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Sailing Secretary Report AGM 2021 (2020/2021 Season)

Keith Videlo

The last year has been challenging for us all. We knew it wasn't going to be easy to run events.

At the start of 2020 we had a great sailing program planned for 2020-21 but sadly as Covid restrictions kicked in, we were forced to cancel events, but we did manage to get one autumn qualifier in before lockdown occurred. This year sadly, all the spring qualifiers were cancelled, but we managed to organise at the last moment an Open Event at WPNSA for all fleets and an event in conjunction with Stokes Bay in June.

With Covid restrictions making double handed sailing difficult, it is great to see the ILCA class thriving at National and local level. This can be seen in the number of boats sailing here this week (UKLA Nationals), over 250 boats. I can't remember such a fantastic turnout for our Nationals, I thought last year we did well with just over 200 boats. It is great to read about clubs achieving record turnouts, especially Parkstone on Monday nights with 62 boats.

One of the events we had been looking forward to helping WPNSA host was the U21 Worlds, which should have been next week, sadly we have been forced accept it was not possible to host due to all the travel restrictions placed on international sailors coming to this country and returning home. It will be interesting to see how Poland gets on with hosting the event.

With the U21 being cancelled, a week's gap opened up, giving us the opportunity to try some more relaxed events, here at WPNSA. We had planned a club event, which due to late notice and lack of accommodation, we sadly had to cancel. But hopefully the transition week we have planned for next week will be an opportunity for new sailors to get started in the ILCA class or those sailors moving up a rig, with the help of expert coaching.

The best thing we can do now is look forward to the autumn and next year where we have some more great events planned. Next year's Nationals will see us return to Abersoch 6th – 12th August, the following year we will be at Hayling Island.

It was great to see Ali Young and Elliot Hansen on TV sailing in Tokyo at the Olympics, at the time of writing, they are both have a good chance of making the medal races.

Finally, I would like to end my report by thanking Paul Jackson (our Race Officer this week) and Ellie for all their hard work they have put in, helping to organise our UKLA events, including the Nationals. Without their help we would as class struggle. Paul's energy and enthusiasm has made organising events much easier. Thank you to you both.

UKLA Sailing Sec
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