ISORA – Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association

ISORA - 2026 AGM Minutes - Redacted Version

In Person meeting at the National Yacht Club Dun Laoghaire
On Saturday 14th November 2026 at 15.00hrs

Welcome	Peter Ryan, ISORA Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM. The meeting was not recorded and is for the confidential purposes of the ISORA Officers and for those attending, the discussion, and contents not to be shared in part or in whole to any other party without the consent in writing of the ISORA Officers.
1. Apologies: -	Apologies received from Mark Thompson, George Bird-Jones.
	Present: - Peter Ryan, Peter Dunlop, Stephen Tudor, Andrew Hall, Sam Hall, Victoria Cox, Grainne Ryan, David Townend, Simon Hardy, Luke Murphy, Chris Power Smith, Barry O'Connor, Joshua Pratt, William Despard, Simon Knowles, Justin Burkes, William Lycett, Ian Bell, Stuart Trosoon, Geoff Dufton-Kelly, Iago Tudor, Awel Tudor, John Malone, Miker Thorpe, Paul Kitteringham, Nathan Burke, Darren Burke, Anyhony Lowther, Martin MacNamara, and Michael Horgan. 28 persons present.
2. Agree Minutes of Last AGM	Minutes of the 2025 AGM held on 8th November 2025, had been circulated and published on the ISORA.org web site. *These were agreed as a fair record of the meeting. Proposed by AH and seconded by CPS.*
3. Chairman's report	The Chairman (PR) summarised his report. **Chairman's 2026 Report to ISORA AGM is attached as Appendix I** (& this link to ISORA Website) *Proposed by CPS and seconded by MH.*
4. Secretary's Report	Hon. Sec summarised his report. **Hon Sec's 2026 Report to ISORA AGM is attached as Appendix I** (& this link to ISORA Website) *Proposed by MH and seconded by AH.*
Accounts for 2023	**Redacted Version**
6. Election Of Officers	Chairman read out the List of Officers, The General Sailing Committee, the Technical (Race management) Committee, and the Club Representatives as shown in **Appendix III**. The remit, role and responsibilities were outlined. The following were confirmed / re-confirmed: **Officers** • **Chairman** – Peter Ryan (appointed 2007) • **Vice Chairman** – Peter Dunlop (appointed 2019) • **Hon Secretary** - Stephen Tudor (appointed 2010) • **Finance** – Grainne Ryan (appointed 2022) • **Social Media Secretary** Victoria Cox (appointed 2019) **General Sailing Committee –** **Remit:** Decide on Racecourse - taking care to accommodate all competitors. Ambassadorial roles in the pre- and post-race gatherings. Provide guidance and encouragement for other competitors. Members as shown in the list in Appendix III and with the ability to co-opt new members. **Technical Committee** (Race Management)

	Remit: Prepare Sailing Instructions and Supplemental Racing Information. Organise Start and Finish arrangements with the Relevant Club Representative. Organise Trackers, before during and after racing. Publish Race Results. Attend to any Protest. The remit was again confirmed. Members as shown on the list in Appendix III but with ability to co-opt new members. Committee Members as above accepted by all present Aapproved and invitation to be extended. **Club Representatives** - Members as shown on the list in Appendix III but with ability to co-opt new members. **Safety Secretary:** Anita Begely and TBC Mark Thompson **Tracker Co-ordinators** – Grainne Ryan **Trophy Secretary** – Michael Horgan Proposed by AH, seconded by MH, and by all present.
7. Race Management	ST, Hon Sec, outlined the important Race Management considerations for ISORA and noted where changes are to be applied. **Race Risk Assessment** – and the actions arising from the qualified assessment. Safety is the primary consideration. This is required for every race and will consider conditions expected in the race areas, ability of the fleet. Consequence of the assessment could be, but not limited to the following: continued, amendment to the course, postponement, or cancellation. The Race Officers' decision is final. These decisions need to be published at least two full days before the race start to allow boats to be delivered. Technical Committee Proposal – To continue asabove. PR **– Approved by AGM** **Changes to IRC, RRS and OSR** - Changes (if any) to the regulations will incorporate these into the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions Technical Committee Proposal – To follow any changes I in the rules and reflect them in the NoR and Sis. **Approved by AGM** **OSR Categories** - ISORA is following the World Sailing Category definitions, Category 3+ Life-raft, Category 3 and Category 4 which are published on the web site. These will be noted for each race accordingly. Technical Committee Proposal – All ISORA Offshore (and Night Race) to be Cat 3 + and Coastal Races to be Cat 4. Show Category in Nor and Sis. **Approved by AGM** **Entry to Racing – Boat Stability** - The ISORA Races that are 'Category 3' and 'Category 3 with Life Raft' are open to all boats that have a valid IRC Certificate with STIX value not less than 23, AVS not less than 130 and Minimum SSS base number of 15 and comply with Section 3 of World Sailing Offshore Regulation Coastal Races that are Category 4 are open to all boats that have a valid IRC Certificate Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above. **Approved by AGM** **Pre & Post Race Declarations**. - Skippers' declaration is part of the on-line entry form. All boats to promote and use the 'ISORA Crew-Manager' app This lists all crew participating in each race and is a safety tool accessed by shore-based race Safety Officer. Technical Committee Proposal – Change for 2027 – As above and that the pre and post-race declarations will be mandatory. If such a declaration is not received, no result will be allocated. **Approved by AGM** **Crew Numbers –** **Cat 3 Races – 2026 Position** IRC 22.4 is deleted and replaced by "The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a yacht shall be as detailed below. There is no weight limit. This is

also subject to sufficient safety equipment being carried, and complying with, the World Sailing Special Regulations. Different crew limits may be imposed where statutory or other exceptional circumstances may dictate and will be notified in the Sailing Instructions and any amendments for each race. IRC certificate number crew allowed as per the table below.

IRC certificate number	ISORA 2026 Allowed crew
Up to 9	Certificate number plus 1
10 – 13	Certificate number plus 2
14 and over	Certificate number plus 3

Technical Committee Proposal – Change for 2027 to the crew number shall be as stated on the IRC Certificate. 'Max crew is the IRC cert number or Life Raft capacity if less than the IRC Cert'

CPS surprised that this was being discussed at the AGM following a long debate in 2025 ST explained that a decision of the AGM does not bind the association for ever. Technical Committee's proposal was carried 12 for /3 against.

For 2027 Max crew is the IRC cert number or Life Raft capacity if less than the IRC Cert.

- **Cat 4 races – 2026 Position** - No Limit - IRC 22.4 is deleted.

Technical Committee Proposal for 2027 – change to Max crew is the IRC cert number +2

CPS did not want to change this from the 2026 position (above). Discussion. Technical Committee's proposal was carried 11 for /1 against.

2027 Max crew is the IRC cert number +2

YB Tracker - ISORA has used the YB tracking system with great success since 2016 and are used not only for visual enjoyment of shore crew but as a safety tool and an invaluable race management tool for recording race finishes.

Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above. **Approved by AGM**

TSS - TSS are not exclusion zone in ISORA in 2025 and 2026 but will be subject to the usual rules of the road. A boat can only be protested by the sailing committee on receipt of a complaint from the Coastguard, or other Authority, and not from another competitor. This will be added to the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – **Approved by AGM**

Scoring and Weighting:

Scoring System – re confirm IRC as the only scoring system for ISORA

Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above. **Approved by AGM**

Scoring method technical – reconfirm our use of Sailwave.

	Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above. **Approved by AGM** **Weighting** – Races are presently scored using the ISORA High Points system the more difficult races are weighted as follows: • Day Coastal 0.7 • Night Coastal 0.9 • Offshore < 70 mile 1.1 • Offshore > 70 miles 1.2 • James Eadie Race 1.3 or 1.4 **Discuss if the weighting needs to be adjusted** A win in a large fleet is presently scored better than a win in a small fleet using the CHIPS 3 formula. For 2026 ISORA adjusted the fleet size to the number entered the race and not those that competed on the day. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027. **Agreed** - To be set/confirmed by Technical Committee when the Race Schedule has been approved. **Class Split** - The Class split is usually considered when entries are known but aim to maintain the three classes at 2025 levels with IRC Class 0 for boats of 1.070 or more. IRC1 1.010 to 1.069 and Class IRC2 1.009 or less. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above but to be set by the Technical Committee after the entries are received but before the first Race. **Approved by AGM** **Number of Classes** – may be increased to 4 – dependant on numbers. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above but will consider proposals. Technical Committee to set when number of entries received but before the first race. **Approved by AGM** **Two Handed Class** – included. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 but with an emphasis on supporting and encouraging participation. **Approved by AGM** **Silver Class** – extended to increase participation by formula and invitation. Technical Committee Proposal – Consider options for another class and pre-define a Silver fleet - consider proposals. Working Group to look at this option. **Approved by AGM** **Virtual Waypoints** - Virtual Waypoints form part of the tool menu available to the technical committee to set courses and in particular to keep the fleets away from shipping lanes and other dangers. These can be turning marks, deflecting marks or gates.

	Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above but will consider proposals. **Approved by AGM** **Auto Helms** - Auto Helms were allowed since 2023. The spirit of the intention is to encourage participation not to provide leading boats an added advantage and this will be monitored. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above but will consider proposals. **Approved by AGM** **AIS** - The use of AIS is mandatory for all competitors in Category 3 and Category 3+ Life Rafts races. Category 4 races – AIS is recommended and encouraged. Mandatory in Cat 3+ Advisory in Cat 4 (working towards compulsory in 2028) For Coastal Races - all competitors are encouraged to purchase a transmitting and receiving AIS on safety grounds and will work towards compulsory use in Cat 4 in 2027. ISORA has arranged for AIS shore bases to give better coverage in the Irish Sea. ***Discuss*** JM proposed that AIS should be mandatory in Cat 4 in 2027 - Technical Committee's proposal was carried majority for / 2 against. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above. **Approved by AGM** **Professional Crews** – There are presently no restriction applicable since 2023. Technical Committee Proposal – No change for 2027 – as above. **Approved by AGM**
8. 2026 Race Schedule	A draft Schedule had been prepared pulled from the Discussion Document prepared by Barry O'Connor and adapted with variations by Sam Hall – not a proposal by the Technical Committee but a starting point for discussion. **Proposal to run Costal Races** on Friday or Sunday – Agreed that the Technical Committee would consult on this. Josh Pratt for Liverpool YC made a case for incorporating the Liverpool fleet into the ISORA programme with the Lyver Trophy Race and Midnight Race. **Guidelines -** Aim to set six races in the traditional Irish Sea Catchment area and set 5 races to count for the overall Championship win for the prestigious Wolf's Head Trophy the racing area is the Irish Sea with most races completed over a single weekend. It was agreed that ISORA would not run a race at the same time as the D2D race. Following a discussion with various options being considered it was agreed that the schedule would be passed for the consideration by BO and SH following the above guidelines with a draft to be prepared for the attention of the Technical Committee that that the Technical Committee would then work up the details.
AOB	**Entry Fees & Sponsors Package** ST – explained that the block entry fee is Eur 550 and this was potentially for a series of 14 races. The entry fees were not building a reserve which would be good practice. Disussion - JB proposed that the fee for the block entry was increased to 650 Euro. Seconded by SH - All present agreed.

	JM proposed an additional entry category 'Sponsors Category' at 1,500 Euro – all agreed.

Next Steps	**Next Steps:**
	• Hon Sec. to:
	  ○ Prepare Minutes and circulate,
	  ○ Publish Draft 2027 Schedule,
	  ○ Prepare Draft Notice of Race incorporating all the points agreed in the AGM.
	• ST and or Bernard to work on the 2027 online entry form before Christmas.
	• Race starts and finish to be checked with destination Clubs/ports.
	There was no other business. Peter Ryan, from the chair, thanked everyone for their valued contribution and hopes for a successful 2027 and that we would see growth in ISORA racing with more opportunities for post-race gatherings.
	CPS thanked PR for his hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for ISORA.

Meeting Ended 17.00hrs	
Minutes prepared by ST 15/11/2026 and Finalised/circulated 15/11/2026	

Appendix I
Chairman's Report and Hon. Sec. Report

Chairman's Report to ISORA AGM. 14th November 2026

This season ISORA organised 19 races this season – 9 Offshores, 5 Irish Coastal race and 5 UK Coastal races. 38 boats took part in the series. Although entry numbers were reasonable, the number of boats competing in the races was disappointing. ISORA assisted in the Round Ireland Race, Inisteraght Race and the Beaufort Cup with the use of the YB trackers.

