

Sailing Secretary Report AGM 2022

Keith Videlo

After two years of Covid curtailed sailing, 2022 has allowed us to start running our full programme of sailing events again, albeit in a new, vigilant, environment.

Last autumn, two of the three Qualifiers took place at Sunderland and WPNSA. Unfortunately, we still can't control the weather and lost the second Qualifier to strong winds. This spring (2022), all three Qualifiers successfully took place. There were great turnouts, especially in the ILCA 4 and 6 classes.

The shadow of Covid cast itself over the organisation of this year's Nationals. The event was originally for Abersoch but unfortunately, they pulled out in November due to the Covid restrictions placed on the Sailing Club by the local council. Fishguard Bay Yacht Club expressed a serious interest in hosting our Nationals after hearing about Abersoch, but after many long conversations they felt they couldn't guarantee sufficient club volunteers to run such a large event in the summer. We remain hopefully that this might be a venue we could visit in the future.

With the Nationals already scheduled for 2023 at Hayling Island Sailing Club, they very kindly agreed to squeeze us into their very busy sailing program for this year as well. Thank you HISC, we look forward to re-visiting not only for next year's Nationals but also in the autumn for a Qualifier. There are nearly 250 boats at this year's Nationals, reinforcing our position as the strongest and largest class in the UK by far.

WPNSA is a great venue, and we are much indebted to them for all the help and support they have and continue to give us throughout the year. They are superb at hosting events and take on a lot of the organisational load. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Allam and Sally Reynoldson for all their hard work and support they have given the class over the last few years. I wish Peter all the very best in his new life starting in October when he steps down from his role. I been told we will still see him at the centre but as a volunteer.

The committee does recognise that we visit the centre a lot especially when you consider all the training that takes place there. I have started working with Chloe Elvin to find new venues for the class to visit. The main problem is those clubs that have in the past hosted our events no longer have sufficient membership volunteers or the will to organise events for such a large class, even if it was just for two of our rigs.

At last year's AGM there was a desire to have more UKLA led events throughout the summer. This year we have tried organising a Northern and Southern Championships. The Northern Championship was scheduled to be in May at South Shields Sailing Club and the Southern Champs at Paignton Sailing Club in early July. Due to a lack of interest we and South Shields cancelled the Northern Champs. At the time of writing this report we only have 10 boats entered the Southern Champs.





UKLA
UK District of ILCA
PO BOX 2176, BN25 9EQ
office@ilca.uk
+44208 0586808

We hope to try again next year to organise UKLA led events in the summer, provided we can find some suitable venues.

Nearly 110 boats took part in the Master Nationals at Stokes Bay a couple of weeks ago, one of the best turnouts for several years. Well done to Alison for organising such a successful event.

On the water, it is great to see our BST sailors led by Hannah, Matilda, Daisy, Micky, Elliot and Sam putting in some great performances on the international circuit.

I would again like to thank Paul Jackson, our main Race Officer, for all his help and time with organising events. Not only is he our Race Officer but he works incredible hard behind the scenes to make the class a success – thank you.

