



## RORC Rating Office

### GBR IRC Committee – Rating Office Report 2025

**18<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

#### Introduction

For IRC in the UK this year we have seen a good flow of IRC certificates. 2025 has shown a slight decrease in certificates compared to 2024. The UK represents around 29% of the worldwide fleet. Encouragingly we continue to see old revalidations. Events have seen particularly good entries in offshore and day coastal racing; two-handed racing continues but at more of a constant rate than previous years.

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. 2025 also saw the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Rolex Fastnet Race which attracted a large entry.

#### 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 2025 we see stability in IRC racing participation in most areas; the reduction in the NE is explained in the Advocate section of this report. Overall, the number of UK boats holding a full IRC certificate has reduced slightly by 4% from 2024. Details are shown in the table below.

| Full certificates only - no. of boats      |           |             |            |             |             |             |             |             | 2025 - 2024 change |              |
|--|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Area                                       | Code      | 2019        | 2020       | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        | 2024        | 2025        | Number             | %            |
| Central S. Coast                           | 101       | 609         | 437        | 536         | 532         | 545         | 504         | 504         | 0                  | 0.0%         |
| Dorset                                     | 102       | 70          | 37         | 52          | 56          | 56          | 52          | 60          | 8                  | 15.4%        |
| Sussex                                     | 103       | 50          | 40         | 40          | 42          | 56          | 62          | 61          | -1                 | -1.6%        |
| East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk | 104       | 117         | 68         | 79          | 78          | 73          | 84          | 71          | -13                | -15.5%       |
| South West                                 | 105       | 216         | 122        | 157         | 166         | 171         | 158         | 151         | -7                 | -4.4%        |
| Midlands (sailing area unknown)            | 106       | 0           | 1          | 1           |             |             |             |             |                    |              |
| South/Mid Wales                            | 107       | 40          | 24         | 29          | 37          | 37          | 39          | 33          | -6                 | -15.4%       |
| North Wales                                | 108       | 38          | 28         | 38          | 36          | 32          | 32          | 31          | -1                 | -3.1%        |
| Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood           | 109       | 17          | 18         | 13          | 12          | 16          | 15          | 12          | -3                 | -20.0%       |
| Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire                    | 110       | 32          | 16         | 16          | 16          | 19          | 15          | 4           | -11                | -73.3%       |
| Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle     | 111       | 9           | 6          | 3           | 4           | 4           | 4           | 5           | 1                  | 25.0%        |
| Isle of Man                                | 112       | 10          | 4          | 7           | 11          | 9           | 6           | 4           | -2                 | -33.3%       |
| Scotland                                   | 113 & 114 | 34          | 23         | 19          | 24          | 23          | 29          | 23          | -6                 | -20.7%       |
| Channel Islands                            | 115       | 58          | 47         | 46          | 47          | 50          | 43          | 38          | -5                 | -11.6%       |
| Northern Ireland                           | 117       | 57          | 27         | 47          | 51          | 51          | 43          | 43          | 0                  | 0.0%         |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                             |           | <b>1357</b> | <b>898</b> | <b>1083</b> | <b>1112</b> | <b>1142</b> | <b>1086</b> | <b>1040</b> | <b>-46</b>         | <b>-4.2%</b> |

Royal Ocean Racing Club - Rating Office

Seahorse Rating Ltd, Anchor House, Bath Road, LYMINGTON SO41 3YJ, UK

Tel: +44(0)1590 677030 Email: [info@rorcrating.com](mailto:info@rorcrating.com) Web: [www.rorcrating.com](http://www.rorcrating.com) [www.ircrating.org](http://www.ircrating.org)

Social Media: @RORCrating @IRCrating

The secondary certificate continues to prove popular with 97 secondary certificates issued this year; this includes changes for offshore racing and short-handed racing. In the majority of cases differences between primary and secondary certificates are number of sails, choice of largest sails and use of water ballast.

