

North West Area OGA Report 2020

It's fair to report that our planned program both Sailing and Social was effectively abandoned during 2020 due of course to the Covid-19 pandemic. One event after another was cancelled as restrictions cut deep into the year.

What was most concerning was the fact that as our group uses the Irish Sea different country restrictions at different times of the year prevented any serious boat movements, let alone sailing events. The North West Coast, North Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland all had different covid restrictions in place, and often at different and overlapping times too. Port closures, along with the complete close down of the Isle of Man, were widespread. Some day sailing from the same marina was permitted provided crew were all from the same household which of course presented a formidable challenge.

Only two boat movements are recorded, one in a rare covid and northern weather window for the return of a boat from Scotland to her homeport in North Wales. A second for one member's boat in a very low number event. Restrictions included crew from family members only, no presentations and no social gathering. After a brave attempt the sailing was aborted due to malaise on the part of the stand in family member crew.

It's anticipated that once vaccinations across the country are implemented in the first quarter of 2021 that some order will be re-established and boating events started once again. Meanwhile there is some reluctance for organisers to commit any expenditure until an 'all clear' is declared.

I'm sure that sailing will commence in the summer months in 2021.