



Announcement

It is with much sadness and regret that we must announce the cancellation of the 2021 IRSA Marblehead and 10r Class World Championships, scheduled to be hosted at West Kirby over June 2021, due to the ongoing uncertainty connected with the Covid 19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, as I am sure everyone knows, this pandemic continues to affect all of us in our daily lives and is not offering signs of going away anytime soon. In the UK, we are now again seeing many localised lockdowns as we head towards a second spike of infections. It is felt across all parties connected to make the event happen, that we just cannot take the chance of going ahead with the race and then incur another lockdown situation or added restrictions imposed on travelling skippers.

It is our team's belief that we have a duty of care to both classes and their respective owners in making sure to retain the integrity of both World Championships. We feel that should skippers not be in a position to travel openly without restrictions or added health concerns, that the very nature of a successful event, worthy of its title would be compromised.

We believe IRSA made a wise decision in choosing West Kirby as the venue for these two fantastic classes that require large open waters, wind and the ability to walk the bank to show off their true potential. West Kirby's Marine Lake is a world renowned radio sailing racing venue with a fantastic and proven reputation of a 'True Test' of skipper, design and equipment across all conditions. The excellent facilities and social element that West Kirby Sailing Club and surrounding areas offer would have complimented a great race in all aspects. We are just so very disappointed that at this time of uncertainty across the world that we are not able to deliver on our vision of a truly great World Championship due to reasons beyond our control.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in this process. It has been quite humbling for me to have had so many committed people volunteer their time. Of note, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to my team of Victoria Gibson, Darin Ballington and Peter Baldwin where there has hardly been a day pass without an email, phone call or meeting taking place. Their energy and passion to want the best for this event could not be challenged.

My thanks are also extended also to our list of officials, volunteers and support sponsors that were willing in the first instance to get on board with us. A big thank you to all

Race Team - Peter Baldwin PRO, Derek Priestley, Jen Hand, Bea De Smedt, Judith Baldwin, Lorna Bantock, Dave Williams, John Brierley, Pierre Gonnet, Min Edwards, Tony Edwards, Nigel Brown, Bruce Andersen, Rob Owen, Alf Reynolds, Bernie McNulty



Umpires - Cxema Pica, Peter Johnson, Chris Lindsay, David Taylor, Mike Butterfield, Vic De Smedt, Rudiger Schuchardt

Measurers - Lester Gilbert, Alan Watkinson, Neil Westbrook, Dave Burke, Mike Kemp, Andrew Peter, Lawrence Drennen

Health and Safety - John Owens

Media - Victoria Gibson, Alfie Hart, Sue Brown

West Kirby Club - Helen Brown, Jean Louis Simmons, Jim Bramley, Mike de St Paer

Sponsors - BG Sails and Design, Housemartin Sails, Potter Solutions, Robot Yachts, Sails Etc, Smartwinch UK, Boats Etc, Red Ant

The final thank is to the skippers around the world who supported us and gave us your intention to not only attend this years postponed event, but backed us to try again next year with a further commitment to attend. Thank you for your support.

In closing I would like to take the opportunity to wish our fellow skippers from all parts of the world the best of health and care until such a time where we can all meet together in safe circumstance.

Graham Elliott
Chairman
On behalf of the West Kirby 2020/2021 Organising Team

