

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cross Party Group on  
Recreational Boating  
and Marine Tourism,  
Committee Room 5, Scottish Parliament  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Stuart McMillan MSP	Convener
Clare Adamson MSP	
Emma Harper MSP	
Richard Walsh	Scottish Government Tourism Division
Mike McGregor	
Emilie Devenport	Scottish Environment Link
James Allan	RYA Scotland
Pauline McGrow	RYA Scotland (Secretariat)
Gordon Daly	RYA Scotland/Seagull Trust Cruises
Robbie Wightman	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Graham Russell	RYA Scotland
John Hamilton	Yacht Designers Surveyors Association
Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland Scottish Canals
David Vass	RYA Scotland/West Highland and Islands Moorings Association
Andy Carnduff	Forth Yacht Clubs Association
James McLachlan	Forth Clyde and Canal Society
Andrew Rendle	Scottish Coastal Rowing Association
Alan Rankin	Scottish Tourism Alliance
Martin Latimer	British Marine Scotland
Sarah Kennedy	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Company Limited

James Kennedy	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Company Limited
Ian Dewar	Fort William Marina & Shoreline Company Limited

## **APOLOGIES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
David Hill	Clydemuirshiel
Aileen Monk	British Marine Scotland
Fergus Duncanson	RYA Scotland
David Adams McGilp	VisitScotland
Stuart Smith	Scottish Canoe Association
Adrian Shield	Royal Forth Yacht Club
Ruth Briggs	Forth Estuary Forum
Vicky Junik	Moray Firth Partnership
Liam Kerr MSP	
Daniel Steel	Sail Scotland
Chris Cutts	Forth Estuary Forum
Tom Brock	Scottish Seabird Centre
Simon Forrest	Nova Innovation
Alison Harris MSP	
Richard Millar	Scottish Canals
Jackie Baillie MSP	

### **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. Minutes and Action Points from last Meeting**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

**Proposed: Martin Latimer**

**Seconded: James Allan**

### **Action Points from Last Meeting**

**SMCM to write to the Scottish Government, UK Government, Welsh Assembly/sister cross party groups to raise some of the issues discussed re Brexit. Action: Letters to be sent to PM for onward circulation to the CPG members. Issued out**

SMCM reported that letters had been circulated to the CPG members to all of the above and also further stated that there is no sister cross party groups so this action has not been possible.

### **Dundee Marina Project**

**Contact details for Gordon Reid, Dundee City Council to be passed to G Russell.**

**SMCM will write to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing re the project – This has been circulated.**

### **Oban Bay - Discussion to take place between DAM and DV.**

DV reported that DM and DV have had discussion that it has been established that the Harbour Authority was inherited in 1868 however they do not exercise the right to manage the harbour and stated that until the Harbour Revision Order is issued there is no further action required at this time.

**Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust - The Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust have requested to present in the new year. DAM to report back on progress with regards to the "Whale Trail".**

It was agreed to invite the Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust to a future meeting. **This invite is in process.**

**Scottish Sea Angling Network to be invited to present at the next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November or alternatively to one of the meetings in 2018 - It was agreed to invite them to a future meeting. This invite is in process.**

**Marine Fund - SCM to write to Cabinet Secretary (Finance) Derek 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.**

SMCM reported that the letter has been sent and stated that he would not expect a response until after the budget announcement has been made on the 14<sup>th</sup> December. **Reply has been received and was circulate on.....**

## **3. Minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Meeting**

### **Decisions to be ratified**

Due to the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June not being quorate, the decisions made at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June were ratified at this evening's meeting.

**Proposed: Alan Rankin      Seconded: Andy Carnduff**

### **Update on EU/Brexit**

SMCM reported that Mike Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe has offered to attend CPG.

**Action: It was agreed to invite Mike Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe to a future CPG meeting.**

SMCM further reported that discussions are still under way on the EU.

SMCM reported that he has met with MPS in Sweden and Turkey. He also attended a session in the European Committee and the Estonian UK Ambassador spoke to the committee. There have also been discussions about land borders.

GR reported that he attended the Marine Strategy Forum and he was encouraging colleagues in Marine Scotland to speak to colleagues in the Republic of Ireland re movement of vessels.

Emma Harper MSP stated that she will be attending the Finance and Constitution Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November and will make reference to marine tourism at this meeting.

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

##### **Verbal report to CPG 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017:**

- **Infrastructure:** The MTDG is considering the final piece of communications around our work and how best to take this key strand of the strategy forward.

It was agreed that engagement with local authorities with a particular interest in MT would be a priority. AR is to pull together framework of what's currently on the Tourism Development Framework and match to the MTDG development listings.

The MTDG has agreed that some further thinking should be given around the creation of an independent post to undertake technical assessments and identify the potential, viability of locations identified as having potential to grow the sector and MT economy.

- **Industry Barometer;** Further to the discussions held with Scottish Enterprise around the creation of a barometer the MTDG recently had a presentation for the Insights Team at VisitScotland. VS are piloting a destination based barometer survey and we will explore with them the potential of the marine tourism sector linking with their quarterly survey.

We anticipate the survey will have some generic tourism questions then with the option for MT businesses to branch off to a specific suite of questions.

The VS option may allow us to run the survey on a more regular basis and reach deeper into destinations and raise the profile of MT across more sectors.

- **Environment:** It was reported at the last CPG meeting that Green Blue, the adopted 'go to scheme' had lost funding from the Crown Estate and had made staff cutbacks. The MTDG remain keen to better understand the position they are in and potential for their ongoing supply of resources to operators here in Scotland.
- **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. This work has now progressed to a draft Skills Pathway Plan and we expect to have further news on this in the New Year.
- **Destinations:** Through funding support by HIE a group of 18 destinations groups are now working on a scoping study to assess gaps and opportunities of MT along the west coast. The destinations range from Arran north to Wester Ross and Hebrides. The project is expected to report in March/April. The working group is being chaired by AR and administered by the Argyll and Isles Tourism Co-operative.

**ML asked whether there would be feedback on the outputs from the Destination Group? AR stated that he will feed in progress to the Marine Tourism Development Group.**

- **Marketing** On behalf of Daniel Steel CEO Sail Scotland) Our year long #LegendarySailing Campaign has reached potential visitors across key markets in UK, Netherlands, Sweden, and will conclude with focused work in France this month, where we will deliver 10 day Scottish presence at Paris Show (second largest show in Europe) alongside in-language social campaign. Our social and content campaigns have reached hundreds of thousands of potential visitors, with reach of over 750,000 in October alone!

Scotland's Marine Tourism Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at a venue in the Highlands to be confirmed.

Marine Tourism conference in Gothenburg in October. Daniel Steel presented resent to the conference along with Kirstin from Tarbert Harbour Authority to demonstrate how public and private sector can collaborate and work together. It is hoped that the Swedish Guest Harbour Association will visit Scotland next year dovetailing with Scottish Tourism Week and The Marine Tourism conference event.

- **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. Currently a note of interest has been lodged with a high performance style events and global branded round the world event.

- **2020:** The MTDG continues to promote to destinations and partners the opportunities of the 2020 Year of Cost and Water and remains keen to engage in the planning and scoping for the year.

No announcement on budget yet although we understand there will be an increase on current budget of 500K and there is a desire for headline event for the themed year.

ES are pushing for confirmation of funding to allow for events schedule to be available by the end of 2018, this would allow SS to promote it from January 2019

MTDG is making representations to Scot Government through to seek representation at the table when 2020 is being scoped out.

Local Events remain an important element of the calendar. Concerns were expressed at the MTDG meeting as to clubs having the capacity to host events such as Largs Sailing Club and their ability to operate large events.

A discussion followed on skills support delivery programmes that have not been in the main utilised by the marine sector.

SMCM asked is there the possibility of an easy read type document that pulls together the aspects of training that have been outlined and make it easier for businesses to engage.

AR stated that Skills Development Scotland are speaking to the delivery partners to ask them if they have marine tourism in the training.

**The following action was agreed:**

**Write to: Skills Development Scotland, Federation of Small Businesses Scotland, HIE, SE, Business Gateway asking them to collaborate to provide a document/ online tool to include the assistance they could provide to businesses in the Marine Tourism sector.**

**Green Blue**

GR reported that the Green Blue is short on resource and suggested the following actions to assist Green Blue in Scotland.

1. Identify a list of things that we need.
2. Produce documentation that could be batched as Green Blue.

GR offered to assist with the writing of the documentation but also requested input on what is needed to be written into particular publications.

SMCM asked about the 18 destinations and how far apart they were. AR stated that the 18 are from the Highlands and Islands area. AR stated that they discussed the potential of having representation from Fort William area. JH asked if the east coast destinations are included.

AR stated that it is only the Highlands area that is covered but have stressed about reaching out to the Moray Firth area. The Highlands and Islands Enterprise are supportive of this. JH

asked whether there would be a possibility that there could be a sister project from Scottish Enterprise.

6. **Pontoons and Cruise Berth - Fort William by Sarah Kennedy, Fort William Shoreline Company**

Sarah Kennedy from the Fort William Shoreline Company provided a presentation on the pontoons and Cruise Berth at Fort William. (please find attached). There then followed a discussion on various aspects and following actions agreed -

- Emma Harper MSP asked what the timeframe was. SK stated that the company began in June 2015 and pontoons were installed 10 months later. SK stated that they are looking to get further funding in place by Spring 2019.
- SK provided an overview of how they attracted the cruise companies and that they have also supported Mallaig, Oban and Lochboisdale and are keen to work with others.
- GR asked is there any opportunities for vessels to use the old pier, and get freight back into operation. SK stated that we could look at the community asset transfer, this would be at cost of £3million. They would also like to extend so that we could get super yachts, Majestic Line and Flying Dutchman.
- GR and DV highlighted that they may require to obtain a Harbour Revision Order.
- SMCM stated that it can provide difficult to retain cruise passengers in the area when they dock. SK stated that they run events in the area so in order to retain the cruise passengers.

