

ISA Survey of Club Racing

2015



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1. Introduction

The Racing and Competition Policy Group look to review a wide remit as set out in the ISA Strategic 2015-2020 Plan summarised as follows:

To enhance or increase emphasis on:

- local competition for non-academy/HP sailors
- access to coaching at Club and Class level
- enjoyable challenging & sociable racing and participation

There is also ongoing concern that nominated dinghy classes form an elitest High Performance (HP) pathway, thereby excluding strong sailors in other fleets.

For the Group to have a basis on which to form policy, detail of racing activity and active classes in ISA affiliated clubs, is required.

2. Survey Process

To this end, the group developed a survey, Appendix 4 is a copy of this survey distributed in both paper and SurveyMonkey formats.

The survey was sent out in March 2015 with data to be based on the 2014 season. It could be completed in on line, by post as hard copy or by email. All returns not completed online were input into SurveyMonkey to form a complete record. The survey was emailed to the Commodores and Sailing Secretaries of the 57 Category 1 affiliated clubs that have sailing activity. A total of 52 responses were received, a response rate of over 90%. Most responses were received by June, and the final ones in November.

- 31 on line.
- 17 via email
- 3 by post.
- 1 by phone.

3. Results:

Which classes of boats do you have racing & how many?

There were in excess of 50 classes listed. In some club responses, these and other classes were included in IRC/ECHO, White Sails and PY. Where separately identifiable, they have been included in the class data. Classes will be aware that the quality of responses vary significantly and are reminded that the numbers refer to those boat racing regularly, and not the total number of a class of boat in a club.

3. Dinghies racing regularly by region and class

Number of boats regularly racing

	Junior Classes						Youth & Transition to Adult				Intervarsity	
	Optimist	Laser pico	Topaz	Topper	Mirror	RS Feva	Laser	420	GP14	RS 200	Fireflies	
Cork	102	0	37	21	8	7	84	8	0	1		
Dublin & North Wicklow	177	29	16	8	8	30	147	12	24	17		
Eastern	3	0	45	24	0	0	38	3	0	0		
Inland	23	0	8	24	19	14	45	0	25	6		
Western	32	3	29	3	16	2	35	17	21	0		
North & Northwest	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0		
	337	38	135	80	51	53	352	40	70	24		26 teams of 6

Nationals turnout 2015 excl NI boats	134		31	51	16	14	110	13	35	18		
			incl 12 x 4.2									

Other Adult Classes:	Fireball	RS400	IDRA 14	Multihull Shannon OD	Mermaid	National 18	Water Wags	Wayfarer	PY & Other	Total Dinghies:	
Cork	0	10	8	0	0	14	0	0	48	348	
Dublin & North Wicklow	20	13	12	13	0	24	31	6	30	617	
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	115	
Inland	8	3	0	0	54	0	0	3	3	235	
Western	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	5	185	
North & Northwest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	
	28	26	20	35	54	24	14	31	90	1,511	+IUSA

Nationals Turnout	10	39	19	11	33	22	29 all designs	9			
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Total Sailors racing regularly:

Junior classes	971
Youth and Transition to adult	620
Intervarsity	156
Other adult classes	754
	2,501

% singlehanders of total dinghies racing regularly (excl IUSA):

Cork	59%
Dublin & North Wicklow	54%
Eastern	57%
Inland	39%
Western	38%
North & Northwest	27%
Total:	51%

% singlehander sailors of total: 31%

4. Keelboats racing regularly by region and class:

One Design keelboats:

	Flying 15	1720	Dragon	Squib	SB20	Puppeteer	Ruffian	J24
Cork	0	26	16	31	0	0	3	0
Dublin & North Wicklow	27	3	11	19	16	26	26	0
Eastern	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Inland	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
Western	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North & Northwest	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	38	29	27	61	16	26	29	8
Nationals Turnout 2015 excl NI	31	14	11	25	20	15	16	13

Other Keelboats:

	IRC/Echo	White Sail	Ben 31.7	J109	Sigma 33	Shipman	Other	Total:
Cork	116	39	0	0	0	0	3	234
Dublin & North Wicklow	197	39	14	5	5	22	38	448
Eastern	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Inland	57	3	0	0	0	0	0	76
Western	67	10	0	0	0	0	0	77
North & Northwest	26	0	0	0	0	0	8	42
	496	91	14	5	5	22	49	916
Nationals turnout excl NI	81	17		11				268
ICRA								

* from ISA National Championships data including RS Elite and E Boat

Estimate of regular keelboat racing sailors:

One Design keelboats	685
Other	3,622
Total	4,307

5. Analysis of other questions from survey:

1	Does your Club have a 'one design' policy to promote/ encourage a particular class/classes incl Juniors?	Yes – 55.8% No – 44.2%	
2	Does the Club organise regular club racing for these classes?	Yes – 80.8% No – 19.2%	
3	How frequently is club racing organised?	Once/week – 34.6% Twice/week – 40.4%	Three/week – 15.4% Other – 9.6%
4	Who organises this racing?	Club members – 86.5% Paid RO – 11.5%	Other – 7.7%
5	Are separate courses laid for different classes?	Yes – 54.9% No – 45.1%	Skipped 1
6	Has your Club organised a regional or National Championship in the last two years?	Yes – 64% No - 36%	
7	Do you intend to run a championship in the next two years?	Yes – 70.6% No – 29.4%	
8	Does your club organise open class meetings/regattas in which non-members can participate?	Yes – 76.1 No – 23.9%	Skipped 5

