been a formal discussion and are in the fourth tranche of the process. The meeting between the UK and Scottish Government has taken place and we will be keeping a watching brief to see how things will progress in the boating sector. SMCM encouraged members to raise any issues with both UK and Scottish government.

2. Update on the Marine Tourism Strategy and Events, Alan Rankin, Marine Tourism Development Group Project Manager

AR outlined his report:

- AR gave apologies from our MTDG Chair Marc Crothall, Marc in in Skye today at a senior level meeting with industry stakeholders.
- **Infrastructure:** following on from the EKOS report the MTDG is progressing the assessment and prioritisation of key infrastructure development requirements, this to meet the anticipated addition 3,000 berths required to meet the growth targets. Currently we are reviewing a final piece of communications around our work and how best to take this key strand of the strategy forward.
 - Contact and meetings now held with three Growth Deal groups (Ayrshire Coast, Stirling, Tay Cities) raising awareness and opportunities around marine tourism and delighted to see Dundee here on the agenda tonight.
 - BMS recently hosted marine sector workshops in 4 locations, Oban, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. The workshops provided attendees with an overview of the Marine Sector in Scotland in 2017 and an update on the work of the Marine Tourism Strategy as well as info on British Marine and an opportunity to take part in discussions on key opportunities for the industry going forward. Feedback was invited on opportunities for growth, challenges to achieving growth, the role of

British Marine and how the industry can work better/closer together to achieve growth. Feedback was gathered on the MTDG infrastructure workstream.

- **Industry Barometer;** With resources being supplied by SE and the support of HIE scoping work has started around the creation of a barometer that will launch in January. The online barometer will gather trend data around usage, occupancy levels, business investment, customer profiles and confidence within the sector. The MTDG is grateful to SE for their support and facilitating the distribution, management and analysis of data. The barometer is expected to run once per annum.
- **Environment:** The founder and leader of the WiSE wildlife watching accreditation scheme Colin Speedie has joined the MTDG and we look forward to his input around strengthening our environmental agenda.
 - This comes as Green Blue has announced a refocus of their priorities due to funding restrictions. Over the next 2 years The Green Blue will focus more on educational programmes concentrating on maintaining leisure use access to MPAs and management of invasion by non-native species. The Green Blue programme and support to marine businesses and boaters with the information resources remaining in place.
 - The MTDG is keen to engage with Green Blue to better understand the position they are in and implications for their work here in Scotland.
 - David Adams McGilp from VistScotland has also some discussion regarding leisure access to MPAs. David met with Annabelle Laurence at the Oban workshop where they discussed having MPAs as themed routes. DAM is going to arrange a further meeting with Annabelle to look to develop themed routes.
 - GR also reported that he has been working with Scottish Natural Heritage and Clyde Cruising Club to look at anchorages within the MPAs.
 - Sarah Riddle and Alex Williams are in discussion regarding Corpach Marina.
- **Skills:** We had a very positive meeting with Skills Development Scotland around our priorities of: Leadership, Skills (technical and service skills) and making to industry an attractive career prospect.
 - SDS has agreed to support the Marine Tourism Skills Pathway Plan. The plan is being developed with close alignment to the Tourism Skills Investment Plan that sits embedded within the overall national tourism strategy. We thank SDS for their support and offer of staff time resource to the MTDG. **Martin Latimer**
 - *British Marine has provided labour market research information on the marine sector in Scotland to Skills Development Scotland and key performance info for Scotland.*
 - *British Marine has also worked closely with Semta and employers to create a new Scottish Vocational Qualification and pathways relating to Boatbuilding and Repair. The draft structure and content is nearing the end of the consultation period prior to the next stage of development.*

- *British Marine is also planning to create a careers video, primarily for the purpose of attracting fresh talent to the marine industry in Scotland. This short video will showcase typical career opportunities in Scotland and open viewers' minds to the possibilities of the marine industry as a good career option.*

ML stated that if the Marine Tourism Strategy is going to work, then the skilled staff are important. They have been working with the various bodies and work with engineering body. We will continue to ask the industry of what the future skills shortage, if the infrastructure grows.

BMA Career Videos

ML stated that British Marine UK is very supply orientated but it is not tourism orientated. DV stated that he would strongly welcome the improvement of education for apprentices. Emma Harper MSP stated that in Girvan, they set up school for fishing and boat management.

DAM stated that there has been progress with tourism industry and maritime industry. Argyll College have lined up with West College to look at sharing knowledge of National 5 and look at elements of marine based qualifications. Modern apprenticeships and boat building is part of this mix.

- **Marketing:** with input from industry across Scotland, HIE, SDI, VS, and Scottish Canals all supporting under our umbrella brand Sail Scotland. 2017 has seen us deliver a Scotland stand presence at international boat shows in London, The Netherlands and Sweden, and deliver our #LegendarySailing campaign reaching hundreds of thousands of potential visitors across digital and social channels throughout the year. SS have more planned to build on this with continued growth of digital and content marketing and Boat Show activity already booked for Paris and London.
 - SS will be holding Scotland's Marine Tourism Conference during Scottish Tourism Month in 2018. All CPG attendees will of course be invited.
- Learning Journey Sweden; A number of businesses went on a LJ to Sweden. HIE and SDI have been invited to participate in a Marine Tourism conference in Gothenburg in October as a follow up to the learning journey. As two Board members of Sail Scotland participated in the learning journey we felt that Sail Scotland would be best placed to do this to keep the industry focus.
 - Daniel Steel has agreed to present to the conference along with Kirstin from Tarbert Harbour Authority to demonstrate how public and private sector can collaborate and work together.
 - While we are out we will be meeting the full Board of the Swedish Guest Harbour Association and will be looking at future engagement and networking opportunities that will hopefully result in a return visit by members of the Swedish Guest Harbour Association to visit Scotland next year dovetailing with Scottish Tourism Week and Sail Scotland conference event.
- **2020:** The MTDG continues to promote to destinations and Growth Deal partners the opportunities of the 2020 Year of Cost and Water and remains keen to engage in the planning and scoping for the year.

- **Events:** Event Scotland is identifying international large scale bid-for events that have the potential to promote and raise the profile of Scotland’s marine tourism product.
- **Three recent events** raised the profile of boating recreation
 - Flotilla for the Queensferry Crossing opening attracted national news coverage.
 - Named after the monarch, the Queen Elizabeth II Canal forms the eastern gateway to the Forth and Clyde Canal and flows right up to the acclaimed horse-head sculptures.
 - Length of Britain World Record set by a UK Vendee Globe 2020 campaign team – positive images of west coast through social media and focus on Scottish waters

Action: SCM to write to Cabinet Secretary (Finance) David Mackay to ask him to consider establishment of Marine Fund to help towards 2020 with match funding. SMCM will report back on outcome when he gets response.

SMCM asked if there would be a route map produced on any infrastructure projects that will take place and whether a members date could be arranged during Marine Tourism week. ML stated that we need to move from theoretical to practical and some tests need to be done and give a road map that will lead to funding applications. AR stated that the working group are looking to develop a list but it may present a possible conflict of interest with public bodies. AR further explained that they have a conflict of interest register and we require to ensure that it is robust to enable an effective decision making process on selection of projects.

SMCM gave his thanks to AR and to everyone with their contributions.

3. Dundee Marina Project, Gordon Reid, Senior Team Leader, Dundee City Council

Gordon Reid provided a presentation on the Dundee Marina Project (please find attached) and discussion then followed and there followed an opportunity for questions –

SMCM asked about the “world class destination” and in terms of the city itself the pedestrianised area at Constitution Street and how has it fared and has it attracted more people in to the city. GR explained that they have looked at ensuring that people can move around the city as easily as possible and link in with the water. They also relined the historical streets so that there is a clear view of the river. Car parks have also been built around the city to encourage walking into the city.

AR stated that the infrastructure list has identified Dundee Marina as potential to hit the economic drivers for whole of Scotland and bring marine tourism to the East Coast and Marine Tourism Development Group support the project. AR asked whether it would be possible for SMCM on behalf of CPG to send a letter of support for the project to Fergus Ewing MSP. This was agreed.

Action: SMCM on behalf of CPG to send a letter of support for the project to Fergus Ewing MSP.

SMCM asked what stage has it got to? G Reid stated that they will be looking to negotiate with Forth Ports to take on a 100 year lease and also looking at gate works. Once funding is in place, then the planning would be implemented. They are planning a phased and staged approach to ensure that the project is deliverable.

ML stated that locally it has support and if it fits within the development plans it would not be contentious. It needs to have a lot of stepping stones and will play a fundamental part to develop in the east coast and also encourage Scandinavian travel, and are keen to see projects delivered.

GR stated that it is great that boats are going along the river. The Tay has very strong tides and expressed concern about locked gates so would restrict when you get in and there will be associated costs. There is a real need for pontoons for Forth and Tay boats. ML stated that there are locked gates and there is a structural issue and water needs to be kept at a certain level.

AC stated that the east coast is short of harbours. There are tidal considerations on the east coast that is considerable. There are boats coming from Europe and it will prove difficult due to tides. There is a need for good marine design within the tidal area.

AC stated that we need to revisit the yacht lock and don't need to operate the original ship lock. We should take advice from Forth Ports on what is happening. We require to address the marine operational small boats and include Royal Tay Yacht Club within the consulting team.

Action: G Reid will take back comments to Dundee City Council.

