



RORC Rating Office

GBR IRC Committee – Rating Office Report 2021

9th September 2021

Introduction

For IRC in the UK this year we have seen a good flow of IRC certificates. The applications started later than normal with uncertainty over the sailing season in January, but then the spring races encouraged applications and it has been a relatively “normal” year since then. The UK represents around 25% of the worldwide fleet. Events have been good with particularly good entries in the day coastal racing and the strength of interest in two-handed racing continues. Encouragingly we have seen many old revalidations, we guess from owners who have decided to race their boat in the UK as an alternative to a foreign holiday. The IRC National Championship, as held in June with good entries and the overall 2021 IRC National Champion was Stuart Sawyer's J/122 Black Dog.

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. We will compare the data with 2019 as it is a normal year compared to a highly affected 2020. In 2021 we have seen the effects of coronavirus in most areas, with the total number of UK rated boats down 20% on 2019. Details are shown in the table below.

Area	Code	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	No. change 2021-19	% Change 2021-19
Central S. Coast	101	666	656	603	609	437	536	-73	-12.0%
Dorset	102	94	73	66	70	37	52	-18	-25.7%
Sussex	103	57	53	60	50	40	40	-10	-20.0%
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	144	133	117	117	68	79	-38	-32.5%
South West	105	187	204	214	216	122	157	-59	-27.3%
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0.0%
South/Mid Wales	107	40	33	44	40	24	29	-11	-27.5%
North Wales	108	36	36	36	38	28	38	0	0.0%
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	26	24	17	17	18	13	-4	-23.5%
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	29	34	40	32	16	16	-16	-50.0%
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	8	8	5	9	6	3	-6	-66.7%
Isle of Man	112	5	6	7	10	4	7	-3	-30.0%
Scotland	113 & 114	42	39	39	34	23	19	-15	-44.1%
Channel Islands	115	60	58	57	58	47	46	-12	-20.7%
Northern Ireland	117	43	54	60	57	27	47	-10	-17.5%
TOTALS:		1437	1411	1365	1357	898	1083	-274	-20.2%





The total number of shorthanded certificates issued this year was 13; 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. 2021 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	Total full		31-Aug-21			
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	inc Adv.	Full	inc Adv.	SH	SER (by race area)
		inc Adv	inc Adv	inc Adv	inc Adv	inc Adv	Full	inc Adv.	Full	inc Adv.	SH	SER (by race area)
Central S. Coast	101	744	696	690	631	623	472		536		11	40
Dorset	102	92	95	76	70	72	41	22	52	36		
Sussex	103	65	57	53	62	50	42	8	40	11		
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	150	150	137	119	118	72	19	79	8	2	
South West	105	193	187	208	219	220	128	23	157	26		
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	0	0	0	1		1			
South/Mid Wales	107	36	41	34	44	41	31	0	29	5		
North Wales	108	37	41	39	39	40	30		38			
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	33	31	26	20	18	18		13			
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	40	30	35	43	32	16	8	16	11		
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	8	13	13	18	21	6	0	3	0		
Isle of Man	112	8	5	6	7	10	4		7			
	113											
	&											
Scotland	114	42	44	40	42	35	23		19			5
Channel Islands	115	49	62	60	61	61	52	7	46	5		
Northern Ireland	117	54	45	55	65	58	29		47			
TOTALS:		1551	1497	1472	1440	1399	965	87	1083	102	13	45
TOTAL SER		133	110	50	37	38	0					
TOTAL IRC RATED BOATS		1684	1607	1522	1477	1437	965		1083			

IRC Advocate Scheme

The Advocate scheme continues to deliver good results even considering the lockdown situation and at 31 August 2021 represents about 10% 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.



Bob Chappel from Flushing left at the start of the year. We have asked about possible replacements but haven't heard anything I'm afraid. Stephen from Windmere has included us in a mailshot for their winter series hoping to attract some boats with our reduced September prices. We have a new advocate Bob Jackson from Eastbourne with a potential 11 boats. He is away at the moment but hoping to send through applications on his return early September and also entice people with the reduced rate.

