



## RORC Rating Office

# GBR IRC Committee – Rating Office Report 2022

## 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Introduction

For IRC in the UK this year we have seen a good flow of IRC certificates. It has been a relatively “normal” year for applications, but with a continued reduction from the 2019 season. The UK represents around 25% of the worldwide fleet. Encouragingly we continue to see old revalidations where certificates have lapsed by over 5 years. Events have seen particularly good entries in offshore and day coastal racing and the strength of interest in two-handed racing continues.

There has been an abundance of offshore races through the RORC and JOG Calendar, and the many regional IRC championships including the IRC National Championship.

### GBR IRC Statistics

To avoid confusion numbers listed are to the end of August each year. In general, this value increases by around 40 boats between 31 Aug and the end of the year. We will compare the data with 2021 and also 2019 as it is a normal year compared to a highly affected 2020 and moderately affected 2021. In 2022 we see an increase in racing participation in most areas from 2021 but a reduction for 2019. With the total number of UK rated boats up 4.2% on 2021 and down 17% on 2019. Details are shown in the table below.

Full certificates only - no. of boats								2022 - 2021 change		2022 - 2019 change	
Area	Code	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Number	%	Number	%
Central S. Coast	101	656	603	609	437	536	544	8	1.5%	-65	-10.7%
Dorset	102	73	66	70	37	52	56	4	7.1%	-14	-20.0%
Sussex	103	53	60	50	40	40	42	2	4.8%	-8	-16.0%
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	133	117	117	68	79	79	0	0.0%	-38	-32.5%
South West	105	204	214	216	122	157	168	11	6.5%	-48	-22.2%
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	0	1	1	0	-1		0	
South/Mid Wales	107	33	44	40	24	29	37	8	21.6%	-3	-7.5%
North Wales	108	36	36	38	28	38	36	-2	-5.6%	-2	-5.3%
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	24	17	17	18	13	12	-1	-8.3%	-5	-29.4%
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	34	40	32	16	16	16	0	0.0%	-16	-50.0%
Northern Eng: Lake District/ New castle	111	8	5	9	6	3	4	1	25.0%	-5	-55.6%
Isle of Man	112	6	7	10	4	7	11	4	36.4%	1	10.0%
Scotland	113 & 114	39	39	34	23	19	25	6	24.0%	-9	-26.5%
Channel Islands	115	58	57	58	47	46	47	1	2.1%	-11	-19.0%
Northern Ireland	117	54	60	57	27	47	51	4	7.8%	-6	-10.5%
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>1411</b>	<b>1365</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>-229</b>	<b>-16.9%</b>





The total number of shorthanded certificates issued this year was 14; 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 2016, 2017, 2018 & 2019, 2020. 2021 and 2022 figures are to the end of August; these 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-22			
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Full	inc Adv.	Full	inc Adv.	Full	inc Adv.
Central S. Coast	101	696	690	631	623	472		559		532	8	11	47
Dorset	102	95	76	70	72	41	22	55	37	56	32		
Sussex	103	57	53	62	50	42	8	40	11	42	8	1	
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	150	137	119	118	72	19	83	11	78	5		
South West	105	187	208	219	220	128	23	161	24	166	27	2	
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	0	0	1		1					
South/Mid Wales	107	41	34	44	41	31		29	6	37	4		
North Wales	108	41	39	39	40	30		39		36	2		
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	31	26	20	18	18		14		12			
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	30	35	43	32	16	8	16	11	16	11		
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	13	13	18	21	6		15	9	4			
Isle of Man	112	5	6	7	10	4		7		11			
Scotland	113 & 114	44	40	42	35	23		20		24			3
Channel Islands	115	62	60	61	61	52	7	45	5	47	3		
Northern Ireland	117	45	55	65	58	29		49		51			
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>1497</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>1440</b>	<b>1399</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL SER</b>		110	50	37	38	0		45		50			
<b>TOTAL IRC RATED BOATS</b>		1607	1522	1477	1437	965		1178		1162			

