



THE CLYDE YACHT CLUBS' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

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BRIEFING NOTES FOR CYCA-AFFILIATED CLUBS - CLUB MOORING AREAS

Clubs and club members will be familiar by now with the need to pay fees to The Crown Estate (CE) for moorings. Discounted rates are available for group moorings, and in some instances CE has agreed to designate Club Moorings Areas as "exclusive", precluding the laying of moorings in such areas by non-members.

Within the area of Clydeport jurisdiction (the Clyde estuary and sea lochs as far south as the north end of Arran), approval for moorings is managed by the Clyde Moorings Committee, chaired by the Clydeport Harbourmaster and with CE and other interested parties in attendance. This includes the CYCA. Outside of the Clydeport area, a similar role is discharged by WHAM (West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association), on which RYA Scotland represents yachtsmen's interests.

The process has progressively become more smooth-running, and the advantages for the sailing community are slowly becoming apparent: there have been instances of unlicensed moorings being lifted, of licence dodgers being prosecuted, and of applications being turned down in areas such as established anchorages. A level of "order" is arguably being established in place of the free-for-all.

What has only recently become more apparent is that THE PARALLEL REQUIREMENT to obtain "Section 34 consent" has most probably not been pursued by most clubs. This is a requirement of the Coast Protection Act (1949), administered by DfT until Scottish Devolution in 1999, and now administered by the Scottish Executive in Edinburgh. It applies to all "structures" which could adversely affect the coastline and coastal navigation - e.g. fish farms - and including groups of six or more moorings.

For new applications for new groups of moorings, the application process includes a requirement to advertise publicly, and recent experience suggests this can cost several hundred pounds.

The CYCA has discussed the situation with the Scottish Executive, and it has been agreed that this requirement to advertise will be waived for applications made NOW to cover established moorings areas. An application form is included with this document, and the Association urges member clubs to take advantage of this opportunity to sort things out. A check through Scottish Executive records suggests that no CYCA clubs have sought Section 34 consent, although applications made via the DfT prior to 1999 could conceivably have been classified as "indefinite" and/or be invisible to Edinburgh. Please check your records if you suspect this is the case for your club.

Club Secretaries please note: Section 34 consent issued by the Scottish Executive lasts for 6 years and they do not plan to issue renewal notices. You should set up a reminder mechanism within your club admin system to ensure you pursue renewal in due course. This should also be free.

Donald McLaren

Hon Secretary

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings