



RORC Rating Office

GBR IRC Committee – Rating Office Report 2019

12th September 2019

INTRODUCTION

IRC continues to have good numbers in the UK, representing around 25% of the worldwide fleet. We continue to see good support for the strong racing areas in the UK. The UK based IRC Classes such as the HP30, Performance 40 and Fast 40+ have a good programme of races. Attendance at events has been good with particular good entries in the offshore racing. The IRC Nationals in Cowes had encouraging entries this year with 44 entries in the IRC Class 1,2,3 & 4. 29 entries across the Fast 40+ (6), HP30 (7) and Performance 40 (16). As in 2015 and 2017, the Rolex Fastnet Race entry was full within 5 minutes of opening. Two handed racing continues to flourish with 64 entries in the Rolex Fastnet Race and the IRC Two-Handed National Championship scheduled for the 14 & 15 September 2019.

GBR IRC Statistics

To avoid confusion all numbers listed are to the end of August each year. In general we see this value increase by approximately 40 boats between that date and the end of the year.

In 2019 we have seen numbers stabilise with a small decrease of 8 boats (0.6%) in the number of boats holding full IRC certificates at the end of August. Details are shown in the table below.

Area	Code	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Number change	% Change
								2019-18	2019-18
Central S. Coast	101	698	700	666	656	603	609	6	1.0%
Dorset	102	40	88	94	73	66	70	4	6.1%
Sussex	103	50	63	57	53	60	50	-10	-16.7%
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	139	140	144	133	117	117	0	0.0%
South West	105	171	191	187	204	214	216	2	0.9%
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
South/Mid Wales	107	30	36	40	33	44	40	-4	-9.1%
North Wales	108	33	34	36	36	36	38	2	5.6%
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	27	28	26	24	17	17	0	0.0%
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	7	38	29	34	40	32	-8	-20.0%
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	4	5	8	8	5	9	4	80.0%
Isle of Man	112	3	8	5	6	7	10	3	42.9%
Scotland	113 & 114	37	41	42	39	39	34	-5	-12.8%
Channel Islands	115	60	46	60	58	57	58	1	1.8%
Northern Ireland	117	46	48	43	54	60	57	-3	-5.0%
TOTALS:		1379	1500	1437	1411	1365	1357	-8	-0.6%



The total number of shorthanded certificates issued this year was 18, 16 of these are in the Central South Coast region where there is strong support for single- and double-handed racing. Also a total of 38 boats had SERs issued, the same level as 2018 (37). This brings the total number of boats racing IRC up to 1395 for the year to the end of August.

The following table shows the total number of boats with full IRC certificates, including those issued under the Advocate Scheme, to 31 Dec 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018. 2019 figures are to the end of August and also show number of Short-Handed certificates in each area, and Single Event Ratings.

See below for more about the Advocate Scheme and SER.

Area	Area code	Total full	Total full	Total full	Total full	Total full	31-Aug-19			
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2018	Full	inc Advocate	SH	SER (by race area)
		inc start up	inc start up	inc start up	inc start up	inc Start Up				
Central S. Coast	101	744	696	690	631		609		16	36
Dorset	102	92	95	76	70	38	70	39	0	0
Sussex	103	65	57	53	62	16	50	4	0	0
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	150	150	137	119		117	8	1	0
South West	105	193	187	208	219	75	216	61	0	0
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	0	0		0		0	0
South/Mid Wales	107	36	41	34	44	11	40	8	0	0
North Wales	108	37	41	39	39		38		0	0
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	33	31	26	20		17		0	0
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	40	30	35	43	28	32	21	0	0
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	8	13	13	18	11	9		0	0
Isle of Man	112	8	5	6	7		10		0	0
	113 &									
Scotland	114	42	44	40	42		34		0	2
Channel Islands	115	49	62	60	61	12	58	9	1	0
Northern Ireland	117	54	45	55	65	6	57		0	0
TOTALS:		1551	1497	1472	1440	197	1357	150	18	38
TOTAL SER		133	110	50	37		38			
TOTAL IRC RATED BOATS		1684	1607	1522	1477		1395			

IRC Advocate Scheme

In 2019 the Start Up and the Club Loyalty Scheme were discontinued in favour of the IRC Advocate Scheme. The aim of the scheme and terms and conditions are provided as a separate supporting paper to this report.

The Advocate scheme continues to deliver good results and at 31 August 2019 represents 11% of the total GBR boats rated. The success of the Advocate Scheme is primarily down to the excellent relationships we have with the Clubs and the passion they share for IRC. We never underestimate the efforts the individuals in the clubs put in and appreciate their drive and commitment.

The total number of boats issued certificates under this scheme rose from 154 in 2017 to 197 in 2018, and stands at 150 in 2019 so far. Note that Windermere apply for their certificates later in the year for autumn/winter racing.