## IRC Advocate Scheme

The Advocate scheme continues to deliver good results and at 31 August 2022 represents about 9% 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 is 154 in 2017, 197 in 2018, 158 in 2019, 88 in 2020, 114 in 2021 and 100 in 2022 so far. Note that Windermere 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	end	31-Aug
			2018	2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022
503	Weymouth	Mike Street	38	39	39	22	23	36	37	41
507	Sussex YC	Antony Tomkins	16	4	4	8	8	11	11	10
500	Flushing		11	9	9	7	7	3	3	1
515	West Mersea YC	Paul Jackson		8	8	12	12	8	8	4
505	Royal Dartmouth	Mike Moody	46	35	34	23	23	23	24	25
510	Penzance SC	Allen Spencer Smith	13	12	12					
511	Teignmouth Corinthian YC	Julian Brown	5	5	5					
513	New Quay YC	Chris Seal	11	8	8			5	6	5
502	Scarborough YC	Steve Winrussell	16	13	13	8	8	8	6	11
514	Royal Yorkshire YC	Faye Jordan	12	8	8			5	5	
506	Windermere	Stephen McGibbon	11		9				9	
508	St Helier YC	James Kent	12	9	9	7	7	5	5	3
512	Carlingford Lough Yacht Club	Kieran Cranley	6					0	0	
NEW	Sovereign Harbour YC Eastbourne	Bob Jackson								
			197	150	158	87	88	104	114	100

## 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; for 2022 Hamble Classics was added on a trial basis to assess demand. 50 boats have held Single Event Ratings in 2022. Over the last 5 years the number of SERs issued for each event is as follows:

SINGLE EVENT RATINGS	Ref.	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Round the Island Race (June)	1	31	26	26	27	0	29	33
Cowes Week (Aug)	2	7	9	3	4	0	6	6
Panarai British Classic Week (July)	3	9	7	5	5	0	5	4
Three Peaks Yacht Race (June)	4	2	1	1	2	0	5	3
Little Britain Challenge Cup (Sept)	5	4	2	2	1	0	0	1
Hamble Classics (trial for 2022)	6							3
		<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>



## IRC Classes

The RORC Rating Office continues to support the GBR IRC Classes and their events including Grand Prix Zero, HP30, Cape31, RC35, Performance 40 and RC1000. These classes have their own class rules with rating bands and often other limits such as DLR and construction etc. The Rating Office assist the classes with their rules and offer information and advice whenever possible.

The Rating Office continue the technical consultancy contract with Nautor Swan Classes and the International Maxi Association (IMA) and several Swan events have been attended. The office offers technical support to the IMA and the owners and has been working with the IMA on the rating of Flying Nikka, a Mini Maxi fully foiling AC style yacht.

## GBR IRC Championships

It is encouraging to see that the GBR regional championships went well this year with a full national programme of events culminating in the IRC Nationals in June with good entries. The overall 2022 IRC National Champion was Niklas Zennstrom's Carkeek CF 520 'RAN 8', by a slender margin of 0.005 of a point. A list of the championships is appended of the 2022 Championship calendar.

A good initiative introduced by the RORC race team at the start of 2022 is that the winner of any GBR IRC regional championship is eligible for free entry and berthing at the following year's IRC National Championship. The 2023 IRC Nationals will be in Cowes and we are working with the IP Poole regatta to have the IRC Nationals in Poole in 2024.

## 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>

## Website, Newsletters and Seahorse issues

The Rating Office continues to issue newsletters to GBR owners with news and information regarding IRC. There are exclusive free online IRC editions of Seahorse Magazine available to current IRC members which includes IRC specific news and information.

The RORC Rating Office has released their new website with design by an external contractor (Tinstar) and content created by the office. The main focus is presenting the Rating Office as a centre of technical excellence and show our range of work including measurement, technical consultancy, safety etc. IRC in the UK will continue to be a focus on the website in our role as the GBR Rule Authority as well as the IRC Rating Authority for 60% of the World. Please see <https://rorcrating.com>.



