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## **UKLA Sailing Secretary report – July 22 to August 23**

We have just completed another successful UKLA Nationals at Hayling Island with over 240 boats competing across all 3 fleets. This year's nationals was our scheduled event, where's last year HISC kindly came to our rescue. The feedback we have received from the event has been very positive and bodes well for next year when we visit Paignton.

The Nationals is our centre piece of the year and to make it as successful as it is, it requires an enormous team effort. Not just from those on the committee but from all our volunteers. Thank you to you all.

Three people I would like to thank are Ellie, Tim Hancock and Guy Noble.

Tim for being our PRO and providing calmness when things are getting a bit chaotic. Guy for bringing together all the sponsors and creating "The Hub" which worked brilliantly and Ellie who works tirelessly all year round, making sure our events run smoothly, without her there would be no events.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Jackson who again has done a brilliant job as our PRO at our Qualifiers and Nationals. We owe him a big thank you.

Unfortunately, our Nationals clashed with the World Sailing championships in The Hague and many of our top sailors missed the Nationals to concentrate on this event. It's great to see our sailors peaking at the right time for the Olympics, led by Micky Beckett who has dominated this year's events. We wish them all the very best over the next 12 months and will continue to follow their journeys with great interest.

With the Olympics now less than 12 months away, a priority for the UKLA and the RYA has been to give all the support we can to our Olympic sailors especially in helping them to Qualify for international championships.

Our Qualifiers are continuing to attract a good attendance with an average of over 150 boats at each of our events. Due to the success of our Qualifiers, it does make it very difficult to find venues that can host us. We are still looking for new clubs or re-visit old venues which can host 150 plus boats, in the North or South of the UK. Next year sees us hopefully returning to Plas Heli for the first time in several years. If you know any venue that can host that many boats, then please let us know.

Following our review of female participation in ILCA sailing earlier this year, we have decided to try at our last Qualifier this autumn separate starts for boys and girls in the ILCA 4 class. If it proves popular, then we will look at doing more next year.

Last November we, along with HISC, have successfully bided for the European Masters to be held in June 2025. This will be our first international championship event the UKLA has hosted for many years. I suspect the last event we hosted was the 2011 Senior Worlds at HISC.

HISC are currently putting together a bid for the Senior Europeans. We will know if they are successful in November.

We look forward to an exciting year of sailing.

Keith Videlo (UKLA Sailing Sec)

