

>>All interested Members are asked to notify the Secretary to Council that they wish to stand and include a brief resume of what they are offering to the position **before January 7th 2023**.

I wish to stand as MYA Technical Officer at the 2023 EGM. Reasons for doing so are given below:

An oversight led to my nomination not being sent to the 2022 AGM. This gives an opportunity to refer to the statement made to the 2019 AGM giving reasons for standing for office then:

Statement by Graham Bantock to MYA AGM 2019

The overall direction of travel of the MYA's administration in recent years has been very positive and I hope to help the established team make further progress wherever possible.

Specific technical matters that can be identified at present are:

- The welcome move towards establishing self governance of the various classes sailed in the UK, the COGs, suggests that the future responsibility for technical matters lies within each class. Notwithstanding, the MYA acts as a quality control body setting minimum standards that are necessary for any class to maintain its national status. The task of setting out the authority and responsibility for each class to take control of its technical issues (writing class rules, interpretation of class rules, measurement, training of measurers) has yet to be carried out.
- The proper representation of the views of UK owners of the IRSA recognised classes remains a challenge for the MYA – in theory it is the responsibility of the COGs. Again this needs to be handled carefully to ensure owners views are not hijacked by a vocal minority.
- The underlying principle for measurement of boats in the IRSA recognised classes is that certification is carried out by Official Measurers who are appointed or recognised by the Member National Authority for the UK – that is the Royal Yachting Association. How MYA measurers meet this requirement seems to be currently unknown and needs to be established with certainty.
- Possibly related to the last item, but in any case still a major issue for many classes, is the need to provide those who act as measurers with suitable training. Whereas there is much common ground across all classes (e.g. rig and sail measurement), each class has its own peculiarities and training for that is clearly a responsibility for each class to take up. Assistance for this work may be needed.

Graham Bantock - 29th October 2019

What progress has been made since?

- The way in which governance of the classes and their technical support can be provided by their own COG has been clearly established by way of the COG Framework document that is universally applicable to each of the MYA Adopted classes. It replaces the previous various, varying, inadequate and un-adopted versions.
- The way in which the MYA relates to and supports the Adopted and Affiliated classes has been set out in the Regulations for Adoption and Affiliation of Classes (RAAC). It replaces the previous document which had not been updated since the 1990s.
- Terms of Reference for all the MYA officers involved with the technical administration of the sport (Class Registrars, Personal Number Registrar, Measurers, Class Captains,

COG Technical Officer and Technical Officer) have been updated and brought into line with modern practice.

- The relationship between the RYA and MYA with respect to technical matters has been mutually agreed. This establishes the authority and responsibility for recognising/appointing and training measurers in a clear and meaningful way that has not been the case before.
- Training material for measurers for the IRSA classes has been drafted, critiqued, tested and implemented. This provides a means of providing training to individuals wherever they may be in the UK independent of any other individual with the essential knowledge and teaching ability. In recent times there have been no regularised and effective methods of training and recognising/appointing measurers in a way that satisfied the requirements of the IRSA and MYA classes. This also accords with the strong desire for measurer training and accreditation expressed in the report of the 2015 MYA membership - <https://www.mya-uk.org.uk/mya-council-area/>

I see it as essential that the COGs find individuals who can take responsibility for technical matters for their class. It is essential the MYA Technical Officer is able to provide pro-active support to assist them in their role to ensure the MYA classes' class rules are administered by the COGs in the future to the high standard we would all wish them to be. In the absence of a Class Technical Officer the MYA Technical Officer has to provide this service un-aided.

It was pointed out in 2019, and it remains the case in 2023, that the proper representation of the views of UK owners of the IRSA recognised classes remains a challenge for the MYA. This challenge also applies to the MYA Adopted classes. If COGs are not effective, having been given every opportunity and assistance, then MYA Council will have to step in to fill the gaps however unwelcome and un-popular this may seem. The majority of owners need class rules that can be relied on to work in all circumstances and for all owners rather than have to rely on someone they may not know who will be able to explain what the class rules mean some months later. It is for these owners that I have been working and for whom any MYA Technical Officer should be working.

I have addressed the majority of items identified in 2019 as areas of need in a way that provides systems and documentation that will endure independent of 'special' people who may not always be around when an answer is required. It is my intention to continue working to deliver sustainable systems that will endure beyond my period of office to support those who carry out the various technical related tasks in the sport. I am also happy to encourage and support Council Members and others who adopt a similar forward looking and sustainable approach to the MYA's activities.

Graham Bantock

2nd January 2023.