

## Welcome to the S4E Newsletter

### Is Universal Design an art or science?

We had been ignorantly designing and building our sailboats for about 10 years when we received an email in 2002 from Ishi Masaaki Shiraisi who worked to promote Universal Design in Japan. His group, Japan Productive Aging Research Centre had been shown a video of our boats in action by a volunteer with Sailability Japan. Ishi wrote that his group were shocked, as our boats were the amongst the finest examples of Universal Design they had seen. He was also the Chair of the Universal Design stream of the United Nation's 6th International Conference on Aging being held in Perth Australia later in the year. He invited us to attend and present our boats to the world. We found this very exciting as we had never heard of UD so set about learning what this Universal Design could be.

Well it turns out that Universal Design is a discipline which creates products and services that everyone can use, while Conventional Design focuses on goods for able bods. Disabled Design creates things for disabled people, while Adaptive Design is configuring Conventional Design to make it accessible to disabled and other excluded variations of people.

You can adapt and modify a conventional design until it manages to include most, until it appears to arrive at a similar destination to where UD began. But inevitably it will be a conglomerate of stop gap solutions and not the accessible, intuitive, sustainable, affordable and visually attractive package which is the highest quality UD.

Along the way I noticed that conventional and adaptive design pigeonholed everyone into one category or another, like people are blind or sighted, or visually impaired, they are ambulant or use a wheelchair, they are even girls or boys, whereas Universal Design accepted their difference as normal. So it seemed that adaptive design and its products follow a binary development process, step by step including those others, whereas UD is a fully inclusive non binary statement as is.

If you think about the nature of design and its source as a vision, the UD creation grew from the belief that all people are equals. They are equals because at their core is a spark of conscious life, which is non binary in nature, which is probably the difference between being alive or an artificially intelligent robot.

I'm constantly reminded of this when working on a new boat as until it has ticked all the boxes it keeps suggesting little tweaks till I sense it's come alive, then I know it's finished.. So from that it's all really an art with not much science.

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## Universal Design.. continued

Another consideration into the nature of UD is that conventional design focuses on being popular with the mainstream. But being popular with the mainstream doesn't mean it's either excellent or exceptional. More likely neither if its dominant status was achieved through marketing and spin, downplaying its shortcomings to appeal to the majority, many of whom will be normal, impressionable and gullible people. They go with the flow, it's human nature to go with the mainstream.

Examples are the mainstream dominance of Windows over Apple's OS and the adoption of VHS over Beta. It can also be argued that conventional design has to be mediocre as by its very definition it appeals to the average, and being average is somewhere between the best and worst.

Of course there are exceptions, but generally I'd venture that mainstream design, by its very definition can be mediocre, so if you start the inclusive adaptive design process from mediocrity its conclusion will fall far short of the natural elegant perfection of first class UD that just is.

Here's a response, drawn from the above, to a recent request on how to get the best performance from a Liberty. "I'm sorry we don't have a polar diagram of the Liberty. When I design a boat it keeps getting tweaked till I sense it's come alive, then I know it's finished. It's all really an art with not much science."

I remember back in 2004 at the first Liberty World Championship at Blairgowrie. Zoltan was leading the fleet surfing down waves and sitting back eating his lunch, not paying too much attention. The boat was changing its course as it responded to wind and waves, while close behind was Peter who sailed a 2.4, representing Australia, at the Sydney Paralympics.








Peter was fiddling with the sheets and other adjustments, changing course while trying to get a bit more speed to catch Zoltan. But Zoltan sailed away to win the series. I could see the difference in their approaches. Peter was applying all his mental energy and logic trying to overcome Zoltan who was relaxed and care free. Peter was closed, while Zoltan was open.

I put it down to Zoltan being in love as he had re-united with his childhood sweetheart and a week before this event they had got married at a ceremony in Sydney at Bradleys Head, a headland overlooking Sydney Harbour with a full view of the iconic Opera House and Harbour Bridge.

Us wedding party guests sat on a rock wall with the couple before us, but I was looking beyond as this was a Saturday and the 18ft skiffs were racing with a turning mark just below us. There was a lot of activity going on on the harbour so it was a memorable wedding.

But the real message from these times correlates with what I said above about the design being tweaked till I sensed it had come alive. So I imagine the Liberty, like all of us living things, responds best when it's being driven with love".

Chris Mitchell, Hansa Sailing

	1. GOLD. The Hansa Worlds is a celebration of inclusion, where people are encouraged to sail solo, or in a team, and be competitive regardless of any inhibiting condition. All are welcome, regardless of age, size, shape, colour, gender etc, any aspect or difference in the physical or mental body they inhabit is irrelevant.
	2. PURPLE. Where sailboats are classified, not people. Sailing club organized multi class events, where boats with the appropriate Time Correction Factor are welcome. The races are timed and adjusted according to the boat's TCF. The Hansa classes have Portsmouth Yardsticks and other recognized TCF's so regularly compete in these events around the world.
	3. BLUE. An event where 2 opposites form a team, like a disabled person steering with an able bodied crew handling the sheets. A team can also be one of each gender, or double down with both genders, one able, one disabled. The point here being it's open to all and doesn't sub classify according to aspects of the sailors body or mind.
	4. GREEN. Events using conventional classes where a UD or other specially designed or modified craft is introduced so a disabled person can be "included" in the otherwise Able Bodied fleet. The higher the % of UD or modified craft included in the overall fleet the higher the "inclusiveness" of the event, particularly if there is no mandate that only disabled people can sail in the more accessible craft.
	5. YELLOW. Events where binary opposites of able bodied and disabled are segregated into separate events, particularly for disabled people only as here able bods are excluded. These can be further subdivided into male and female and other sub groups.
	6. PINK. Events for specific sub groups of disabled people, like blind sailing for vision impaired people and Special Olympics, which brings intellectually disabled athletes together periodically for their multi sport, multi discipline world games.
	7. RED. Events for only the most elite athletes across numerous disciplines, only the best representing their nation, as in the Olympics. The Paralympics goes a step further excluding all but disabled people, with sub group classifications according to mental or physical ability separating athletes to compete against sub groups of peers.

## 2024 Hansa European Championships

There are now less than 75 days until the 2024 European Hansa Class Championships.

The regatta will be hosted by the Royal Yacht Club Sneek in the Netherlands.

Invited classes for the Championships will be the Hansa 2.3, Hansa 303 singles and doubles and Hansa Liberty.

Competitors from 10 different countries will join in the local sailors from September 14th to 21st.

Entries are still being accepted until August 15th. More information, including accommodation options are available on the regatta website link below.

[European Championships – Hansa Regionals](#)



## Fabulous Photos from France



Two great shots of Hansa boats from France were taken this northern summer.

The first, perfectly timed photo taken by Joss Thax (pictured left) captures a great image of some local geese flying past the Hansa sailors competing at the Hansa North Cup on Lake Conchil-leTemple in Berck in late March.

The second shot, below, was captured by photographer Laurence Mao at the picturesque Mont-Saint-Michel during a leg of the torch relay for the Paris 2024

Olympics where the Hansa 303's were used to give a demonstration of sailing.



## Racing in Barcelona

Hansa 303s singles and doubles sailors are invited to compete in the Kakapo Open Race, to be held at the Barcelona International Sailing Centre from July 15th to 21st.

More information, including entry list and registration is available via

[this link.](#)



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## 2024 Herb Meyer Regatta in San Francisco

The 2024 Herb Meyer Regatta, hosted by BAADS, will take place in San Francisco on August 3rd & 4th.

The invited Hansa classes are the Hansa 303 and Liberty.

This annual iconic event, named for the late Herb Meyer, takes place in the waters of San Francisco Bay, adjacent to the San Francisco Giants baseball stadium.

Entry is now open via the regatta website link [here](#)



## Italian Hansa Class turns 10!

The Italian Hansa Class Association has turned 10 this year. In honour of the milestone, they have created a special anniversary logo to be used in 2024.

The class recently held their 303 championships in Venice. You can see lots of great pictures and results on their [Facebook page](#).



## 2025 Hansa Worlds to be held in Sydney

The 2025 Hansa Class World and International Championships will be held at Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Newport, Sydney.