6 Boats used for training

Boat Class	Number of clubs using
Optimist	17
Topper	13
Topaz	15
Laser Pico	13
RS Feva	12
Laser	10
420	7
Omega	5
Mirror	4
Laser Vago	6
Hobie	2
GP14	3
Wayfarer	2
Laser 2	2
Firefly	2
National 18	1
RS Vision	1
RS200	3
RS 400	1
RS 500	1
Laser Bahia	1
1720	5
Various	
Keelboats	6

7. Non-racing activities

Analysis of words used in response:

	% responses	Times
Cruising	43.90%	18
Junior	29.27%	12
Training	21.95%	9
Club	19.51%	8
Racing	14.63%	6
Coaching	12.20%	5
Evening	12.20%	5
Number_of_Sail	7.32%	3
Cruiser	7.32%	3
Season	4.88%	2

Appendix 1: Responding Clubs, total boats racing and in dinghy park:

Club Or Organisation	Total boats racing	Dinghies	
		in pen	Racing
Baltimore Sailing Club, The pier Baltimore	64	35	29
Bantry Bay Sailing Club	18	18	18
Bellacragher Boat Club	6	21	6
Blessington Sailing Club	24	50	24
Bray Sailing Club	19	20	5
Carlingford Sailing Club	16	30	0
Clifden Boat Club	6	16	6
Clontarf Yacht and Boat Club	59	50	38
Courtown SC **	40	150	40
Cove Sailing Club	29	25	13
Crookhaven Harbour Sailing Club	38	40	38
Cullaun Sailing Club	24	25	24
Dingle Sailing Club	55	20	55
DMYC	24	38	9
Dungarvan	20	15	13
Foynes Yacht Club	51	45	40
Galway Bay sailing Club	48	57	32
Garrykennedy Sailing Club	18		0
Glandore HYC	39	55	18
Greystones SC	66	90	54
Howth Yacht Club	149	55	63
Iniscealtra Sailing Club	15	0	0
Inniscarra Sailing & Kayaking Club	8	20	8
Killaloe Sailing Club	20	65	20
Kinsale Yacht Club	86	60	21
Lough Derg Yacht Club	59	50	48
Lough Ree Yacht Club	79	20	58
Lough Swilly	16	6	0
Malahide Yacht Club	78	57	65

Appendix 1 continued:

Responding Clubs, total boats racing and in dinghy park :

Mayo SC	57	40	21
Monkstown Bay Sailing Club	76	60	58
Moville	10	0	0
Mullingar Sailing Club	21	25	21
National Yacht Club	151	100	88
Poolbeg Yacht and Boat Club	18	2	0
Rathmullen Sailing Club	11	12	11
RIYC	90	94	25
Royal Cork Yacht Club	193	200	144
Royal Western Yacht Club	12	12	3
RSGYC	242	150	119
Rush Sailing Club	26	40	26
Sailing in Dublin Club	9	4	3
Schull Harbour Sailing Club	31	8	1
Skerries	49	50	46
Sligo Yacht Club	37	55	34
Spiddal sailing club	14	20	14
Sutton Dinghy Club	46	81	46
Swords Sailing & Boating Club	39	80	30
Tralee Bay Sailing Club	27	20	14
Wexford Harbour Boat & Tennis Club (W	33	50	30
WHSC (Waterford Harbour SC)	30	20	14
Wicklow Sailing Club	31	28	18
Total	2427	2284	1511
Echo/IRC	496		
Other keelboats	420		
Dinghies	1511		

Appendix 2 Introductory Letter from Jack Roy Chairman of Policy Group.



ISA Survey of Club Racing & Championships 2015

Dear Commodore/Sailing Secretary,

Let me introduce myself, I am the Board member with responsibility for Racing and Competition. We have established a Policy Group to look into what is a wide area of responsibility. In the recently announced ISA 2015-2020 Plan, our remit was summarised as follows:

“Competition – an increased emphasis on supporting the involvement of sailors who are not competing in the Olympic arena and on local competition is proposed. It is recognised that access to Club and Class coaching needs to be improved and it is also suggested that the concept of nominated dinghy classes being deemed to form a ‘High Performance’ Pathway should be dropped. It is proposed that participation should be encouraged on the basis of the Sport being an enjoyable, challenging and sociable recreation.”

For our Group to begin understanding where we can be of assistance we need to know in some detail what racing activity and classes are active in your club. Attached please find a survey document which can be filled in on line, or as a hard copy and returned to the ISA offices either by email or hard copy.

