2024 Year in Review

As the year ends it is good to look back on how skippers using our equipment have fared in competition both here in the UK and abroad and highlight new developments at BG.

Event Results

Our designs and sails across 4 International classes performed strongly here in the UK winning National Championships

- The IOM win was with the Post PUNK development design with BritPOPs filling the podium in a light wind event hosted by Poole Radio Yacht Club with 74 entries.
- Darin Ballington took a deserved win in the Marblehead class with his GRUNGE that included an impressive international field of skippers and designs at Datchet.
- World Champion Matteo Longhi ITA took the win in the Ten Rater class Nationals held at Datchet in a range of tricky conditions.
- Graham Elliott continued his form taking out the RG65 class titles at Eastbourne against a strong fleet of much newer designs.

Solid wins at National and Regional level were recorded in the UK, Australia, Italy, USA, France in the IOM, Marblehead and Ten Rater classes for our designs and sails showing a continuation of successes for a wide variation of skippers and abilities using our products.

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Club Racing

Our club at **Birkenhead RSC** continues to strengthen with IOM numbers back into regular double figures. The racing is tight as always with club skippers regularly mixing it with several World, European and National Champions. Experience and tips are shared through the fleet to keep all getting the best from the afternoons racing.

Anyone looking to come along for a race is most welcome and should take a look at the clubs website and new Facebook page to see what classes are sailed and when. It may be a testing place to sail at times, but there is a reason why it has produced more top line skippers than any other.

Early season the **Fleetwood MYC** made me very welcome for a few club race days which was good to get the new boat on the water with solid opposition. Always a special lake to race on with its history and a true place to see how a boat is sailing when the wind is straight down the middle. Thanks to the members for the welcome.

Tuning Day at Huntingdon Radio Yacht Club

It was great to spend a day with the keen HRYC group in mid-September. The morning session was a run through of general rigging setup and looking at equipment for a maintenance free setup that allows good adjustability. After lunch we had two groups of 10 skippers alternating on a short windward leeward course with live instructions both during and between races. To wrap up it was back to the clubhouse for pastries and cake and a debrief with a reminding theme of keeping the sport simple and beating the course.

Thank you to Andy Start for the invite and all HRYC members for the day at one of our fastest growing clubs in the country

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Sail Design

A fresh approach with a new IOM allowed for a look back over sail shaping in that class in the second half of 2023 and first half of this year. Mainsail shapes have been slightly tweaked for a better leech profile and headsails utilising a panel layout revisited from past days. Examples of these sails won heats and were used on 6 boats in the top 20 in Australia.

It is interesting to notice that panel placement and numbering restrictions faced by traditional sailmakers are being discussed to relax the imbalance of heat formed sails having no such restrictions on where shaping can be placed. The IOM class is supported by several sail suppliers that continues to grow offering good variation of equipment. All should enjoy a level playing field using the skills they know.

3D Printing

March saw the arrival of our first venture towards 3d printing used for fitting manufacture and prototyping. It was noticeable in the design of our new IOM that fitting design has not kept in step with the attention to detail being placed on hull, sail and foil design.
Opting for a lightweight jib boom to then hang nuts, bolts, heavy bulky metal fittings that are high in drag and require a heavy counterweight to get the jib to swing out is not the solution.

With a second edition printer in operation, we are now able to offer solutions in engineering grade materials in PA12 (Nylon) with both glass and carbon additives suited to the task at hand.

Workshop

Our sailmaking workshop enjoyed a long overdue makeover in October. The result is a much-improved workspace allowing for better productivity going forward.

Transmitter Cover

In collaboration with Rooster Sailing UK, our new BG Transmitter Cover has been developed for radio control sailing enthusiasts. This cover combines Rooster's signature Aquafleece® fabric with thoughtful details to protect your transmitter (and your hands) from water, wind, and cold.

Keep an eye on our shop as new products solutions are released in 2025.