The invited classes are the Hansa 2.3, 303 singles and doubles, Liberty and SKUD 18. This will be the first time that all the Hansa Classes have competed at our Worlds since 2016 in Medemblik.

The Organising Authority are hard at work on arranging the event, and have compiled an Expression of Interest form on their website - [www.hansaworlds.org](http://www.hansaworlds.org).

This EOI will assist with the planning on the event, charter boat requirements and volunteer requirements. It is NOT the online entry, which will open shortly.

So, if you are planning on competing in next year's Worlds, then please complete the EOI form on the [ENTRY page](#) of the regatta website.



## World Sailing's Para Inclusive Strategy launched



World Sailing is targeting a return to the Paralympic Games after publishing its first Para Inclusive Strategy which will guide the growth of the sport through to 2029.

You can read and download the strategy from the World Sailing website [here](#).

## Asia Pacific Championship to be held in Queensland

The 2024 Hansa Class Asia Pacific Championships are being held at Southport Yacht Club, Queensland from October 20th to 25th 2024.

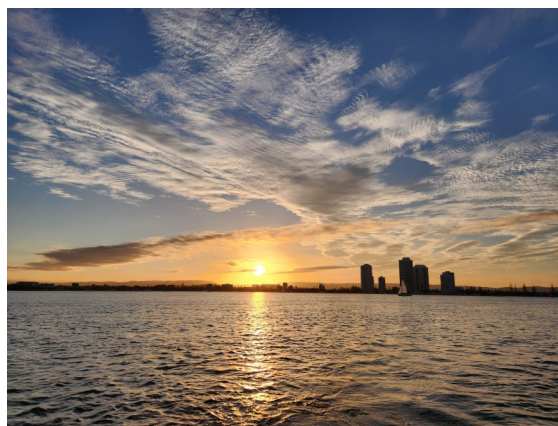
Invited classes are the Hansa 2.3, 303 singles and doubles, Liberty and SKUD18.

Currently entries have been received from sailors from around Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Hong Kong.

This event will also incorporate the Australian and Queensland Hansa Class Championships.

Entry is open until midnight October 1st.

See the regatta website [here](#).



# Upcoming Events



## August 2024

*Herb Meyer Regatta* San Francisco USA Aug 3rd & 4th [www.baads.org/sailing/racing](http://www.baads.org/sailing/racing)

## September 2024

*Swiss Hansa Class Championships* Arbon, Switzerland Sept 6th -8th — [www.sailability.ch](http://www.sailability.ch)

*European Championships* Sneek, Netherlands Sept 14th—21st [European Championships – Hansa Regionals](#)

*Victorian Hansa Championships* Lysterfield Victoria. Sept 20th—22nd [www.aushansaclass.org.au](http://www.aushansaclass.org.au)

*13th Peace Cup* Hiroshima, Japan Sept 21st—22nd—[Japan Hansa Class Association \(hansaclass-japan.org\)](http://hansaclass-japan.org)

## October 2024

*Hansa West Cup* Nantes. France Oct 5th & 6th — [lavoile-ensemble.org](http://lavoile-ensemble.org)

*Asia Pacific Championships* Gold Coast, Queensland, Oct 20-25th [Asia Pacific Championships – Hansa Regionals](#)

## November 2024

*Sail Melbourne* Brighton, Victoria Nov 28th to Dec 1st. [www.sailmelbourne.com.au](http://www.sailmelbourne.com.au)

## March 2024

*Hansa Class World & International Championships* Sydney, Australia March 23—30 [www.hansaworlds.org](http://www.hansaworlds.org)

## Expressions of Interest for 2026 Regional Championships

The International Hansa Class Association is now seeking expressions of interest for our Regional Championships in 2026.

These regions are Europe, Asia Pacific and Americas. The classes are the Hansa 2.3, 303 singles and doubles and Liberty. The SKUD18 can be included if sufficient boats are available for the regatta.

Requirements and more information can be found within the Race Management and Event Management guidelines here on our website – [World and International Championships – International Hansa Class Association](#).

The official Expression of Interest form is contained within the Race Management Guidelines.