

Racing Secretary's Ramblings

- NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020 - The good news is that I've recently heard from Dabchicks SC that, as we come out of lockdown, they feel they can still run the National Championships from 11 - 13 September (subject to Government Guidance, of course). They have asked whether our members still want it to go ahead. Personally, I would say "yes, of course" but my view may not be representative of our members thoughts on this so it's important that you feed your views back to me soon at race@wayfarer.org.uk A lot has changed in our world over the last three months and I expect there will be many more policy changes between now and September. These may make racing a possibility and DSC are confident they could run the event if we are interested. I look forward to hearing from everybody who would like to support the Championships, and from those who (although regular racers at the Championships) won't be there this year. Hopefully there will be enough interest to make the Championships viable.
- News on the street is that sailing has already started at some clubs with informal follow the leader races and rabbit/gate starts. Datchet Water SC sailors enjoyed such an experience recently with six boats on the water. Four of these were sailed single handed while the other two had Single Household teams. I am sure other clubs are making plans to resume sailing, if they haven't started already, which is great news.
- Unfortunately, the lockdown has decimated the racing season so far. A look at the Racing Calendar <https://wayfarer.org.uk/racing-calendar-2020/> will show that all formal racing events up to the end of July have been cancelled so there are just three National Circuit Series events left including the National Championships. Fingers crossed these will be well supported along with all of the other open meetings, sailing weeks and championships shown in the Calendar.
- More videos have been uploaded to the UKWA website. This month the focus is on the racing rules so there is a selection of different posts including some from the recent RYA series.
- Finally for this month there are some more photos. Keen eyes may have noticed a number of Wayfarers sporting a dyneema forestay rather than one made of traditional wire. This photo shows the Wayfarer on the Hartley Boats stand at the Dinghy Show this year. Rather than a lashing to a P clip on the stem fitting this image shows a stainless ring fed through the stem fitting and a soft shackle to connect the forestay to the boat. I experienced a forestay lashing which came undone at the open meeting at Shoreham last year so plan to go for a fixed length soft shackle solution this year which I hope will be both more secure and snag free. The second image shows what can happen if you get bored in lockdown. A trip to B&Q for some 2 x 4 and 1 x 3 timber, some glue and screws resulted in a hiking bench which is pretty



much the proportions of a MkIV side deck at a fraction of the cost of a proprietary model (which has probably been designed to replicate a different class of boat). This hiking bench is dismantlable so it can be set up or stored without tools. I can even substitute the seat assembly for a wider, lower version so that my son can practice his Laser style hiking.