



RORC Rating Office

GBR IRC Committee – Rating Office Report 2020

10th September 2020

Introduction

The Coronavirus situation has dominated our attention for 2020 so far and IRC numbers have been low in the UK and worldwide. UK represents around 25% of the worldwide fleet. All races in the early part of the year and early summer were cancelled or postponed with the first racing starting in June with social distancing, single/two-handed and “household” only racing. Attendance at post lockdown events has been good with particularly good entries in the day coastal racing and there has been a increased interest in two-handed racing. The IRC National Championship, originally scheduled for June, has been rescheduled for mid-September to run concurrently with the IRC Two-Handed Championship. For 2020 only the requirement for an Endorsed IRC certificate was dropped but with the proviso that spot checks will be undertaken during the event.

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, though this year we are likely to see more applications for late events. In 2020 we have seen the effects of coronavirus and lockdown in all areas, with the total number of UK rated boats down 30% on 2019. Details are shown in the table below.

Area	Code	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	No. change 2020-19	% Change 2020-19
Central S. Coast	101	700	666	656	603	609	437	-172	-28.5%
Dorset	102	88	94	73	66	70	37	-33	-50.0%
Sussex	103	63	57	53	60	50	40	-10	-16.7%
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	140	144	133	117	117	68	-49	-41.9%
South West	105	191	187	204	214	216	122	-94	-43.9%
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%
South/Mid Wales	107	36	40	33	44	40	24	-16	-36.4%
North Wales	108	34	36	36	36	38	28	-10	-27.8%
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	28	26	24	17	17	18	1	5.9%
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	38	29	34	40	32	16	-16	-40.0%
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	5	8	8	5	9	6	-3	-60.0%
Isle of Man	112	8	5	6	7	10	4	-6	-85.7%
Scotland	113 & 114	41	42	39	39	34	23	-11	-28.2%
Channel Islands	115	46	60	58	57	58	47	-11	-19.3%
Sigma 38's		32							
Northern Ireland	117	48	43	54	60	57	27	-30	-50.0%
TOTALS:		1500	1437	1411	1365	1357	898	-459	-33.6%





The total number of shorthanded certificates issued this year was 13 compared to 16 in 2019; however we know that many boats are also racing short-handed using their primary IRC certificate.

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. 2020 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 2019		31-Aug-20			
		2015	2016	2017	2018	Full	inc Adv.	Full	inc Adv.	SH	SER (by race area)
		inc start up	inc start up	inc start up	inc start up						
Central S. Coast	101	744	696	690	631	623		437		10	
Dorset	102	92	95	76	70	72	39	37	22		
Sussex	103	65	57	53	62	50	4	40	8		
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	150	150	137	119	118	17	68	19	1	
South West	105	193	187	208	219	220	51	122	23		
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	0	0	0		1			
South/Mid Wales	107	36	41	34	44	41	8	24	0		
North Wales	108	37	41	39	39	40		28			
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	33	31	26	20	18		18			
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	40	30	35	43	32	21	16	8		
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	8	13	13	18	21	9	6	0		
Isle of Man	112	8	5	6	7	10		4			
	113										
	&										
Scotland	114	42	44	40	42	35		23			
Channel Islands	115	49	62	60	61	61	9	47	7	2	
Northern Ireland	117	54	45	55	65	58		27			
TOTALS:		1551	1497	1472	1440	1399	158	898	87	13	0
TOTAL SER		133	110	50	37	38					
TOTAL IRC RATED BOATS		1684	1607	1522	1477	1437		898			



IRC Advocate Scheme

The Advocate scheme continues to deliver good results even considering the lockdown situation and at 31 August 2020 represents 9.6% 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, 197 in 2018, 158 in 2019 and stands at 87 in 2020 so far. Note that Windermere apply for their certificates later in the year for autumn/winter racing. The distribution is shown below:

Year	Cert code			end 2018	end 2019	31-Aug 2020
2015	503	Weymouth	Mike Street	38	39	22
2016	507	Sussex YC	Adam Thompson	16	4	8
2014	500	Flushing	Robert (Bob) Chapple	11	9	7
2019	515	West Mersea YC	Paul Jackson		8	12
2016	505	Royal Dartmouth	Mike Moody (was Michael Webster until 2019)	46	34	23
2017	510	Penzance SC	Allen Spencer Smith	13	12	
2017	511	Teignmouth Corinthian YC	Steve Pocock	5	5	
2018	513	New Quay YC	Chris Seal	11	8	
2015	502	Scarborough YC	Pete McIntyre	16	13	8
2018	514	Royal Yorkshire YC	Crispin Blyth From Jan 2020 Faye Jordan	12	8	
2016	506	Windermere	Andrew Smith	11	9	
2016	508	St Helier YC	James Kent	12	9	7
2017	512	Carlingford Lough Yacht Club	Kieran Cranley	6		
				197	158	87

Single Event Ratings

The Single Event Rating scheme is limited to six specific events and the majority are issued for the Round the Island Race, which is the event for which SER was originally conceived. No boats have held Single Event Ratings in 2020, due to the cancellation of events. 7 boats applied for SERs for the Round The Island Race and these applications have been carried over to the 2021 race. Over the last 4 years the number of SERs issued for each event has been:

SINGLE EVENT RATINGS	Ref.	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Round the Island Race (June)	1	31	26	26	27	0
Cowes Week (Aug)	2	7	9	3	4	0
Panerai British Classic Week (July)	3	9	7	5	5	0
RSYC Members' Regatta (July)	4	0	5	0	0	0
Three Peaks Yacht Race (June)	5	2	1	1	2	0
Little Britain Challenge Cup (Sept)	6	4	2	2	1	0
		53	50	37	39	0



IRC GBR Classes

The RORC Rating Office continue to support the GBR IRC Classes and their events, including the Fast 40+, HP30, RC35, Performance 40 and RC1000.

GBR IRC Championships

There are usually 10 GBR IRC Championships held during the year, but in 2020 many of these were cancelled. A list is appended of the 2020 Championship calendar with the status of each event.

Spinlock continued to generously present a trophy, rucksack, VITO lifejacket and voucher to each championship for the winners.

Spinlock Sponsorship of IRC

Spinlock have withdrawn their sponsorship of IRC from 2020 and the Rating Office and RORC are currently in talks with two other companies to sponsor IRC for the future. Spinlock continue their offer to IRC member discount.

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

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

There has been little weighing and measuring during 2020 due to the Coronavirus situation, however we anticipate enthusiasm from owners for getting this done this in the coming autumn/winter/spring.

We have noticed an increase in enquiries about IRC both from people new to IRC, and those with smaller/older boats.



IRC Application Process and MyIRC

In late 2019 the developer for IRC discontinued their support so a new developer has been sourced. There have been many updates related to application for 2020 IRC rules, keeping up to date with the secure payment portal, password protocols, further data protection considerations and general updates and bug fixes. MyIRC continues to be the main route for UK IRC applications.

Rating Office Staff

As with the rest of the World, the team at the Rating Office have had to rapidly adapt to the Coronavirus situation. We already had IT systems in place that allow for remote access and during lockdown we rapidly shifted our operation to home working to continue our service to UK and Worldwide sailors as normal. The Rating Office now operate an office staff rota and continue to use the UK Government Furlough Scheme with 3 of the 5 staff now on part-time furlough.

Spinlock IRC Championships 2020

Last updated 28 July 2020

Event Title IRC SIRCOA Solent Championship
Venue: Solent
Dates: Portsmouth Regatta 16th – 17th May 2020
Royal Southern Regatta 20th – 21st June 2020
Royal Solent Taittinger Regatta 17th - 19th July 2020
Island Sailing Club NAB Tower Race 5th September 2020
Website: www.solentirc.org.uk

Event Title IRC Bristol Channel Championship ***postponed**
Venue: Cardiff Bay – Shanghai Cup
Dates: 16/17th and 30/31st May 2020
Proposed new dates Portishead weekend 12/13 Sept and Cardiff weekend 26/27 Sept.
Website: www.shanghaicup.co.uk

Event Title IRC Scottish Championship ***cancelled**
Venue: Loch Fyne - Scottish Series
Dates: 22nd – 25th May 2020
Website: www.scottishseries.info

Event Title IRC Southern Championship ***cancelled**
Venue: Poole
Dates: 23rd – 25th May 2020
Website: www.pooleregatta.co.uk



Event Title IRC National Championships ***date change**
Organised by: RORC Cowes
Dates: **11th – 13th September 2020**
Website: www.rorc.org

Event Title IRC East Coast Championship ***cancelled**
Venue: Ramsgate Week
Dates: 29th – 31st July 2020
Website: www.ramsgateweek.com

Event Title IRC Welsh National Championship
Venue: Cardigan Bay Celtic Regatta
Dates: 14th – 16th August 2020
Website: www.ircwelshchamps.com

Event Title IRC South West Championship ***cancelled**
Venue: Royal Torbay Yacht Club
Dates: 22nd – 23rd August 2020
Website: www.rtyc.org

Event Title IRC Channel Islands Championship
Venue: Jersey Regatta
Dates: 12th – 13th September 2020
Website: <http://jerseyregatta.com>

Event Title IRC Double Handed National Championship
Venue: RORC, Cowes
Dates: 12th – 13th September 2020
Website: <http://www.rorc.org/>

Event Title IRC Inland Championship
Organised by: Windermere Cruising Association
Dates: November 2020 – March 2021
Website: www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk