

## Chair's report

My first year as Class Chair opened on a high in Garda with the British team winning the Nations Trophy at the European Championships. Mind you, the Brits were on tour with 44 boats, so we were always going to be in with a good shout! The autumn and winter got off to a great start with attendances up, good class racing and the Saturday night socials seemed to work really well for parents and sailors.

Then lockdown came in March, which unfortunately meant we lost the Youth Nationals in Pwllheli and Weymouth along with our Nationals and Worlds in Weymouth. I'd like to thank Peter Gordon and his team for all the work they put in for what would have been a fantastic Worlds, and David Ibbotson for his efforts towards the Nationals - David will be back to organise next year's Nationals in Largs.

## Membership

Last year I said we needed to remain focussed on encouraging transitioning sailors into the class. I'm pleased to report this seems to have happened, with the class membership increasing to 198 vs 177 like for like 2020 vs 2019, which is a 12% increase.

## Training

Niall Myant and Alice Masterman ran a great winter training programme for the class. This was a well-structured and high-level programme across all of the squads. We tried to accommodate all those who applied for training and then found a significant number declined their spot, however we found at entry level that we didn't always have the right coaching ratios which meant that we ran the programme at a loss last winter.

We have started to work with the Andrew Simpson Foundation and Rockley Sailing Centre to deliver cost effective training at no risk to the class.

## Website

The new website is now up and running and I must thank Clive Grummet and his team for making this possible for the class, and also to Nia for ensuring everything was easy to find after the move to the new website. We continue to use the club admin portal to enter events and are currently working to allow online registration at events.

On the International scene, in 2019 we were represented by 18 boats at the World Championships in Gdynia with Ewan Wilson & Finn Armstrong finishing 18<sup>th</sup>. 44 boats made the trip to Garda for the Europeans in Arco where the UK class won the Nations Cup and Ewan & Fin finished 1<sup>st</sup>, Freya & James 2<sup>nd</sup> Ollie & Will 9<sup>th</sup> & Henry & Louis 10<sup>th</sup>. In February Fin & Freya won the Euro cup in Barcelona prior to the Covid lockdown in March.

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, and 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 - too many to mention individually. This year, we have 3 committee members standing down and I would especially like to thank Mark James, our sailing sec, who has helped grow the class to where we are today with our events and socials at each venue until the outbreak of Covid. Then there is Nia McCullum who has worked with sponsors to obtain some great prizes and ensure there is always plenty of coverage on Facebook and Instagram. She has

also been a great beachmaster for the class as well! I would also like to thank Will Willett who is standing down as Training officer - he already seems to have a new job as cameraman and commentator for the social media posts for Nia!

Next year we will have 5 committee members standing down so we need to start planning for the future of the class to replace them, so if anyone is able to help and support the class could they please let me know.

Thanks

Chris