

Cross-Party Group on Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism

Tuesday 29th June 2022 at 1pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Stuart McMillan MSP (Convenor)

Emma Harper MSP

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

James Allan (RYA Scotland, Secretariat)

Pauline McGrow (RYA Scotland Secretariat)

Jonathan Mosse (IWA Sustainable Boating Group /
(Chair of IWA Biofuels sub-group)RYA Scotland)

Clair McFarlan (Solway Firth Partnership)

Momchil Terziev

Fanny Royanez (Scottish Environment Link)

Josie Saunders (Scottish Canals)

Aileen Monk (British Marine Scotland)

Scott Lamond (Scottish Canals)

Apologies

Jenni Minto MSP

Elena Whitham MSP

Duncan Tannahill (West Highland and Islands Moorings Association)

Andrew Rendle (Scottish Coastal Rowing Association)

Graham Russell (RYA Scotland)

John Ormiston (Stravaigin Sailing)

Ross Wombell (British Marine)

Gordon Daly (RYA Scotland)

Eilid Ormiston (West Highland College)

Simon Limb (British Marine Scotland)

Paul Bancks (Crown Estate Scotland)

Mark Smith (Scottish Canals)

Catherine Topley (Scottish Canals)

Martin Latimer (British Marine Scotland)

Glenn Porter (Ocean Sailing Scotland)

Esther Brooker (Scottish Environment Link)

Fergus Duncanson (RYA Scotland)

Katie Dyke (Whale and Dolphin Conservation)

Stuart Smith (Scottish Canoe Association)

Sarah Kennedy ((Fort William Marina & Shoreline Community Interest Company)

David Davies (Stranraer Watersports Association)

David Adams McGilp (VisitScotland)

Ian White (Canalside Hub Edinburgh, Paddlesports Liaison)

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and Apologies

Stuart McMillan MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

SMCM stated that in future years we will hold the CPG June meeting at the beginning of the month to allow plenty of time before the Parliamentary summer recess.

Agenda item 2

Minute from Meeting on 1st March 2022

The minutes were approved as an acceptable record.

Agenda item 3 - British Marine Scotland Update – James Stuart

James Stuart provided an update and outlined the following:

- There is an integrated set of questions for a State of the Nation National British Marine Scotland survey that will try to unpick what happened in 2019 and the subsequent impact of Covid. This will go live in the next week with an ask from CPG and wider to gather the data.

Action: RYA Scotland to circulate the survey to their network of contacts. SMCM will circulate to MSPs.

The survey will be wrapped up by the end of the year and results will be ready in first quarter of 2023.

- The next step is to look at the results of the skills survey that are currently being collated.
- JS thanked the Crown Estate and the group of local authorities that have brought this life. SMCM asked what local authorities were involved; JS confirmed that Inverclyde Council, Dundee City Council, North Ayrshire Council, Argyll and Bute Council and Highland Council have all contributed.

Agenda item 4 – 200th Canals Anniversary - Josie Saunders, Scottish Canals

Josie Saunders provided an outline of the 200th Canals anniversary celebrations and highlighted the following:

2022 is a big year for Scottish Canals who have worked with partners and this demonstrates what the canals bring to tourism in Scotland and to the economy and employment. This is a real opportunity to drive economic activity.

JS outlined the journey that the canals has been on and stated that the canals in their hey day were absolutely pivotal to the industrial revolution. They then

subsequently went into decline but are thriving again with the introduction of Falkirk Wheel and Millennium Link.

Activities are taking place at Falkirk Wheel and Lock and Paddle. World Canals Conference challenged us to run a similar event and this was put into place.

At the end of May Scottish Waterways for all held a 200th anniversary flotilla along the Lowland canals with a celebration in the evening. 22 vessels travelled the length of the canal with invited politicians and elected members on the vessels.

On behalf of Scottish Canals JS paid tribute to Scottish Waterways for All for an excellent event with many people lining the route. There was a revolutionary festival on 28th May that was part of a family friendly event and has signalled that we are embracing every possible audience.

JS outlined the partnership that has been formed with Young Scot where every card holder will receive discounts to canal facilities including accommodation and cafes. They are looking to create a Youth Board for 11- to 22-year-olds and this will help influence and help to determine how we get young people involved with the various opportunities and how Scottish Canals can provide training and employment to young people.

One of the other exciting activities that has taken place is that Scottish Canals had a dedicated debate in the Scottish Parliament at the end of May that was led by Fiona Hyslop MSP. They are looking to create an opportunity to unlock new housing, adapting to flood risks and create employment opportunities and was an exciting milestone. Meetings are now arranged with various elected members to share the good work of Scottish Canals and their partners.

There were exhibition boards at the Royal Highland Show that tell the historic value and nature of the canals. These boards will be taken around other events.

The Edinburgh Canal Festival has been supported by Scottish Canals with a financial contribution and all other festivals that have taken place have been community focussed.