SK outlined the 3 asks from the Cross Party Group –

1. \* Support the initial expansion of the Fort William Pontoons
2. \* Support in principle of the long term plans for a permanent cruise ship berth
3. \* Support in principle for a marina along the waterfront in Fort William

**Action/Decision:**

**The Cross Party Group approved the 3 asks above in principle with the caveat that we cannot get involved in the planning applications and detailed work that may take place.**

**Proposed: John Hamilton**

**Seconded: Martin Latimer**

7. **AOCB**

**Scottish Sailing Institute**

ML provided background on the Scottish Sailing Institute and explained that it was set up to attract sailing events in Scotland. The remit has now been reduced and this has had an effect on Largs Sailing Club and RYA Scotland are currently looking at the model. ML stated

that he thought it was very important that there is a centre of excellence and also need to establish more volunteers to support these events. ML requested that the following items be discussed at a future meeting -

1. Centre of Excellence
2. Look at how events can be manned and attract events to Scotland.

**Action: It was agreed to have this as an agenda item at a future meeting.**

GD reported that Solway and Annandale have joined forces when supporting events and suggested that it may provide an interim solution for clubs to join together to support events. ML stated that there is an offer but sometimes it can prove difficult with 100-150 competitors to support and it has an effect on grass roots sailing.

GD reported that Lowland Canals Association have been formed that were originally Scottish Inland Waterways and were involved in the Scottish Millennium Link.

AR reported that he was invited to a meeting of the Nairn Harbour Group and this is a group of local volunteers and Nairn Sailing Club. There is major dredging programme taking place at Nairn Harbour and this is helping with access and a new pontoon will be going in. There is also commercial fish landings taking place in Nairn. They have established a Coastal Rowing Group. There is investment from Highland Council to move people along the Moray Firth.

### **British Marine Scotland**

SMCM asked if there is information available on how many berths and marinas are in all 32 local authorities in Scotland? JA stated that information is available within the ECOS Report. ML stated that there is information within the British Marine report.

JH reported that there are 12 pontoons that will be put in by Spring 2018 at Burntisland Sailing Club and will increase the capacity in the club.

### **Pipeathon**

SMCM reported that he has completed the auction of the football shirts as part of the Pipeathon fundraising event. Around £6000 has been raised and this will be split between 3 charities and information will also be posted on the Pipeathon fundraising page. The Cross Party Group congratulated SMCM on his efforts.

### **Dundee Victoria and Albert Museum**

**Action: SMCM reported that there is a very interesting video on the new Victoria and Albert Museum in Dundee and will circulate the link to CPG.**

### **#cpgmarinetourism**

SMCM encouraged CPG members to post to Twitter on #cpgmarinetourism

## **8. Future Business**

Mike Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe to be invited to a future meeting.

**2018 CPG Meeting Dates**

The meeting dates were agreed as -

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 6pm.**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6pm.**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6pm.**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 6pm.**

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

There was a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS/DECISIONS**

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Resp.</b>	<b>Date Raised</b>	<b>Completed</b>
1	<p><b><u>Dundee Marina Project</u></b></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> <p><b>Circulate letter that was sent to Cabinet Secretary and Fergus Ewing re Dundee marina project.</b></p>	Secretariat	26/9/17	11/1/18
2.	<p><b><u>Hebridean and Whale Dolphin Trust</u></b></p> <p>The Hebridean and Whale Dolphin have requested to present in the new year.</p>	Secretariat  DAM	26/9/17	

3.	<p><b><u>Scottish Sea Angling Network</u></b></p> <p>Scottish Sea Angling Network to be invited to present at the next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November or alternatively to one of the meetings in 2018.</p>	Secretariat	26/9/17	
4.	<p><b><u>Marine Fund</u></b></p> <p>SCM to write to Cabinet Secretary (Finance) Derek 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine Fund - Circulate response from Cabinet Secretary (Finance) once received.</li> </ul>	Stuart McMillan MSP	26/9/17	8/1/18
5.	<p><b><u>Update on EU/Brexit</u></b></p> <p>Invite Mike Russell, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe to a future CPG meeting.</p>	SMCM	28/11/17	
6.	<p><b><u>Marine Tourism</u></b></p> <p>Write to: Skills Development Scotland, Federation of Small Businesses Scotland, HIE, SE, Business Gateway asking them to collaborate to provide a document/ online tool to include the assistance they could provide to businesses in the Marine Tourism sector.</p>	SMCM	28/11/17	
7.	<p>Send Links of V&amp;A Video to the CPG when it is available.</p>	SMCM	28/11/17	16/1/18

8.	Add discussion topic to a future agenda on "Attracting sailing events to Scotland"	Secretariat	28/11/17	
9.	Further discussion required on Green Blue requirements in Scotland and potential literature to be produced with assistance from Graham Russell.	ALL	28/11/17	