



## RORC Rating Office

### GBR IRC Committee – Rating Office Report 2023

19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### Introduction

For IRC in the UK this year we have seen a good flow of IRC certificates. 2023 has shown an increase of certificates compared to the previous 3 years. 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. This generally increases by around 40 boats between 31 Aug and 31 Dec. In 2023 we see stability or an increase in racing participation in most areas, with the overall number of UK rated boats up 1.2% on 2022. Details are shown in the table below.

Full certificates only - no. of boats								2023 - 2022 change	
Area	Code	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Number	%
Central S. Coast	101	603	609	437	536	544	545	1	0.2%
Dorset	102	66	70	37	52	56	56	0	0.0%
Sussex	103	60	50	40	40	42	56	14	33.3%
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	117	117	68	79	79	73	-6	-7.6%
South West	105	214	216	122	157	168	171	3	1.8%
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	1	1	0		0	
South/Mid Wales	107	44	40	24	29	37	37	0	0.0%
North Wales	108	36	38	28	38	36	32	-4	-11.1%
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	17	17	18	13	12	16	4	33.3%
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	40	32	16	16	16	19	3	18.8%
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	5	9	6	3	4	4	0	0.0%
Isle of Man	112	7	10	4	7	11	9	-2	-18.2%
Scotland	113 & 114	39	34	23	19	25	23	-2	-8.0%
Channel Islands	115	57	58	47	46	47	50	3	6.4%
Northern Ireland	117	60	57	27	47	51	51	0	0.0%
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>1365</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.2%</b>



The new secondary certificate which replaced the short-handed certificate has proved popular and 81 secondary certificates have been issued this year; this includes changes for offshore racing and short-handed racing.

The following table shows the total number of boats with full IRC certificates, including those issued under the Advocate Scheme, to 31 Dec 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021; 2023 figures are to the end of August; these also show number of Secondary certificates in each area and Single Event Ratings.

**See below for more about the Advocate Scheme and SER.** Please note that boats may change racing areas between 31 Aug and the end of the year.

Area	Area code	Total full	Total full	Total full		Total full		Total full		31-Aug-23			
		2018	2019	2020	inc Adv.	2021	inc Adv.	2022	inc Adv.	Full	inc Adv.	SEC	SER (by race area)
Central S. Coast	101	631	623	472		559		540		545	2	57	35
Dorset	102	70	72	41	22	55	37	62	37	56	44		
Sussex	103	62	50	42	8	40	11	45	10	56	19		
East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk	104	119	118	72	19	83	11	83	4	73	1	2	
South West	105	219	220	128	23	161	24	174	30	171	36	11	
Midlands (sailing area unknown)	106	0	0	1		1							
South/Mid Wales	107	44	41	31		29	6	39	5	37	7	1	
North Wales	108	39	40	30		39		34		32		5	
Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood	109	20	18	18		14		15		16			
Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire	110	43	32	16	8	16	11	17	11	19	11		
Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle	111	18	21	6		15	9	17	10	4	1		
Isle of Man	112	7	10	4		7		11		9			
Scotland	113 & 114	42	35	23		20		23		23		1	3
Channel Islands	115	61	61	52	7	45	5	49	3	50	6	1	
Northern Ireland	117	65	58	29		49		54		51		3	
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>1440</b>	<b>1399</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>1133</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL SER</b>		37	38	0		45		50		38			
<b>TOTAL IRC RATED BOATS</b>		<b>1477</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>965</b>		<b>1178</b>		<b>1213</b>		<b>1180</b>			

## IRC Advocate Scheme

The Advocate scheme continues to deliver good results and at 31 August 2023 represents about 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 is 154 in 2017, 197 in 2018, 158 in 2019, 87 in 2020, 114 in 2021, 110 in 2022 and 127 in 2023 so far. Note that Windermere apply for their certificates later in the year for autumn/winter racing. The distribution is shown below:

First Year	Cert code	Club	Contact name	31-Aug	end	31-Aug	end	31-Aug	end	31-Aug	end	31-Aug
				2019	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021	2022	2022	2023
2014	500	Flushing	David Mitchell	9	9	7	7	3	3	1		
2015	502	Scarborough YC	Steve Winrussell	13	13	8	8	8	6	11	11	11
2015	503	Weymouth	Mike Street	39	39	22	23	36	37	41	42	45
2016	505	Royal Dartmouth	Mike Moody	35	34	23	23	23	24	25	25	27
2016	506	Windermere	Stephen McGibbon		9				9		10	1
2016	507	Sussex YC	Antony Tomkins	4	4	8	8	11	11	10	10	20
2016	508	St Helier YC	James Kent	9	9	7	7	5	5	3	3	6
2017	510	Penzance SC	Allen Spencer Smith	12	12							
2017	511	Teignmouth Corinthian YC	Julian Brown	5	5							
2018	513	New Quay YC	Chris Seal	8	8			5	6	5	5	10
2018	514	Royal Yorkshire YC	Faye Jordan	8	8			5	5			
2019	515	West Mersea YC	Paul Jackson	8	8	12	12	8	8	4	4	1
2023	516	Parkstone YC	Ian Braham									6
				150	158	87	88	104	114	100	110	127

## 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 2023 Hamble Classics was added again on a trial basis to assess demand. 38 boats have held Single Event Ratings in 2023. The number of SERs issued for each event in recent years is as follows:

SINGLE EVENT RATINGS	Ref.	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Round the Island Race (June)	1	26	27	0	29	33	24
Cowes Week (Aug)	2	3	4	0	6	6	4
Panerai British Classic Week (July)	3	5	5	0	5	4	5
Three Peaks Yacht Race (June)	4	1	2	0	5	3	3
Little Britain Challenge Cup (Sept)	5	2	1	0	0	1	1
Hamble Classics (trial for 2022)	6					3	1
		37	39	0	45	50	38

## IRC Classes

The RORC Rating Office continues to support the GBR IRC Classes and their events including HP30, RC35, Performance 40, Grand Prix Zero, RC1000 and the new RC900 class. 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 have been working with the IMA on the rating of reduced crew and other initiatives.

## 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 Cowes in June with good entries. The overall 2023 IRC National Champion was Adam Gosling's JPK 1080 'Yes!' by a very slender margin of 0.004 of a point over last year's winner 'Rán'. A list of the championships is appended in the 2023 Championship calendar.

The 2024 IRC Nationals will be for the first time out of the Solent in Poole, as part of the International Paints Poole Regatta.

## 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 also exclusive free online IRC editions of Seahorse Magazine available to all current IRC members; these include additional IRC-specific news and information.

In 2022 we launched a new version of the RORC Rating Office website (<https://rorcrating.com>) which presents the Rating Office as a centre of technical excellence and shows 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. If you have any constructive feedback about the website, having had a chance to use it over the last year, please let Jenny know.

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

There has been commensurate weighing and measuring during 2023 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**

The technical team staff of Jenny, Emma and Sally have been extremely busy this year with IRC and also taking on the YTC scheme with 1000 boats and the associated work in cleaning up that database and applying the Rating Office data standard, a great achievement.

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 developing the YTC scheme and other safety areas. Jason sits on the Maritime Coastguard Agency small boat working group to help advise on development of MCA Codes etc. The Rating Office is also the organiser of the RORC Technical Sub-committee, 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

<https://rorcrating.com>

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## IRC Championships 2024 – Applications received to approve

### APRIL/MAY

**Event Title** IRC Welsh National Championship  
Venue: Pwllheli, Cardigan Bay Celtic Regatta  
Dates: 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Website: [www.ircwelshchamps.com](http://www.ircwelshchamps.com)  
Facebook: [IRC Welsh National Championships | Facebook](#)

**Event Title** IRC Scottish Championships  
Venue: Clyde Cruising Club – Clyde Cruising Club  
Dates: 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Website: <https://www.clyde.org/>

**Event Title** IRC Southern Championship  
Venue: Possibly Poole  
Dates:  
Website:

**Event Title** IRC Double Handed National Championships  
Organised by: RORC Cowes  
Dates: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – De Guingand Bowl  
25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Myth of Malham  
Website: [www.rorc.org](http://www.rorc.org)

### JUNE

**Event Title** IRC Bristol Channel Championships  
Venue & dates: Portishead: 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
Cardiff: 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024  
Website: [www.shanghaicup.co.uk](http://www.shanghaicup.co.uk)

### JULY

**Event Title** IRC European Championship  
Organised by: RORC Cowes  
Dates: 5<sup>th</sup> July – Cowes St Malo Race  
11<sup>th</sup> July – Dhream Cup  
Website: [www.rorc.org](http://www.rorc.org)

## AUGUST

**Event Title**                    **IRC South West Championship**  
Venue:                            Plymouth – Royal Western Yacht Club  
Dates:                            **TBC (5-7<sup>th</sup> July or 19-21 July 2024)**  
Website:                         [www.rwyc.org](http://www.rwyc.org)

**Event Title**                    **IRC East Coast Championship**  
Venue:                            Ramsgate Week  
Dates:                            12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
Website:                         [www.ramsgateweek.com](http://www.ramsgateweek.com)  
Facebook:                      [Ramsgate Week | Facebook](#)

Venue:                            West Mersea (to be incorporated with Mersea Week)  
Dates:                            14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024  
Website:                         [www.merseasailing.com](http://www.merseasailing.com)

## SEPTEMBER

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

## NOVEMBER

**Event Title**                    **IRC Inland Championship**  
Organised by:                 Windermere Cruising Association  
Dates:                            November 2024 – March 2025  
Website:                         [www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk](http://www.windermere-winter-series.co.uk)