Can I take this opportunity of thanking you for taking the time to complete this document as quickly as possible, we are anxious to get the results and start the process of understanding your clubs racing activity. It is only with this knowledge can we start the process of seeing in what way we can be of assistance to you and your racing members.

If you have any question in relation to this document do not hesitate to contact myself at (jroyisaboard@gmail.com) or Dave Vinnell who is coordinating the results of the survey at (isaracingdavevinnell@gmail.com)

Many thanks,

Yours



ISA Survey of Club Racing & Championships 2015

Club and person answering survey _____

1. Which classes do you have racing & how many? (Include IRC/ECHO, SCHRS, PY & RYA NHC as classes) and give PY split in Q2.

Class of Boat DINGHY or CRUISER RACER	No. Actively racing 2014	Usual turnout per day/evening	No. of boats that travelled to at least 1 event outside the club in 2014

2. How many of each boat class in the PY Fleet in Q1.

Class of DINGHY	No. Actively racing 2014	Usual turnout per day/evening	

3. Does the club have a “one-design” policy or otherwise promote/ encourage any particular class/classes of boat? (Incl. Junior classes) YES / NO
4. Does the club provide/organise regular club racing for these classes? YES / NO
5. How frequently is club racing organised? Once / twice / three times a week / Other: _____

Appendix 3 continued: The Survey in Word format

6. Who organises this racing? *Club members / Paid boatmen / Other:* _____

7. Are separate course laid for different classes? *YES / NO*

8. Can you estimate the number of boats of the classes promoted which have become inactive (perhaps held by current or lapsed members) in catchment area of the club?

Class of Boat	Number Inactive

9. What is total number of boats in your dinghy park? _____

10. Can you suggest any measures that could be taken to get these boats back into use?

11. Has your club organised regional or national championships in last two years? *YES/NO*

12. Do you have any plans to run a championship in next two years? *YES/NO*

13. Would your club like to hold any additional championships in 2015? *YES/NO*

14. Please give detail of the type of boats used in Training programmes, and are these boats used to encourage racing?

15. Does your club organise open meetings for classes or open regattas in which non-members can participate? If so what classes generally attend and in what numbers?

16. Does the club organise regular sailing activities (other than racing). If so please give details.

Appendix 4 : Classes Forum Summary November 2015

Classes Forum on November 14th 2015 at the Royal St George Yacht Club

Summary: 2 years ago many questions were raised and ideas shared. Since then, there has been enormous change at the ISA and a shift in focus onto the stakeholders who deliver sailing. Some development and a Club survey has thrown further light on:

- the dilution of a segmented fleet structure in Ireland
- the strength of Junior single-hander fleets in larger sailing centres
- lack of transition to adult, mainly double-hander classes
- inactive boats

In 2015 & 2016, the ISA continues to further enhance a robust platform and structure for Irish sailing – from a class perspective:

- Class coaching grant provision – 2016 launch in January – ISA look for flexibility on the criteria to be satisfied (ISA qualified coach ISA Affiliated Club as venue.) to encourage fleets to be brought to ‘new shores’.
- Changes in training, instructor training and a new Club coach qualification.
- Push to qualify more race officials to support competition
- Greater budget and support for ‘Try Sailing’ initiatives which proved successful in 2015
- New website will provide enhanced regional information for classes
- Trial of results platform resultsroom.org to ease publication of all event info. to various sites.

Access to the water is through Clubs, Classes and training centres. It is to them we look for delivery of sailing programs and competition circuits. Classes are urged to:

- target other fleets
- approach clubs to develop strategic direction through Club and Class ‘pathways’
- try new event formats and offer more local events/series

A smooth transition is key to the development of sailors as their skills and aspirations develop both locally and on the wider circuit. The ambition is to connect and strengthen what is a segmented Irish fleet, to cultivate an appetite for local fun and accessible events and to feed into wider competition.

- ‘Upside down’ nature of pathway and adult sailing fleets – the ISA need to address this area where the **double hander pathway** is not delivering for Irish Sailing as a whole.

Appendix 4 continued : Classes Forum Summary November 2015

The **Junior single-hander** 'pathway' classes continue to thrive but still a huge fall off in take up in adult fleets. This is not unique to Ireland nor just to sailing and will be explored over the coming months, with the input of the single hander fleets and the sailors themselves. To sustain just a portion of those sailors who choose not to go down the laser route, to build on the years of commitment and dedication of the parents, coaches and children. to transition into adult fleets, would be huge. If we could catch just some of the fallout, even in a less committed way, Irish sailing would in a much better place.

- RSGYC excellent TY scheme to give wider experience to youth sailors at critical time. Sam O'Byrne of the J24 fleet talked of the successful HYC strategy to ensure their 80 strong 18-25 yrs cadet squad continue to sail.
- Club and Class surveys will be enhanced to provoke action and deliver reliable data to inform the bigger picture.

Event Calendar: With just 17 of the 40 classes taking up the invitation to attend the forum, and many already having finalised their calendars, opportunities to merge for events were limited – however, those declaring an interest to find an event partner will now be facilitated in the events calendar section on the ISA www.sailing.ie website when information is provided to the ISA.