The distribution is shown below:

IRC Advocate clubs			31-Aug	
Club	Advocate	2018	2019	
Flushing	Robert Chapple	11	9	
Scarborough YC	Pete McIntyre	16	13	
	Stephen Homan Berry / Richard Woof / Kirsty			
Weymouth / Castle Cove	White	38	39	
Royal Dartmouth	Michael Webster	46	35	
Windermere	Andrew Smith	11	TBC	
Sussex YC	Adam Thompson	16	4	
St Helier YC	James Kent	12	9	
Penzance SC	Allen Spencer Smith	13	12	
Teignmouth Corinthian YC	Steve Pocock	5	5	
Carlingford Lough Yacht Club	Kieran Cranley	6	N/A	
New Quay YC	Chris Seal	11	8	
Royal Yorkshire YC	Crispin Blyth	12	8	
West Mersea YC	Paul Jackson		8	
		197	150	



As last year, the SER scheme has been limited to six specific events and the majority have been issued for the Round the Island Race, which is the event for which SER was originally conceived.

Over the last 4 years the number of SERs issued for each event has been:

SINGLE EVENT RATINGS	Ref.	2016	2017	2018	31/8/2019
Round the Island Race (June)	1	31	26	26	27
Cowes Week (Aug)	2	7	9	3	4
Panerai British Classic Week (July)	3	9	7	5	5
RSYC Members' Regatta (July)	4	0	5	0	0
Three Peaks Yacht Race (June)	5	2	1	1	2
Little Britain Challenge Cup (Sept)	6	4	2	2	TBC
		53	50	37	38

GBR IRC Championships

There are 10 GBR IRC Championships in 2019 with the winners of the championships so far:

Scottish (Scottish Series) - overall Chimaera IRL2160, J/109, Andrew Craig [Full results](#)

Southern (Weymouth) - overall Antix GBR581R, X-302, John Allen [Full results](#)

National (Cowes) - [class winners & full results](#)

East Coast (Ramsgate) - [class winners & full results](#)

Welsh National (Cardigan) - overall Injenious GBR2728L J/97 Crompton/Hallworth [Full results](#)

South West (Dartmouth) – overall Jiggy J24 OD Mike Mackie and Roger Nuttall [Full results](#)

Still to come

Channel Islands (Jersey) 6-8 Sept <http://jerseyregatta.com>

Two-handed (RORC) Offshore 6 Sept, Inshore 14-15 Sept www.rorc.org

Solent Championship final event ISC Nab Tower 21 Sept <http://www.solentirc.org.uk/>

Inland (Windermere) Nov-March www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk

IRC sponsors [Spinlock](#) have generously presented a trophy, rucksack, VITO lifejacket and £250 voucher to each championship for the winners. [Click here to see the full list of 2019 GBR Championships.](#)



Offers to owners

IRC Members, ie. current certificate holders, continue to benefit from a number of excellent offers:

- 25% off all Spinlock products - <http://www.spinlock.co.uk>
- Free access to Seahorse Digital editions - <http://www.seahorse.co.uk/digital/irc/>
- Subscription offer for Seahorse print editions - <http://www.seahorse.co.uk/shop/subs>
- 15% off Tuff Luff products - <https://www.sea-sure.co.uk>
- discount on RORC membership - <http://www.rorc.org>

Newsletters and Seahorse issues replacing Yearbook

The Rating Office continues to issue regular newsletters to our GBR owners with news and information regarding IRC.

During 2018 it was decided not to produce a printed IRC Yearbook in 2019. To replace the yearbook there are exclusive free IRC editions of Seahorse Magazine available to IRC members. This includes IRC specific news and information similar to the content covered in the IRC yearbook.

Weighing and Measuring

We have had a very busy year with IRC weighing and measurement in the UK. The Rating Office invested in two new weighing scales at substantial cost. These are 7.5 tonnes and 12 tonnes and include a wireless digital link for better accuracy and ease of use.

The winter weighing and discount scheme was discontinued in 2018 as the incentive did not produce the uptake as expected. Conversely that time of year was busier than expected at the end of 2018.

IRC Application Process and MyIRC

This year has seen successful continued use of the MyIRC online application portal. A service to owners includes upload of their IRC certificates (including trials) to their MyIRC account so they can login and download a copy at any time. We are looking at a further update to our systems that may include additional functionality for IRC certificate owners.

The MyIRC system continues to look at options for use by Rule Authorities in other countries.

Rating Office Staff

We are pleased to welcome Sally Moss to our small team. Sally joined us at the end of February 2019 and works with the Technical Team on IRC certificates as well as some general administration. With a background in customer service and hostessing with flotilla sailing holidays, and a trained dinghy instructor, Sally knows her way around a boat and also sails with her husband Simon and dog Alfie.

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