

Report from Rod Davis:

The UKWA is extremely grateful to the continued financial support given to us from both Starboard Severne and Boardwise. Their support has paid for the trophies awarded during the season and helps to keep entry fees down. In addition we are grateful to those brands who continue to support the UKWA slalom tour

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*The only activity I have been involved in is trying to contact the Windsurfer LT fleet in the UK with a view to inviting them to participate in UKWA (and LWA) events.*

*The main mover seems to be Rory Ellis at Sandy Point Watersports who are now the importers of the Mistral version of the LT. I have been in contact with Rory and his father and they have agreed to hand out a leaflet to every purchaser of a Mistral LT explaining the role of the UKWA in running windsurfing events in the UK and suggesting that they might wish to take part in our racing, and giving them my contact details for further information.*

For whatever reasons, however, the Windsurfer LT has not taken off in the UK to anything like the extent it has achieved on the Continent. At the recent World Championships in Sicily there were some 300 participants, including many names who have been evident at World and European Raceboard events in the past. Our own Paul Leone, although he still sails a Raceboard, also has an LT. I have asked him why such a retrograde design has proved so popular, but all he seems to come up with is that it is a One Design and that you can rent a board when you travel to an event overseas.

No doubt because of the small sail size – 5.7 sq m, there are four weight categories. There are severe restrictions on pumping which is only permitted for a maximum of 30 seconds after the Starting Signal in a course race. Adjustable downhauls and outhauls must be tied off and fixed whilst racing.

My understanding is that very few Windsurfer LTs have been sold in the UK, so I don't expect any huge surge in participants yet awhile. The only LT sailor in the UKWA has switched to a Raceboard, which perhaps tells us something.

Watch this space.....