

ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association



ISORA 2022 - Report to the AGM by Hon. Sec. Stephen Tudor

Every year of ISORA racing brings new challenges to the organisers, changing environment of race management, expectations and regulation compliance, choice of suitable racecourses, crowded calendars, varying requirements of the fleets which are located in different home ports, and an aspiration to minimise boat movement and deliveries between races.

The recognised axis across the Irish Sea, which has always included Dun Laoghaire, Holyhead, Pwllheli, Conwy, Wicklow, Howth, Douglas, and Liverpool, has undoubtedly been badly affected by the demise of walk on walk off facilities at Holyhead, this has limited the options for our cross-channel races.

Despite the difficulties and the uncertainty of our ability to race when we were setting the programme in November 2021, a loss of a number of the stalwarts of previous years and campaigns, the 2022 season has seen growth in the numbers of competitors with new boats to the fleet and we hope that this growth will continue.

Planning a series of races to please all competitors was again challenging but we did organise 15 races of varying complexity, challenges and including endurance!

There were four series of races totalling 15 races being the Offshore Race Series, Coastal Series on both sides of the Irish Sea Class Series and the Double handed Series.

Congratulations to our numerous Champions and to all who competed. Thanks to our sponsors Viking Marine and Plas Heli for their continued support of our Coastal Races and, of course, to Musto our Main Sponsor.

We have seen a total of 42 competing boats, which is up from the 33 in 2021 and 2020, but still down from the 63 in 2019. Covid recovery has been slower in 2022 than we would have hoped, but we are seeing new competitors entering the fleet.

We have visited five ports this year and, as usual, we are extremely grateful for the work an input of all Clubs and their representatives who have made our racing possible. We hope that 2023 will allow us to visit other ports.

The ISORA Offshore Series for the Royal Dee Yacht Club's prestigious Wolf's Head was not presented in 2020 and 2021 so we are delighted that there has been a worthy winner this year, Peter and Vicky and the Mojito team. Mojito was chased hard throughout the series by Jackknife, Samatom and Rockabill VI and the series went down to the wire on the last race of the series.

Our Coastal Series winners were Rockabill VII and Mojito in Wales

Class 0 – Jackknife, Class 1 Mojito and Jac Y Do Class 2 and double handed.

ISORA is affiliated to the governing bodies; 'Irish Sailing' IS, 'RYA' and 'RYA Cymru Wales and we work closely with the Clubs.

We have embraced and invested in technology which allowed virtual race management, automated on-line entry and payment system, a dedicated web site with over 1,000 recipients of the ISORA e-newsletters. There has been some great PR for ISORA in

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Afloat.ie which we have copied to our website. The Crew Manager App has been a great addition to our management tools for safety and compliance.

The ISORA Race Management and Technical Committee have been communicating via WhatsApp as a group and as a method of sharing information when required. This has proved successful again in 2022 and enabled workload sharing with Mark Thompson and Peter Dunlop taking up many tasks and added responsibilities.

All races are viewed by the ISORA YB Tracking which has enabled the use of virtual waypoints and unmanned finish lines. Tracking would not be possible without the support of our sponsors Musto, Viking Marine and Plas Heli for the Coastal Series and our Race Sponsors, Jack Ryan Whisky, Hendricks Ryan and Tudor Estate Agents.

ISORA has been instrumental in providing shore bases for 'Automatic Identification System' (AIS), with support from Marine Traffic, providing better coverage of the Irish Sea area and making deliveries between ports safer.

The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 – 24, IRC rules and World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations 2022-2023 - we are constantly monitoring changes in Rules and Regulations to ensure compliance. Changes will be highlighted on our web site and in our e-newsletters. We follow the changes to regulations so that as an OA we are compliant and that our skippers are aware of what they need to do to be compliant. Of note in 2023 is a secondary IRC certificate which was trailed in the Southern Hemisphere and will be of interest to those who switch configurations between offshore and inshore races or full crew to double handed.

Your Chairman and Secretary have represented ISORA in consultations on the Wind Farm Array on the Kish and Bray banks and I have represented ISORA, along with Charlie Jones for RDYC, in consultations on the Morlais tidal array off South Stack. Both could have an impact on our racing in years to come.

The 2022 series was again scored using the ISORA High Points System with more points awarded for more challenging races and more reward in larger fleets. This complex system is possible by using the superb results program 'Sailwave' which also enables publishing of results as competitors finish and for all the different fleets and classes.

2022 will be remembered as our return to cross channel racing and the early enthusiasm to do it all!

Finally, our thanks and appreciation for the hard work of all our volunteers including Mark, Peter, and Vicky and of course to the dedication and steady helm of our Chairman Peter Ryan – Thank you Peter

Real Sailors Race Offshore

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