

Chair's report

My time as chair has not run how I envisaged with much of the last year being impacted by Covid, and we weren't able to host the 29er World Championships as planned. However, we ran three events in the autumn - more than most classes - and I would like to thank Mark James, Richard Baker & WPNSA for their efforts in ensuring these events went ahead.

Membership

Your membership, which peaked last year at 198, has now dropped back to its 2019 level of 178, which means the class still needs to focus on those sailors transitioning from the junior classes in order to maintain its numbers.

Training

We ran three open training sessions at Rockley at the end of August and early September, but due to further Covid restrictions no other training took place over the Autumn & Winter. Niall Myant stood down as class coach in January and we were fortunate that Alice Masterman was able to step into the role, Alice has worked with the RYA coaches and team to deliver some 'get back to sailing' training over the last 3 months. Alice ran a number of online sessions through March to engage with the junior sailors who were looking at their options as to which boat to move in to. These sessions were very popular with one seeing nearly 50 participants.

With regard to the running of our class, I want to remind everyone that we only function because of volunteers. Some of these roles are visible, such as those on the committee along with the sailor representatives, but there are also many volunteers who work behind the scenes to support the class on and off the water at events – so thanks to everyone who has supported the class.

This year, we have a number of committee members standing down and I would especially like to thank Sally Bristow, Matt Stein our Safety Officer and David Ibbotson - who has supported the team in the run-up to the Largs Nationals whilst getting his hotel back up and running post-covid. Also I'd like to thank Carol Llewelyn-Jones as Welsh Representative, Andy for doing the rolling ranking. Susannah for organising the trophies and making sure we get the prizes to each of the events and Nia who has continued to support the class on social media and who has liaised with our class sponsors. Then finally a huge thank you to Lisa Black for all that she has done for the class over the last 6 years as our Membership and Class Administrator.

I have enjoyed my time as Chair we have a great bunch of sailors who we can all be really proud of and I hope to see the class grow as we move back to more normal times and that our sailors have the chance to take part in international events again soon