S Canals will be lighting up to 5-6 different landmarks along the length of Caledonian and Union canals, the Kelpies, Falkirk wheel, Avonbridge and others. This is to create excitement in particular for rural areas and have imagery and video content that can really promote in particular for overseas visitors. The formal opening of the Caledonian Canal will be on 23rd October.

A "Birkenhead walking experience" at Falkirk Wheel has taken place and it was hugely popular with people of various ages and used the Falkirk wheel as the backdrop.

JS stated that they were really excited about the new 200th anniversary brand that is now on their website and branding pack is now available and is being shared with partners. JS asked members if they wish to share the brand to please get in contact. Any events being run close to canals can be registered on the website and they will help promote these.

Scott Lamond reported that S Canals had a digital challenge as part of the 200th anniversary celebrations, encouraging people to walk and cycle on (200 occasions). Medals and rosettes are being given out and a large amount of people have been signing up. SL encouraged CPG members to also take part.

SMCM thanked JS for presentation and stated that the work that is taking place is outstanding.

There then followed an opportunity for questions:

Action: SMCM requested that a list be provided of the local events that S Canals are supporting. JS stated that the Glasgow Canal Festival will be wrapped up in the Stockenfield bridge lighting event which will see a night-time procession on the water.

SMCM asked about the partnership with Youngscot and asked whether the young scot members can apply for apprenticeships. JS stated that this is planned and are open to ideas that young people that bring to the table for employability and employment opportunities and apprenticeships would fit this theme. There are limitations to the numbers that they can host however there is also volunteering and work shadowing opportunities that will help to build their experience. SL reported that there is SIMD that focusses on the engineering aspects and getting them into universities.

J Stuart stated that it is a very important step bringing in a youth board. J Stuart explained that this is something that is been explored for some time in British Marine Scotland on how you get young people closer to the decision making and he would be interested in learning from what is being done. **Action: J Saunders and J Stuart to arrange time to discuss this further.**

Agenda item 5 Launch of Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF – Sarah Brown, Scottish Marine Environmental Fund Manager)

Sarah Brown provide an outline of the project and highlighted the following:

- This is a piece of work that is hosted by Nature Scot to address the climate and environment emergency. The project was launched on 11th May.
- Grants are open until 4th July at 12 noon. There is a pot of £500K available (capital expenditure).

- SB provided an example of some of the areas that the project can cover:
 - Native oyster beds.
 - Seagrass
 - Sand dunes
 - Invasive species
 - Species
 - Avian flu

There is a pipeline of projects and hope to grow these further.

- We need to ensure that it is a trusted body for money both in and out with an ethical board. James Stuart is chairing and ensuring due diligence and companies following path to net zero.
- The grants that are awarded will be science led. One of the projects that is being worked on is the laying out and mapping of Solway Firth to see where the seagrass meadows and native oyster beds are. It is hoped to take the mapping Scotland wide and follow best practice.
- Support has also been received from Scotland's Minister for Environment and Land Reform, Mairi McAllan MSP.
- They have received approaches from businesses looking to donate to SMEEF.
- Work is taking place with youth groups. There is a Scottish representative on the grants panel. They have appointed a new member of staff Chris Perkins who brings a wealth of experience. **Action: It was agreed to Invite Chris Perkins to join CPG.**

James Stuart further explained that it is a very innovative piece of work.

Action; SB will provide detail on the various sectors that are eligible to apply.

Action: SMEEF Video link to be circulated to the CPG members.

Agenda item 6 – AOCB/Future Business

Flare disposal

JA asked the group if they could lend support to raising this with MCA to have places to disposal of flares. SMCM agreed to the partnership approach and stated that there was a debate taking place on the Firework and Pyrotechnic Bill but he could not recall the detail of the bill to see whether this would be covered. SMCM stated that this may be an opportunity to amend the bill. **Action: SMCM will report back to on his findings on the Firework and Pyrotechnic bil.**

Seaweed farming

JA raised awareness and explained of seaweed farm applications that are being received by RYA Scotland as a non-statutory consultee and are coming more to the fore and suggested that it may be useful to have conversation with seaweed farming organisations. JA further explained that it is an opportunity for recreational boating needs to be taken into consideration and to be made aware of their intentions and liaise re locations of these seaweed farms. SMCM stated that they are not aware of any approaches re seaweed.

Action: SMCM asked members to share any information that is received on seaweed farms.

Clyde/Lifejackets

JM provided background to the closure of Inverclyde to navigation. Upper Clyde is closed to due to breakdown of bridge. Peel Ports are making changes to the pilot exemption rules and the rivers have been divided into 8 different districts, with own pilot exemption certificate. The Clyde is the most underused asset in the UK, and has the potential for various uses.

JM further reported that Hamish Munro from Clyde Marine Service is closing his business and has lifejackets and he would make them available to worthwhile organisations. **Action: JM to obtain contact details for Hamish Munro, Clyde Marine Services to be passed to group members if they are interested in obtaining the lifejackets.**

Action: SMCM will contact Peel Ports to get understanding and rationale to the changes made. SMCM agreed that the usage needs to increase and wider opportunity has not been taken for the city of Glasgow and economic and health and social opportunities .

SMCM thanked J Mosse for briefing the group on the current situation.

J Stuart provided background to the Commonwealth Flotilla that took place as part of the 2014 Commonwealth Games celebrations which created a level of momentum in the Pacific Quay but sadly it has not translated to more activities on the Clyde. JS suggested that we could learn from what has been achieved in the Thames.

SMCM raised about the new bridge between Renfrew and Yoker and the height of the bridge, which will reduce the traffic on the bridge.

Action: SMCM to write to Glasgow Science Centre or the appropriate owner to ask for an update on when the broken bridge is going to be repaired due to the impact on the activities in the city.

Loch Lomond

J Stuart reported that there has been a full review of the byelaws. RYA Scotland have engaged along with other organisations. We have seen an extraordinary

growth in PWC;s up to 800 registrations and there has been some challenges with behaviours and this will be explored as part of this work

Josie Saunders – Scottish Canals – Resignation

JS reported that she would be leaving Scottish Canals at the end of July and thanked the Cross Party Group for their support in time in post. JS introduced Laurie Piper who will be stepping into the role and will bring a wealth of experience.

SMCM stated that he was very sorry to see JS go and thanked her very much for the significant contribution that she has made over the years and hoped that she would wish to continue as a member of the CPG as an individual member in the future.

Agenda Item 10 - Date of Next Meeting
27th September 2022 at 6pm

ACTIONS

Action Point 1 - Future Agenda topics

- Presentation on coastal change from the Dynamic Coast project (<https://www.dynamiccoast.com/>) (PM)
Update: Alistair Rennie will attend the 27th September meeting.
- Giant Strides Marine Tourism Strategy – Our Waters Clean and Blue
 - The return of the 3-mile fishing zone seeking CPG views. (MF)
 - Impact of dredging on fishing inshore. (MF)**Update: invitation sent for meeting on 27th September 2022. Myles Farnbank has confirmed attendance.**

Action Point 2 - Protected area of Arran and Lamlash Bay

SMCM to have discussion with Elena Whitham MSP. (SMCM/EW)
Update: SMCM has had discussion and will provide report.

Action Point 3 - Lack of supply by Calor Gas – Letter of Support from CPG

This was agreed by the members and SL will send on text from the letter that was submitted by British Marine for SMCM to prepare a letter of support.

Ross Wombell to share contact details for Calor Gas.

Update: Contact details received and passed to SMCM. Response received from Duncan Carter and response received and circulated to members on 22nd July.

Action Point 4 - British Marine Scotland Skills Survey

SL will keep the members informed and will share a copy of the Labour and skills survey results once available.

Update: Results currently being compiled and will be shared with CPG members once finalised.

Action Point 5 -

Invitation to Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise

Invitation to be sent to Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise to either 14th June or 27th September meeting.

Update: Ivan McKee will attend the 27th September meeting (acknowledgement sent to Diary Secretary and to confirm whether it will be face to face or online). Format for the meeting to be passed to the diary secretary.

Action Point 6 -

Developing the Workforce

- Invite the Department of Work and Pensions to a future meeting.
- RYA Scotland to circulate the British Marine Scotland State of the Nation Survey to their network of contacts – **done**. SMCM will circulate to MSPs.
- SMCM requested a list of the local events that Scottish Canals are supporting.
- J Saunders and J Stuart to arrange time to discuss youth engagement.

Action Point 7 – Launch of Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund(SMEEF)

- It was agreed to Invite Chris Perkins to join CPG, **invite sent on 2nd August**.
- SB will provide detail on the various sectors that are eligible to apply. **Provided, circulated to CPG on 18th August**.
- SMEEF Video link to be circulated to the CPG members, **provided circulated to CPG on 18th August**.

Action Point 8 – Flare Amnesty

SMCM will report back to on his findings on the Firework and Pyrotechnic bill and also indicated that the CPG would be happy to help and support.

Action Point 9 – Seaweed Farms

- SMCM asked members to share any information that is received on seaweed farms.

Action Point 10 - Activities on the Clyde

- SMCM will contact Peel Ports to get understanding and rationale to the changes made. SMCM agreed that the usage needs to increase and wider

opportunity has not been taken for the city of Glasgow and economic and health and social opportunities .

- JM to obtain contact details for Hamish Munro, Clyde Marine Services to be passed to group members if they are interested in obtaining the lifejackets.
- SMCM to write to Glasgow Science Centre or the appropriate owner to ask for an update on when the broken bridge is going to be repaired due to the impact on the activities in the city.