All the races in 2026 were run under a new ISORA safety governance regime. This requires that a "Race Risk Assessment" is prepared and submitted to an Irish Sailing or RYA registered Race Officer. It is then the decision of the Race Officer to approve, cancel or amend the details of the race. Their decision is final. This regime was adopted very successfully and operated without any significant hitches. I would like to thank **Barry MacNeaney and Larry Power** who helped to formulate a workable protocol and who also acted as Race Officers and Race Starters for most races this season. Without their cooperation, we could not have organised our races in 2026.

A huge thank you to our title sponsor for this season, **Musto**. I also want to thank our long standing sponsors on the Irish side, **Viking Marine**, **Hendrick Ryan Associates** and **Jack Ryan Whiskey;** and on the Welsh side, **Plas Heli** and **Tudor Auctioneers**.

Recently a **WhatsApp Discussion** group was created where significant items were raised and discussed. The summary of the discussion was issued. Some of the findings from that summary will be the basis of the agenda for this meeting. It is hoped that we can arrive at a Race Schedule and Format that will attract an increased number of boats to take part in ISORA in 2027.

With reduced entries being received this year and most of our costs being fixed, we now have to rely on our sponsors and benefactors to help us fund our racing. I would like to appeal for new sponsors or benefactors for 2027.

ISORA is run by volunteers who generously freely give of their time during the season. They are as follows:

- Website Manager – Stephen Tudor.
- Race results – Stephen Tudor.
- Online Entry – Olivier Proveur.
- Bernard McGranaghan - ISORA CrewManager App.
- Race Starters - Larry Power, Barry MacNeaney, Robin Evans, and Dawn Russell.
- Safety Officer - Anita Begley
- YB Tracker Manager – Grainne Ryan
- Facebook Page Manager – Vicky Cox.
- Trophy Secretary – Michael Horgan.

I would like to thank the Officers and committee of ISORA:

- Vice Chairman – Peter Dunlop
- Hon Secretary – Stephen Tudor
- Hon Treasurer – Grainne Ryan

I would like to thank our **Race Management Committee**. The Race Management Committee dealt with the back of house work and decided on issues associated with the races.

The **Irish and UK WhatsApp groups** is proving to be a great method of communicating with those taking part in the races and also in seeking suggestions / feedback when courses are being.

There is a huge amount of preparation required before and after each race. This work is presently been done by a few people. WE urgently need more people to get involved in the race management.

The CewManager app, developed by **Bernard McGranaghan** has been used extensively to date. The use of the app is mandatory for all boats taking part in ISORA as it is the main instrument in the Safety and Responsibility regime.

The social highlight of the year is tonight's annual ISORA prize giving dinner in the NYC. Over 150 people are expected to attend.

I would like to thank the **National Yacht Club** for their continued support and assistance for ISORA. They are the **Organising Authority** for our races. The Commodore of the NYC, **Rosemary Cadogan**, is attending the dinner tonight.

In finishing I would particularly like to thank our Hon Secretary – **Stephen Tudor**. Without him, ISORA would not run as efficiently as it does.

As Chairman since 2007 I wish to thank all of you for your support.

Wishing ISORA a safe and engaged year in 2027.

Peter Ryan

Chairman ISORA

14th November 2026

ISORA 2026 - Report to the AGM by Hon. Sec. Stephen Tudor

Notice of this AGM was published and shared on 25th September 2026. We have received interesting and varied feedback via the WhatsApp AGM Discussion group.

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 based in different home ports, and an aspiration to minimise boat movement and deliveries between races.

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

Planning a series of races to please all competitors was again challenging but we did organise 19 races of varying complexity, challenges and including endurance! This comprised 9 Offshores, 5 Irish Coastal race and 5 UK Coastal races.

For all 19 races scoring was for overall, class, YTC and double handed, and then for the 2026 Series – Overall, Coastal Series Overall and then Class scoring for all four series of races. This, of course, was on a basis of each race being a stand-alone race.

Congratulations to our numerous Champions and to all who competed.

We have seen a total of 38 competing boats, (36 in 2025, 43 in 2024 and 38 in 2023, and 39 in 2022) Down from 63 in 2019.

The ISORA Offshore Series for the Royal Dee Yacht Club's prestigious Wolf's Head was won by "Pata Negra", Andrew and Sam Hall, Overall ISORA Offshore Champion for 2026.

IRC Class DH – Loinnir - John Malone/Emmet Sheridan

IRC Class 2 – Indian, IRC Class 1 – ReQuest, IRC Class 0 – Pata Negra,

Our Coastal Series winners were Indian in Ireland, and Pata Negra in Wales

Our Young Sailor of the year for 2026 is Sam Hall - we thank Barry for organising and promoting this excellent award.