The total number of boats issued certificates under this scheme is 154 in 2017, 197 in 2018, 158 in 2019, 88 in 2020 and 106 in 2021 so far. Note that Windmere apply for their certificates later in the year for autumn/winter racing. The distribution is shown below:

Cert code	Club	Contact name	end	31-Aug	end	31-Aug	end	31-Aug
			2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021
503	Weymouth	Mike Street	38	39	39	22	23	36
507	Sussex YC	Antony Tomkins	16	4	4	8	8	11
500	Flushing	Robert (Bob) Chapple	11	9	9	7	7	3
515	West Mersea YC	Paul Jackson		8	8	12	12	8
505	Royal Dartmouth	Mike Moody	46	35	34	23	23	23
510	Penzance SC	Allen Spencer Smith	13	12	12			0
511	Teignmouth Corinthian YC	Julian Brown	5	5	5			0
513	New Quay YC	Chris Seal	11	8	8			5
502	Scarborough YC	Steve Winrussell	16	13	13	8	8	10
514	Royal Yorkshire YC	Faye Jordan	12	8	8			5
506	Windmere	Stephen	11		9			0
508	St Helier YC	James Kent	12	9	9	7	7	5
512	Carlingford Lough Yacht Club	Kieran Cranley	6					0
NEW	Sovereign Harbour YC Eastbourne NEW	Bob Jackson						
			197	150	158	87	88	106

Single Event Ratings

The Single Event Rating scheme is limited to five specific events and the majority are issued for the Round the Island Race, which is the event for which SER was originally conceived. 45 boats have held Single Event Ratings in 2021. Over the last 5 years the number of SERs issued for each event has been:



SINGLE EVENT RATINGS	Ref.	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Round the Island Race (June)	1	31	26	26	27	0	29
Cowes Week (Aug)	2	7	9	3	4	0	6
Panerai British Classic Week (July)	3	9	7	5	5	0	5
Three Peaks Yacht Race (June)	4	2	1	1	2	0	5
Little Britain Challenge Cup (Sept)	5	4	2	2	1	0	
		53	45	37	39	0	45

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

It is encouraging to see that the GBR regional championships went well this year with a full national programme of events. A list is appended of the 2021 Championship calendar. The Rating Office is working with the race team with the idea that the winner of any regional championships gets a free entry and berthing at the next year IRC National Championships and hope to promote that initiative before the beginning of the 2022 season.

Offers to Owners

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

- 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 commensurate weighing and measuring during 2021 according to the certificate activity. We have enthusiasm from owners for the racing season and the good programme of events.

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



IRC Application Process and MyIRC

MyIRC continues to be the main route for UK IRC applications, paying measurement invoices etc. It allows the staff to allocate boats to individuals and process certificates efficiently. Our new developer is quite familiar to the system, allowing updates and changes. We continue to look at our systems and have a programme of work to look at the next generation of MyIRC for an enhanced user experience and more IRC tools.

Rating Office Staff

The Rating Office have continued to adapt to the Coronavirus situation. As with many offices we now have a part-time rota of home working with the office manned at all times during working hours. In early 2021 the Rating Office continued to use the UK Government Furlough Scheme with 3 of the 5 staff on part-time furlough while certificate levels and income was low.

Carole Abbott has left the RORC Rating Office at the end of June after many years of service at the Rating Office. We have not directly replaced Carole but other members of the team have picked up some of her functions together with the RORC Finance team adding more days to work on our accounting functions.

Spinlock IRC Championships 2021

JUNE

Event Title IRC National Championships
Organised by: RORC Cowes
Dates: 18th – 21st June 2021
Website: www.rorc.org

JULY

Event Title IRC East Coast Championship
Venue: Ramsgate Week
Dates: 21st – 23rd July 2021
Website: www.ramsgateweek.com

AUGUST

Event Title IRC Welsh National Championship
Venue: Cardigan Bay Celtic Regatta
Dates: 13th – 15th August 2021
Website: www.ircwelshchamps.com

Event Title IRC South West Championship
Venue: Royal Torbay Yacht Club
Dates: 21st – 22nd August 2021
Website: www.rtyc.org



SEPTEMBER

Event Title IRC Channel Islands Championship
Venue Jersey Regatta
Dates: 11th – 12th September 2021
Website: <http://jerseyregatta.com>

Event Title IRC Southern Championship
Venue: Weymouth & Portland
Dates: 11th – 12th September 2021
Website: <https://weymouthregatta.uk/>

Event Title IRC Scottish Championship
Organised by: Clyde Cruising Club – North Clyde Regatta
Dates: 11th-12th September 2021
Website: <https://www.clyde.org/>

Event Title IRC Double Handed National Championship
Venue RORC, Cowes
Dates: 18th – 19th September 2021
Website: <http://www.rorc.org/>

NOVEMBER

Event Title IRC Inland Championship
Organised by: Windermere Cruising Association
Dates: November 2021 – March 2022
Website: www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk