

Restoration and the Rules

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Summary. International Measurer David Chivers welcomes the restoration of old wooden Dragons but warns that restored boats must stay within the Class rules, which cover the rig, sails and construction, with measurements for every part down to the lifting eyes. A boat outside the rules cannot hold a measurement certificate and may be refused regatta entry. He advises restorers and their builders to work from an up-to-date set of rules, check ideas before committing to irreversible work, and have major projects checked by a measurer during the work and on completion.

David Chivers – International Measurer – offers advice to old, wooden boat owners

The unique ability to restore older boats without sacrificing performance provides longevity for the Class. We know the beauty of the Dragon and it holds a special place in the world of classic yachts. This position enhances the reputation of the Class as a whole.

However, the growth of interest and ownership of older wooden boats can lead to problems with the Class rules. Maintenance of the rules has given the Class its firm foundation and this must not diminish. Dragon restoration is to be encouraged, but it must be within the rules.

I recently wrote in the International Newsletter on improvements allowed in wooden boats, but please do not forget that the other rules regarding the rig, sails and most importantly the construction. There are measurements for all parts, right down to the lifting eyes. The value of a Dragon is that it is a 'Dragon' and not a similar looking boat. A boat outside the rules cannot hold a measurement certificate and will become a disappointment when regatta entry is refused. Please do not give yourselves or a future owner grief, and ensure your boats remain within the Class rules. For those of you considering restoration projects please make sure you and/or your boat builder has a set of up to date rules. If in doubt check your ideas before you commit yourself to an irreversible course. If major work is anticipated, then the project should be checked by a measurer during and on completion.

I look forward to seeing more restored Dragons, but please ask if you have any queries.

— *David Chivers*

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