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. There has been some great PR for ISORA in 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 2026 and enabled workload sharing with Mark Thompson and Peter Dunlop taking up many tasks and added responsibilities.

The races were again run under the ISORA governance regime where a "Race Risk Assessment" is prepared and submitted to the Race Officers, who must be registered with Irish Sailing or RYA. It is then the decision of the Race Officer to approve, cancel or amend the details of the race. This regime has proved to work successfully and has operated without any significant hitches.

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, IRC rules and World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations - we are constantly monitoring changes in Rules and Regulations to ensure compliance. Changes will be highlighted on our web site and shared via our WhatsApp groups. 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, we are seeing the use of the secondary IRC certificate for those that switch configurations between offshore and inshore races or full crew to double handed.

The 2026 series was again scored using the ISORA High Points System with more points awarded for more challenging races and more reward in larger fleets. We were able to follow the decision of the 2025 AGM to score on the basis of the number of boats entered (not those that sailed).

This complex system of Series, Class, and Sub Series', is all possible because we use the superb results program 'Sailwave' who offers technical assistance, on the hoof, refinements and assistance.

Website / CMS

The ISOA.org website is currently hosted by HostGator and operates on Joomla 4. Following the successful recovery of the domain name, work has now commenced on a phased modernisation programme.

The first stage will be the migration of the website hosting to Jolt, providing access to PHP 8 and an up-to-date database environment. This move will establish a stable, secure, and fully supported platform for future development.

Once the hosting migration has been completed, the website will be upgraded from Joomla 4 to Joomla 5, with a subsequent migration to Joomla 6 when appropriate. These upgrades will ensure continued compatibility with modern web standards, enhanced security, improved performance, and access to new CMS capabilities.

Collectively, these improvements will provide a robust and sustainable platform for ISORA going forward, while creating opportunities to make greater use of the CMS for member services, content management, and future website functionality.

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 …….

Stephen Tudor

ISORA Hon Sec. 14th November 2026

Appendix II
Treasurer's Report

- Redacted Version -

Appendix III
Officers for 2027

Officers Election Listed 2027

ISORA OFFICERS 2027	
Chairman	– Peter Ryan
Vice Chairman	– Peter Dunlop
Treasurer	- Grainne Ryan
Secretary / Webmaster	– Stephen Tudor
Social Media Secretary	- Victoria Cox

General Sailing Committee 2027	
Remit: Decide on Racecourse - taking care to accommodate all competitors. Ambassadorial roles in the pre-and post-race gatherings. Provide guidance and encouragement for other competitors. **Subject to Change**	
Peter Ryan	Peter Dunlop
Stephen Tudor	Victoria Cox
Mark Thompson	

Technical Committee (Race Management) 2027	
Remit: Prepare Sailing Instructions and Supplemental Racing Information. Organise Start and Finish arrangements with the Relevant Club Representative. Organise Trackers, before during and after racing. Publish Race Results. Attend to any Protest.	
Peter Ryan	Peter Dunlop
Stephen Tudor	Grainne Ryan
Mark Thompson (Safety Officer)	Vicky Cox
Joe Conway	Barry O'Connor.
Anita Begley (Safety Officer)	

Club	Club Representative 2027
Remit: To make all pre-race arrangements at the port and club. Provide information for inclusion in the SIs. Arrange hospitalities for pre/post-race. Arrange start or Finish lines.	
National Yacht Club	- Peter Ryan
Pwllheli Sailing Club	- Sam Hall
Holyhead Sailing Club	- Dawn Russell
Royal Dee Yacht Club	- TBC
Dublin Bay / Royal Alfred	- Barry Mac Neaney AND TBC
Howth Yacht Club	- Simon Knowls
Liverpool Yacht Club	- Joshua Pratt
Wicklow Sailing Club	- Kyran O'Grady
Royal St George Yacht Club	- Chris Power-Smith
Poolbeg	- TBC
Douglas Bay Yacht Club	- Kuba Szymanski
Royal Irish Yacht Club	- Joe Conway
Arklow Yacht Club	- Seamus Cramer
Royal Cork YC	- Daragh Connolly
Royal Ulster	- Ross Boyd