**Merlin Nationals RO briefing.**

I am delighted to be with the Merlins again as RO, this time here at the East Lothian Yacht Club. It does seem to be ‘work with the Merlins and see the UK’!

I am not going to repeat information that is in the SI, I am going to assume that you have all read them!

There a few key points that I would like to emphasise:

**Official Notice Board-**our primary communication route will be via the online noticeboard. We will try to duplicate on the board at the dingy park, but do not rely on this. The online board can be found at

 <http://events.sailracer.org/eventsites/noticeboard.asp?eventid=220014>

 **Tallying**- it is essential that you remember to tally on, and off. Please tally off promptly so that we can stand down the support boats. It will be hard to miss the tally board as it you will pass it on the way to launch. Don’t forget to pick up your tracker too. You will also be given a trolley tally to fix onto your trolley for the week which will help the beach team to fetch your trolley for you

 **Launching**- be ready to launch as soon as Delta is displayed. I shall be in communication with the beach team. If there are issues beyond the fleet’s control that delay the speed of launching, then we will signal AP on the committee boat to give the fleet time to get to us. However, if the delay is simply boats not being ready to go, we will start on time.

**Starting**- Make sure you know what the tidal stream is doing! We do not want to spend the day doing practice starts!

The line is going to be lengthy, around 260-280m. Although we are not using a pin end boat this year, there will be a boat full of keen eyed people observing the line at the pin end.

**Finishing**- if the wind direction makes it a beat for home, in the last race of the day we may well finish you at the windward mark. This will done under a flag S.

**Official forms**- Declaration forms for DNF etc, scoring queries, protests are all at the beachmaster’s office located at the dinghy park.

 **The Race Management Policies are:**

**Courses**

Courses will be ST. The SI do not allow any others.

**Preparatory signal**

The initial preparatory signal for each race is expected to be the U flag. But if we have delays and are running out of time, then the Black flag may be sued as a last resort.

**Unidentified boats OCS**

It is expected that a general recall will be signaled if there are **any** unidentified boats OCS.

**Wind strength**

Races will not be started if the wind speed regularly exceeds 25 knots or is less than 5 knots for significant periods.

**Visibility**

In poor visibility, racing is expected to continue provided that visibility is in excess of approximately 50% of course leg length.

**Whisky flag**The whisky flag procedure will be used if necessary to facilitate rapid turnaround of back to back races. It may also be used to prevent boats being timed out in any race.

**Reaching angle**It is intended that the reaching leg angle will be 60° interior angle (light winds) and 50o interior angle (stronger winds).

Nigel Denchfield - Race Officer 9th August 2021