The following table shows the total number of boats with full IRC certificates, including those issued under the Advocate Scheme, to 31 Dec 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024; 2025 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 code | Total no. of boats at end of December |           |                 |            |                 |            |                 |            |                 |            |                  |            |           |                    |
|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|
|  |           | Total full 2020                       |           | Total full 2021 |            | Total full 2022 |            | Total full 2023 |            | Total full 2024 |            | 31-Aug-25        |            |           |                    |
|  |           | Full                                  | inc Adv.  | Full            | inc Adv.   | Full            | inc Adv.   | Full            | inc Adv.   | Full            | inc Adv.   | Full rated boats | inc Adv.   | SEC       | SER (by race area) |
| Central S. Coast                           | 101       | 472                                   |           | 559             |            | 540             |            | 554             |            | 516             |            | 504              |            | 64        | 34                 |
| Dorset                                     | 102       | 41                                    | 22        | 55              | 37         | 62              | 37         | 58              | 52         | 59              | 39         | 60               | 46         | 1         |                    |
| Sussex                                     | 103       | 42                                    | 8         | 40              | 11         | 45              | 10         | 57              | 20         | 63              | 25         | 61               | 34         | 1         |                    |
| East Coast: Kent, Essex, Ipswich & Norfolk | 104       | 72                                    | 19        | 83              | 11         | 83              | 4          | 78              | 1          | 89              |            | 71               |            | 5         |                    |
| South West                                 | 105       | 128                                   | 23        | 161             | 24         | 174             | 30         | 172             | 27         | 151             | 26         | 151              | 24         | 9         |                    |
| Midlands (sailing area unknown)            | 106       | 1                                     |           | 1               |            |                 |            |                 |            |                 |            |                  |            | 0         |                    |
| South/Mid Wales                            | 107       | 31                                    |           | 29              | 6          | 39              | 5          | 37              | 10         | 39              | 13         | 33               | 8          | 1         |                    |
| North Wales                                | 108       | 30                                    |           | 39              |            | 34              |            | 33              |            | 35              |            | 31               |            | 5         |                    |
| Liverpool/ Blackpool & Fleetwood           | 109       | 18                                    |           | 14              |            | 15              |            | 18              |            | 16              |            | 12               |            | 0         |                    |
| Yorkshire/ Lincolnshire                    | 110       | 16                                    | 8         | 16              | 11         | 17              | 11         | 19              | 11         | 15              | 9          | 4                |            | 0         |                    |
| Northern Eng: Lake District/ Newcastle     | 111       | 6                                     |           | 15              | 9          | 17              | 10         | 15              | 10         | 10              | 2          | 5                |            | 0         |                    |
| Isle of Man                                | 112       | 4                                     |           | 7               |            | 11              |            | 9               |            | 6               |            | 4                |            | 0         |                    |
| Scotland                                   | 113 & 114 | 23                                    |           | 20              |            | 23              |            | 24              |            | 29              |            | 23               |            | 3         |                    |
| Channel Islands                            | 115       | 52                                    | 7         | 45              | 5          | 49              | 3          | 50              | 6          | 45              | 5          | 38               | 3          | 2         |                    |
| Northern Ireland                           | 117       | 29                                    |           | 49              |            | 54              |            | 57              |            | 44              |            | 43               |            | 6         |                    |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                             |           | <b>965</b>                            | <b>87</b> | <b>1133</b>     | <b>114</b> | <b>1163</b>     | <b>110</b> | <b>1181</b>     | <b>137</b> | <b>1117</b>     | <b>119</b> | <b>1040</b>      | <b>115</b> | <b>97</b> | <b>34</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL SER</b>                           |           | <b>0</b>                              |           | <b>45</b>       |            | <b>50</b>       |            | <b>38</b>       |            | <b>34</b>       |            | <b>34</b>        |            |           |                    |
| <b>TOTAL IRC RATED BOATS</b>               |           | <b>965</b>                            |           | <b>1178</b>     |            | <b>1213</b>     |            | <b>1219</b>     |            | <b>1151</b>     |            | <b>1074</b>      |            |           |                    |

## IRC Advocate Scheme

The Advocate scheme continues to deliver good results, and at 31 August 2025 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 114 in 2021, 111 in 2022, 137 in 2023, 119 in 2024, and 115 in 2025 so far. The distribution is shown below:

| First Year | Cert code | Club               | Contact name        | 31-Aug<br>2021 | end<br>2021 | 31-Aug<br>2022 | end<br>2022 | 31-Aug<br>2023 | end<br>2023 | 31-Aug<br>2024 | end<br>2024 | 31-Aug<br>2025 | end<br>2025 |
|------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| 2014       | 500       | Flushing           | David Mitchell      | 3              | 3           | 1              | 1           |                |             |                |             |                |             |
| 2015       | 503       | Weymouth           | Helen Webb & John M | 36             | 37          | 41             | 42          | 45             | 46          | 38             | 39          | 46             |             |
| 2016       | 505       | Royal Dartmouth YC | David Goulden       | 23             | 24          | 25             | 25          | 27             | 27          | 26             | 26          | 24             |             |
| 2016       | 507       | Sussex YC          | Chris Hawks         | 11             | 11          | 10             | 10          | 20             | 20          | 24             | 25          | 34             |             |
| 2016       | 508       | St Helier YC       | James Kent          | 5              | 5           | 3              | 3           | 6              | 6           | 5              | 5           | 3              |             |
| 2018       | 513       | New Quay YC        | Chris Seal          | 5              | 6           | 5              | 5           | 10             | 10          | 13             | 13          | 8              |             |
|            |           |                    |                     |                |             |                |             |                |             |                |             |                |             |
| 2015       | 502       | Scarborough YC     | Steve Winrussell    | 8              | 6           | 11             | 11          | 11             | 11          | 9              | 9           |                |             |
| 2016       | 506       | Windermere         | Keith Jones         |                | 9           |                | 10          | 1              | 10          |                | 2           |                |             |
|            |           |                    |                     |                |             |                |             |                |             |                |             |                |             |
| 2018       | 514       | Royal Yorkshire YC | Faye Jordan         | 5              | 5           |                |             |                |             |                |             |                |             |
| 2019       | 515       | West Mersea YC     | Paul Jackson        | 8              | 8           | 4              | 4           | 1              | 1           |                |             |                |             |
| 2023       | 516       | Parkstone YC       | Ian Braham          |                |             |                |             | 6              | 6           |                |             |                |             |

This year we have had a few Advocate changes. Helen Webb is now our Advocate at Weymouth who has taken over from Mike Street. David Goulden is now our Advocate at Royal Dartmouth.

We are pleased to report good increases in numbers at both Weymouth and Sussex Yacht Clubs which has meant the overall numbers are the same as at the same time last year. Sadly, we have had two clubs who have decided not to get IRC certificates this year, Scarborough Yacht Club and Windermere, who have both been struggling to get IRC entries.

## Single Event Ratings

The Single Event Rating scheme is limited to six specific events; the majority are issued for the Round the Island Race which is the event for which SER was originally conceived. The number of SERs issued each year is stable and 34 boats have held Single Event Ratings in 2025.

The number of SERs issued for each event in recent years is as follows:

| SINGLE EVENT RATINGS                | Ref. | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Round the Island Race (June)        | 1    | 27   | 0    | 29   | 33   | 24   | 23   | 21   |
| Cowes Week (Aug)                    | 2    | 4    | 0    | 6    | 6    | 4    | 4    | 4    |
| Panarai British Classic Week (July) | 3    | 5    | 0    | 5    | 4    | 5    | 7    | 7    |
| Three Peaks Yacht Race (June)       | 4    | 2    | 0    | 5    | 3    | 3    | 0    | 0    |
| Little Britain Challenge Cup (Sept) | 5    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Hamble Classics                     | 6    |      |      |      | 3    | 1    | 0    | 2    |
|                                     |      | 39   | 0    | 45   | 50   | 38   | 34   | 34   |

## IRC Classes

The RORC Rating Office continues to support the GBR IRC Classes and their events including Classics, Cape 31 etc. 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 several Swan events have been attended. The office also maintains a close working relationship with the International Maxi

Association (IMA) offering technical support to the IMA and the owners and continues to work with the IMA on the rating of reduced crew and other initiatives.

### **GBR IRC Championships and Major Events**

It is encouraging to see that the GBR IRC championships went well this year with a full national programme of events. The inaugural Northern Ireland IRC Championship was held in July this year following an approach from Royal Ulster Yacht Club; this is a welcome addition to the programme. The IRC Nationals in Cowes in June was a joint regatta with the Royal Thames YC's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. This event proved a very successful event with 54 entries with Endorsed certificates that were eligible for the championship class prizes, including many high-profile boats training for the Admiral's Cup; the total entry was 62 including the boats with Standard certificates. The RORC Rating Office and Race Team were heavily involved with the organisation, and Mike Richards (RORC measurer) attended the event as an equipment inspector, checking boats for IRC compliance before and after racing.

The Admiral's Cup has been a great success and has meant we have had some high-profile race boats in the Solent throughout the summer. The workload involved in IRC certification, rules and equipment control for the boats in the event has been very high in an effort to make the event a success. A team of equipment inspectors including staff from the Rating Office and French Rating Office at YCF attended the event, with over 100 sails measured and rigorous equipment controls before racing started and post-race checks.

In 2026 IRC Nationals is proposed to be part of Dartmouth Week and we are working with the organisers to make this a successful event.

The 2026 IRC European Championship will be in Poole as part of International Paints Poole Regatta with an extra day added at the beginning. The support from Andrew Pearce has been excellent and we hope to build on the success of the IRC Nationals that were held in Poole in 2024.

### **Offers to Owners**

IRC Members, i.e. current certificate holders, continue to benefit from these 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>

The Rating Office would be pleased to receive applications to offer similar discounts to IRC Members, for consideration. Please email the Rating Office with details.

### **Website, Newsletters and Seahorse issues**

The RORC Rating Office website <https://rorcrating.com> includes information specific to GBR boats; it also includes YTC information and application.

General, technical and international IRC information is only on <https://ircrating.org>, including rules, measurement and advice, online rating listings and valid boat data. A new IRC Calendar has recently been added in the racing section which is automatically populated when details are submitted.

The Rating Office continues to issue newsletters to GBR owners, and internationally as appropriate, with relevant 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.

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

The number of boats which have been weighed and/or measured from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to date is 92, with loadcells still being booked out for September and October. Hamble is still our busiest area for measurement, closely followed by Cowes.

May, June and July were very busy, partly due to the revival of the Admiral's Cup with boats making late configuration changes and needing remeasurement.

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 both by phone and email still remain on a high, with a notable increase in owners new to IRC or returning after a break from racing; this includes owners from YTC wanting to apply for an IRC certificate too, which is exactly what we were hoping for.

The new internet phone system that we installed at the beginning of the year is working well allowing us to answer and transfer calls whether we are in the office or working from home. This enables us to continue our professional support of owners, event organisers etc.

### **IRC Application Process and MyIRC**

This year we have added many online forms to make it easier for submitting information to the Rating Office, including: Sail Measurement Input Form (for sail measurers only); IRC Event form for Event Organisers to submit details of their events to be automatically included in a new Event Search on the IRC website; IRC sail area calculation check form. This is with the idea of pushing forward with the digital strategy with eventual integration with the new application portal.

MyIRC continues at this time 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.

### **Rating Office Staff**

The technical team staff of Jenny, Emma and Sally have been extremely busy this year with IRC, and continuing the RYA YTC scheme with almost 1720 boats rated at the time of writing the report including many new boats, particularly from Scotland. The YTC application portal, developed entirely in-house with associated web pages, is working well.

The RORC Rating Office team continue our representation on National and International Committees with Jenny on 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 and Jenny also sit on a World Sailing stability database working group looking to have a central point for obtaining stability information for designs, this is together with representatives from the ORC and other safety experts from around the world. The Rating Office is also the organiser of the RORC Technical Sub-committee. This is a group of renowned 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>  
[info@rorcrating.com](mailto:info@rorcrating.com)  
01590 677030

## IRC Championships 2026 – Applications received to approve

### MAY

**Event Title** IRC European Championship

**Venue:** Poole Bay

**Dates:** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Website:** [www.pooleregatta.co.uk](http://www.pooleregatta.co.uk)

**Event Title** IRC Bristol Channel Championships

**Venue & dates:** Portishead: Dates TBC

Cardiff: Dates TBC

**Website:** [www.shanghaicup.co.uk](http://www.shanghaicup.co.uk)

**Event Title** IRC Scottish Championships

**Venue:** Tarbert, Loch Fyne; Clyde Cruising Club

**Dates:** TBC

**Website:** [www.scottishseries.co.uk](http://www.scottishseries.co.uk)

### JULY

**Event Title** IRC East Coast Championship

**Venue:** Ramsgate Week

**Dates:** 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**Website:** [www.ramsgateweek.com](http://www.ramsgateweek.com)

**Event Title** IRC South West Championship

**Venue:** TBC – Torbay

**Dates:**

**Website:**

### AUGUST

**Event Title** IRC National Championships

**Organised by:** Royal Dartmouth Yacht Club

**Dates:** 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**Website:** [www.dartmouthsailingweek.com](http://www.dartmouthsailingweek.com)

## SEPTEMBER

**Event Title** IRC Channel Islands Championship  
**Venue** Jersey Regatta  
**Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
**Website:** <http://jerseyregatta.com>  
**Facebook:** [Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club \(Jersey\) | Facebook](#)

**Event Title** IRC Welsh National Championship  
**Venue:** Pwllheli, Cardigan Bay Celtic Regatta  
**Dates:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
**Website:** [www.ircwelshchamps.com](http://www.ircwelshchamps.com)  
**Facebook:** [IRC Welsh National Championships | Facebook](#)

**Event Title** IRC Northern Irish Championship  
**Venue:** Carrickfergus Sailing Club  
**Dates:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2026  
**Website:** [www.carrickfergussc.org](http://www.carrickfergussc.org)

Inland Championships are now not going ahead in 2025/2026 – Adopted YTC as entries were low