## **Weighing, Measuring and General Enquiries**

At the end of March the Rating Office organised a UK and Ireland IRC Equipment Inspection seminar with over 40 people attending from event organisers, clubs, measurers, RYA, ISA and others.

There has been commensurate weighing and measuring during 2022 according to the certificate activity. We have enthusiasm from owners for the racing season and the good programme of events.

As an additional service to IRC certificate holders we continue to help owners and designers in obtaining stability information for racing in the Offshore Special Regulation categories. This can involve helping owners understand stability and also putting them in contact with people who can undertake work to assess the stability.

General enquiries to the office have been high this year with a notable increase in owners new to IRC or returning after a break from racing.

## **IRC Application Process and MyIRC**

MyIRC continues to be the main route for UK IRC applications and paying measurement invoices. It allows us to allocate applications to team members and process certificates efficiently. Our developer is now familiar with 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**

As with many offices we continue with a hybrid working situation with the office staffed at all times during working hours.

The RORC Rating Office team continue our representation on National and International Committees with Jenny as chair of the RYA Technical Committee and Jason as chair of the World Sailing working parties involving keel failures and the Universal Measurement System. Jason has also worked with the RYA on setting up the keel inspection procedures in the UK for the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Requirement for inspection every 2 years from 2022. The Rating Office is also the organiser of the RORC Technical Subcommittee, this is a group of renown designers, consultants, manufacturers, builders, race organisers and journalists that are working in the sport and driving development and observing the sport at a technical level.

RORC Rating Office

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## IRC Championships 2022

### APRIL/MAY

**Event Title** IRC Southern Championship  
**Venue:** International Paints Poole Regatta  
**Dates:** 30<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022  
**Website:** [www.pooleregatta.co.uk](http://www.pooleregatta.co.uk)  
**Facebook:** [Poole Regatta | Facebook](#)

**Event Title** IRC Bristol Channel Championships  
**Venue & dates:** Portishead: 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
Cardiff: 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022  
**Website:** [Shanghai & Nimrod Cup – Bristol Channel IRC Championships 2022 \(shanghaicup.co.uk\)](http://shanghaicup.co.uk)

### JUNE

**Event Title** IRC National Championships  
**Organised by:** RORC Cowes  
**Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
**Website:** [www.rorc.org](http://www.rorc.org)  
**Facebook:** [Royal Ocean Racing Club | Facebook](#)

### JULY

**Event Title** IRC South West Championship  
**Venue:** Plymouth Yacht Regatta  
**Dates:** 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
**Website:** <https://yacht-regatta.ppsa.org.uk>

**Event Title** IRC East Coast Championship  
**Venue:** Ramsgate Week  
**Dates:** 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022  
**Website:** [www.ramsgateweek.com](http://www.ramsgateweek.com)  
**Facebook:** [Ramsgate Week | Facebook](#)

### AUGUST

**Event Title** IRC Welsh National Championship  
**Venue:** Cardigan Bay Celtic Regatta  
**Dates:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022  
**Website:** [www.ircwelshchamps.com](http://www.ircwelshchamps.com)  
**Facebook:** [IRC Welsh National Championships | Facebook](#)



## SEPTEMBER

**Event Title** IRC Channel Islands Championship  
**Venue** Jersey Regatta  
**Dates:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
**Website:** <http://jerseyregatta.com>  
**Facebook:** [Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club \(Jersey\) | Facebook](#)

**Event Title** IRC Double Handed National Championship  
**Venue** RORC, Cowes  
**Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
**Website:** <http://www.rorc.org/>  
**Facebook:** [Royal Ocean Racing Club | Facebook](#)

**Event Title** IRC Scottish Championship  
**Organised by:** North Clyde Regatta  
**Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
**Website:** <https://clydecruisingclub.org/>

## NOVEMBER

**Event Title** IRC Inland Championship  
**Organised by:** Windermere Cruising Association  
**Dates:** November 2021 – March 2022  
**Website:** [www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk](http://www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk)