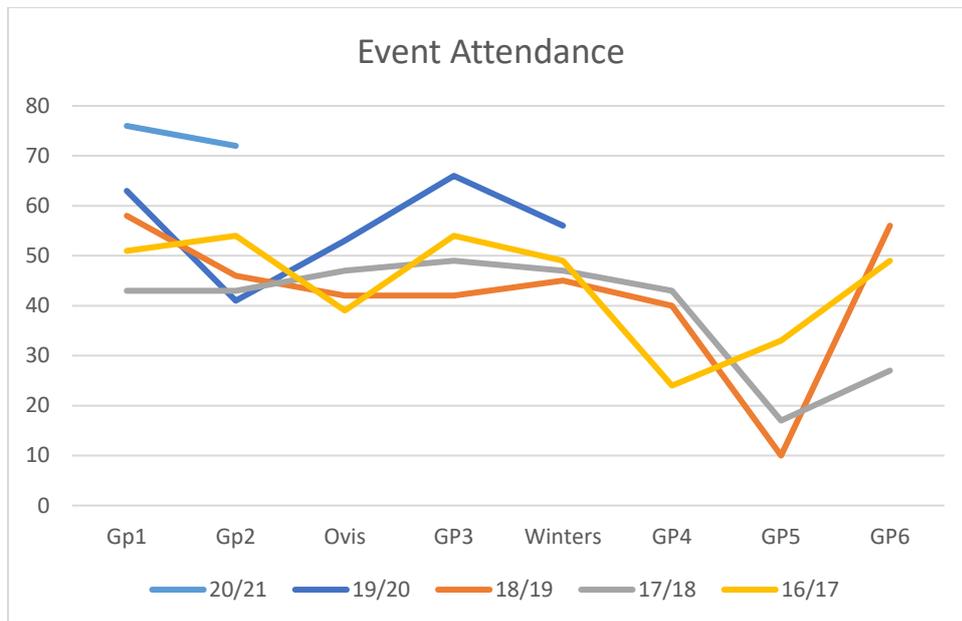


UK 29er Class 2020 AGM – Sailing Secretary Report



Six out of the seven last event have been record attendances for the class and, despite all the lockdown disruptions, GP1 at WPNSA in 2020 was the biggest Grand Prix ever held in the UK. It is pretty clear that the class is in good shape.

One of the reasons for our success is the very high quality of Race Management. I would like to thank all of our race officers for their contribution to the Class but I would particularly highlight the amazing support that we get from our Class PRO, Ian Bullock as we decide how to run our events. I have also found the input from the sailor reps on our committee invaluable when having to decide about tricky issues. We also need to thank the many ashore and on the water volunteers who make our events a success.

We have settled on a core set of venues that work well for the 29er Class – Torbay, WPNSA, HISC, Rutland, Grafham, Pwllheli and Largs and the committee confirmed this year that the class will hold at least one event (GP or Championship) each year in Wales and Scotland. We are a big fleet, with a boat that is tough to sail and which needs room and depth to get the most out of it.

As we returned to sailing this summer we had to make some hard decisions regarding the 2020/21 programme as many of our usual venues have had to restrict their operations in a way that makes it difficult to host the whole 29er fleet. We are very grateful to the team at WPNSA for the way that they stepped in to offer us full fleet, COVID safe, sailing for 6 events in 2020/21. We are reviewing the best approach for 2021/22 but may need to take similarly difficult decisions next year too.

Mark James

Sailing Secretary

30 October 2020