New BG Transmitter Cover

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IOM Post PUNK

January saw the competitive launch of a new IOM with a concept and approach somewhat different to the accepted design space based on our BritPOP design. Two designs were finalised in early 2023 with work beginning in July for a December measurement and final rig.

Post PUNK shares influence from recent years in the Moth class where aerodynamic hull and rig drag and 'dead' weight reduction is of as much, if not more importance to the foils that carries the sailor. The opportunity of a new boat gave the chance to look at every component with a fresh mindset as opposed to just going with tried and tested methods that if scaled up to Moth size, would be discarded.

It has been a rewarding exercise to again develop a boat that could be considered 'outside of the box' with the end aim always being something anyone could improve with and enjoy sailing in all conditions and not a boat just fit for the 'elite'.

A UK Nationals win, 3 Ranking event wins with 2 x 2nds and 2 x 3rds was an encouraging return for the project over 2024, with further testing planned in 2025 to unlock the concepts full potential.

Lightweight fittings, rigs, sails and fit out, inexpensive radio equipment including a King Max Sailwinch with std 30mm drum, simple taped deck hatch with magnetic switch all contributed to a home build well under £1000 with purchased radio, sails, foils and masts. Affordable and competitive, but yes, you will have to do some work yourself!

Our Top Tips page will soon be sharing a background with thoughts and reasoning on several ideas used on Post PUNK as not all ideas are transferable across different designs.

Post PUNK launch with B rig and powering with C rig at Birkenhead Radio Sailing Club

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IOM Worlds
This year's addition was held in Gladstone, Australia with a close fought finish between the most experienced skipper in Zvonko Jelacic CRO taking the title and the fast Ian Vickers NZL as runner up. Congratulations to both and Alexis Carre a distance back in third rounding the podium. Plenty of variation in designs and sails being used.

- Notable that traditionally panelled sails won over 75% of A fleet heats raced.
- Notable how our BritPOP design comfortably scored several top ten A fleet results in the hands of the UK's 20th ranked skipper.
- Notable that no matter what equipment or how much of it you have, that big events still come down to an easy to setup package that you can trust. If you are on the start line worrying about half a turn of kicker or a millimetre of backstay you are not in racing mindset, whatever you are sailing.

The event was well covered the organisers on YouTube with experienced radio and big boat sailor Dave Turton joined by a team of commentators. As a viewer it was easy to get a feel of the event. The were some excellent performances with lower ranked skippers showing up their more fancied counterparts. Special mentions for Sean Fidler USA, Rob Wilson GBR and Australia's Doug Allen for standout performances.

Well done to the full Worlds organising team, the race team that delivered 20+races under HMS despite wind delays with the leaders separated by a single point and most of all the volunteers. We were Glad to be a supporter!

IOM BritPOP Licenced builders
Our BritPOP is now solely produced by James and Tony Edwards of **Robot Yachts UK** after the conclusion of our agreement with our builder in Brazil. Robot Yachts continue to build to the highest standards for all of our designs that continue with the success of the BritPOP that is now into its 15th year.

The BritPOP may not be everyone's idea of fashion, nor have a 'V' in its name. It may not be in slow-motion reels, but it is a design still racing in A fleet at the Worlds that's outlasted over 60 boats designed, advertised and produced to beat it at international level since its launch in 2010.
Just a club boat? Experience and results would say otherwise…

Scott Condie continues to build our Trance Ten Rater design in Australia with continued success on the racecourse.

Coming UP
2025 has a congested early season calendar for both the IOM and Marblehead classes with ranking and National Championships wedged in between international events for both classes. IOM Ranking events will determine selection of places to represent GBR at the home Worlds in 2026. With a few names past looking to return and experienced skippers getting their head in the game, GBR skippers will be looking for a collective return to form.

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And finally, with the Moth moved on to a new owner, it's time for some fun in between radio sailing events with a Musto Skiff in 2025

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2025 where we hope to see you on or near the water!

Best Wishes
Brad and Victoria Gibson

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