



ENGINEERING CHALLENGE CUP 2021?

Bulletin 07, January 20th, 2021 “Do The NOES have it?”

Dear Skippers and Commodores,

The year started without our UK trading partners or for the UK, without Europe any longer the “burden”. Although we knew for a long time that this was going to happen, it still came as a surprise for many. This was the major news on our news channels in the beginning of January. Beside the issues around the presidency of the USA, we continue to face more and more serious news about lockdowns and curfews in Europe. A new theme is the Covid-19 mutant, discovered in the UK, Brazil, South Africa, causing fear on the faces of specialists on our TV panel-discussions. We face surprise after surprise in a fast-evolving row.

Today we face lockdowns possibly until April 1st for the UK and Germany, The Netherlands do take smaller time steps until mid of February and the majority of Europe is coloured dark including Croatia, so challenges to overcome the virus are big. The OC have discussed the situation with some commodores and do not expect the possibility to be able to present an ECC event, where we gather with more than 300 sailors. The Croatian Sailing Association is not optimistic about allowing us to race in May 2021 adding to the complexities of the 2021 organization.

The answer to the POLL question of December may come as a surprise as well. The Noes where equal to the Ayes and there were few maybes. Appr. 40% of the skippers gave a reaction to the poll, you may have your own opinion about this response rate. We were more optimistic in December than today.

But despite all that we are facing this very moment, the sense of optimism is back with the vaccines rolled-out around the world. We are lucky to be living in the era of a significantly advanced science that should help us all to overcome this current burden soon. We may not see the results immediately, but the prognosis is that we will begin to see significant improvements in the summer.

The OC is investigating again the consequences for an eventual postponement to 2022. The purpose of this bulletin is not only to share our concern, but also to create awareness to manage financial damage control for you as participants as well. If you have booked any additional scope such as flights, hotels etc. Please do try to manage this in the best possible way.

A second postponement might differ from the previous, first postponement, as we were all aware of Covid-19 at time of our re-booking for 2021. Please take into account a postponement of the ECC2021, if no positive news is issued before February 1st, 2021.



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We expect that most of us will be vaccinated by the end of 2021 and that this makes us free to move around as we were used to do during ECC events. I wanted to send you a more motivating message but have difficulties to find realistic good news. We are doing our utmost to minimize financial damage for a postponement to 2022 and will let you know the outcome of the negotiations at the moment we have a more or less complete picture.

Stay healthy and we'll keep in touch with you!

The ECC goes beyond the horizon, but does not disappear, we remain looking forward to a joyful time and request for your understanding and support.

Navigare necesse est, and safety comes first,

Pieter Hadjidakis & Eddo Cammeraat

OC team ECC 2021

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