

Secretary's report AGM 2019

In the 61-year history of the class we have achieved turnouts of more than 100 boats on nine occasions. Six of those have been in the last seven years and three in the last two years. This event is ninth time we passed 100 boats and now the biggest ever outside Europe. I feel the class is pretty healthy at the moment.

2018 membership was up 4.5% on 2017, to 798, continuing a steady growth. We sold 68 new boat plaques (71 in 2017), both higher than in any year since 1980. We also sold 350 sail labels and 112 mast labels.

This not only underlies the health of the class in terms of people buying new boats and equipment, but also puts us on an ever firmer financial base.

When we introduced the possibility for an annual European Championship, it was on the assumption that it was not mandatory, if for any reason it was not possible to schedule one.

Despite several attempts by the Dutch to find a venue for the 2020 Europeans, they were unable to secure one. We thank them for their efforts and look forward to a possible bid in the future. Also scheduling a Europeans in 2020 was proving quite hard so there is now a good chance there will not be one. However, as there were no other bids, according to the rules, it is now up to the Committee to decide on the venue, if one was to come forward or be found in time.

10 years ago, the class would handle around 25 bank transactions each year. Now it is closer to 250, so to make the whole process more straightforward and transparent we have started using an online accounts package, Xero, which Nick has been using to create the 2018 Accounts. Invoicing and reconciliation will now entirely be handled through Xero, so you will notice a change in the way you are invoiced.

Looking to the future, we hope to have the Notice of Race published for the Europeans in Kiel very shortly, and I will be visiting Marstrand in August to check out the venue for the 2020 worlds.

I think all things considered we are in a good position financially, technically and administratively, while we are racing in some great venue with big fleets – all aims of the 2014 strategic plan.

Robert Deaves

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