

Sailing Report 2019

2019 has been a quiet year on the Sailing front. There has only been one member enquiring about the developments on the handicap situation with the OGA. It seems that most area have successfully run their annual races efficiently without any real problems or issues.

I spent some more time at the start of the year on the suitability of using a handicap system like the Jague Classique in a modified form. The JCH is a free system and open in that the formula is not secret. As it stands it does not work for the gaffer fleet but with adjustments it possibly could. It has been suggested that it may be just simpler to keep our current system and adjust that rather than starting with a completely new system. At present it appears that there is little support for changing the system. Participation in racing is certainly waning not just with the OGA but across the sport in general. This is certainly the case on the east coast over the past few years.

We can do one of several things.

- Leave things as they are now—easiest solution —accept that the OGA system has some failings for more modern boats. There are always likely to be exceptions.
- Keep our OGA system but modify it to include headsail areas not just fore triangle.- need to collect data and update records.
- Completely new system tailored to suit gaffers.

The east coast area use a flexible handicap system based on performance and have done so for around 10 years now. This has worked successfully. It uses the OGA measured handicap as a starting point.

My suggestion for handicaps at present is that we use the OGA formula but do adjust it to use the actual headsails set not just the fore triangle as is the case now. If this seems a good Idea we would need to collect data from all members, who would then need to measure their headsails and send the details to the boat register editor. The boat register would need to be updated to include those details.

As I will be stepping down from this position it may be up to my successor to take on handicap changes or wait till a more certain need for change is supported. I would like to thank all those who have helped and assisted in various ways over the past few years.

Pete Thomas
Sailing Committee.