Sarah Kennedy stated the Fort William Marina & Shoreline Company Limited offered advice on the installation of pontoons and can share their experience.

Action: Sarah Kennedy's contact details to be passed to G Reid.

Action: SMCM will write to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing regarding the project.

SMCM expressed his thanks to Gordon Reid for his presentation.

4. Tourism Levy/Tax

SMCM provided an outline of a proposal of possibility of having a tourism levy/tax. He further explained that in Inverclyde there is £100,000 in income received from cruise liners. It is proposed that each passenger would pay £1 and this could be ring fenced to help bring someone in to promote Inverclyde as a destination. It would be a sustained planned income.

The following comments were made -

- The Scottish Tourism Alliance do not think there should be a tourism levy as it would discourage visitors. There is not a huge amount available and there has been a tourism funding cut.
- We are looking to gauge opinion from the group as to whether it should be introduced or should it be up to each local authority. DS stated that the main issue is that it would set a precedent which could be off putting for overseas visitors. CO'B echoed that view and would encourage donations so that there is no barrier.
- GR stated that there is intensive cruise liner traffic which can cause an inconvenience and suggested that there should be a mechanism for doing this. The people who benefit from the cruise liners should donate. AR suggested having a debate at national level. AR stated that it would be a disadvantage in tourism terms but it should be explored.
- DAM stated that it would be a hazard to international competitiveness.

SMCM thanked everyone for their thoughts and contributions to the discussion.

5. Oban Bay

DV provided an outline of the current situation at Oban Bay and stated that there is a narrow channel that is hemmed in by Isle of Kerrera. There has been an increase in ferry traffic and cruise ships. Pontoons have come to fruition. Oban Bay Management Committee have recognised the hazards. There is apparently no harbour authority but there are two user groups; Argyll and Bute for North Pier and CMAL for the ferry traffic.

There is no direct control of the harbour. The Management Group are looking at the navigation safety.

DAM asked if contact had been made with any of the interested parties. DV stated that himself and Sarah Brown met with them.

DAM stated that he would be happy to see if we get these meetings elevated to see what the obstacles are and present an alternative solution.

Action: Discussion to take place between DAM and DV.

6. AOCB

AR reported that there is an app being developed from the Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust that was launched at the beginning of August. On the Whale track, there has been 1200 sightings with 240 uses of the app. A technical solution to the app has created further interest and they are looking to manage this data and feed back into the sector, it is a simple app to use.

Action: The Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust have requested to present at a future meeting.

Action: DAM will report back on progress with regards to the “Whale Trail”.

Pipeathon

SMCM thanked everyone who contributed to the crowd funding page for Pipeathon. £3010 was raised and the funds will be distributed between Clydeside Action on Asbestos, Andy Adams Fund & Cash for Kids.

Details will follow on an auction for the football tops that he gained while doing the Pipeathon.

Dunbar Coastal Rowers

Thanks were given to SMCM for the motion he raised for the Dunbar Coastal Rowers who rowed from Rhu to Dunbar.

7. Future Business

SMCM asked if there is any issues that you wish to raise please feed these back to us.

Action: Scottish Sea Angling Network to be invited to present at the next meeting on 28th November or alternatively one of the meetings in 2018.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th November 2017 at 6pm.

The meeting closed and SMCM gave this thanks to everyone for their attendance.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/DECISIONS

	Actions	Resp.	Date Raised
1.	<p><u>Brexit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to UK Government. ▪ Write to Scottish Government, Mike Russell. ▪ Write to Welsh Assembly ▪ Write to sister cross party groups <p>Letters to be circulated to CPG members.</p>	Secretariat	27/6/17
2	<p><u>Dundee Marina Project</u></p> <p>Contact details for Gordon Reid, Dundee City Council to be passed to g Russell.</p> <p>SMCM will write to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing re the project.</p>	Secretariat	26/9/17
3.	<p><u>Oban Bay</u></p> <p>Discussion to take place between DAM and DV.</p>	DAM/DV	26/9/17
4.	<p><u>Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust</u></p> <p>The Hebridean and Whale Dolphin have requested to present in the new year.</p> <p>DAM to report back on progress with regards to the “Whale Trail”.</p>	Secretariat DAM	26/9/17

5.	<p><u>Scottish Sea Angling Network</u></p> <p>Scottish Sea Angling Network to be invited to present at the next meeting on 28th November or alternatively to one of the meetings in 2018.</p>	Secretariat	26/9/17
6.	<p><u>Marine Fund</u></p> <p>SCM to write to Cabinet Secretary (Finance) David Mackay to ask him to consider establishment of Marine Fund to help towards 2020 and to have match funding. SMCM will report back on outcome when he gets response.</p>	Stuart McMillan MSP	26/9/17