



## **National Folkboat Association**

### A note from the Committee

During these unparalleled Covid circumstances it is the aim of the National Folkboat Association Committee to ensure a safe and consistent way forward and to promote a happy and prosperous fleet. Sailing organisation this year has seen some understandable anomalies, although all the organisers did their best to get folk out on the water, with considerable success. The RYA did a great job in providing guidelines, however, these were open to some different interpretations. The result was a mixture of crew rules which caused some controversy.

We must now move on to 2021, accordingly the committee has been considering recommendations to apply to Folkboat racing next year. Despite the good news about vaccines, distribution and inoculation will take a long time to have effect, therefore we must assume that social distancing will remain in place for the foreseeable future, so the following has been agreed by the Committee:

### **National Folkboat Association Recommendations for 2021**

1. In the latter part of the 2020 season, Nordic Folkboats in the West Solent raced 2 – up with White Sails only, and allowed engines to remain on the stern bracket. This appeared to work well. It complied with the SD rule and boats raced on an equal footing in terms of crew numbers.
2. At present (November 2020) there seems little prospect of a return to “normal” sailing in 2021. The widespread availability of a vaccine for Covid 19 remains uncertain. The National Committee decided that for the purposes of planning for 2021 we should assume that Covid restrictions will remain in place.
3. The National Committee recommends that for 2021 we continue to sail 2 – up, White Sails only, and engines permitted to remain on the stern bracket. We will request that the relevant Organising Authorities for Nordic Racing in 2021 will comply.
4. The decision to recommend white sailing for the whole of 2021 is not a blanket decision covering all ongoing events.
5. Should the Covid situation change, we can reconsider these recommendations. In the meantime we will continue to plan for 2021 on the aforementioned assumption. Further discussion can be had at the next AGM.