



PROPOSED IFDCO BYE LAWS

Introduction

Some two years ago Stephen Parry suggested that the IFDCO bye laws contained a number of items which were clearly out of date and needed to be updated. He asked me to make suggestions and I probably took this too seriously. However, this has led to the General Committee re-evaluating the bye laws and hopefully bringing them in line with the wishes of the current members.

The IFDCO is a Foundation established at Amsterdam to promote, develop and coordinate International Flying Dutchman Class competitive sailing throughout the world, and is governed by a set of Foundation Rules which are binding under Dutch law. The Foundation Rules do allow the General Committee to amend the IFDCO bye laws and this is what we have done as a first step. To amend the Foundation Rules requires prior notice and a two-thirds majority of the whole General Committee and then requires authorization under Dutch law, so any such amendments will be a subsequent step in the modernization of IFDCO.

Proposed 2012 IFDCO Bye Laws

The proposed amendments to the bye laws fall into three categories, namely i) trivial updates and correction of typos, ii) organizational changes such as the European Championships and Series and iii) fundamental changes in the structure of the organization. It is the latter that we will be most concerned with.

The Foundation Rules specify that the Executive Committee shall be commissioned by co-optation and appointed *casu quo* re-appointed by the General Committee, and

that General Committee members denoted as Commodores, who must be active Flying Dutchman sailors, be commissioned out of National Flying Dutchman Class Associations, that is selected by the General Committee members! The General Committee will have the final approval of the proposed candidate(s). Furthermore the Executive Committee shall choose from its midst a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and Vice-Presidents. This type of top down structure was the norm 60 years ago when IFDCO was founded and has served well till now. However, it is not suitable for a modern more democratic organization and so some fundamental changes are proposed.

When the class was Olympic IFDCO had National FD Associations in all major sailing nations and it would have been too cumbersome for them all to be represented on the General Committee thus the Commodores were instituted to represent the continental regions. Since that time the class has concentrated in a smaller number of Nations and the Continental Commodores have to a large extent become an unnecessary extra layer. At the World Championships prior to the Annual General Committee Meeting the secretary organizes a "Competitors hearing", at which the members of the executive explain what they have been doing, and listen to proposals from the members, and a "National Secretaries meeting" at which reports from the National FD Associations are presented. At the subsequent Annual General Committee Meeting the Commodores then presented précis of these National reports and it was felt that with the reduced

number of National secretaries they could now present them directly at the Annual General Committee Meeting. Thus at the 2011 Worlds in Malcesine it was proposed that the Commodores be eliminated and that the National Secretaries become members of the General Committee. The meeting however felt that such a draconian measure required further study and established a subcommittee to come up with proposals for modernizing the organization.

For various reasons the subcommittee was not able to devote the required time to the task, which has turned out to be much more time consuming than anticipated, and so at Ronald's instigation I undertook to revise the proposals, which were then approved by the subcommittee as a basis for discussion at the 2012 Worlds in Santa Cruz. Unfortunately a number of the key members of the committees were not in attendance in Santa Cruz and taking into account the important nature of these revisions of the bye laws the Annual General Committee Meeting was deferred until November in Europe.

However, the opportunity to have informal discussions with many sailors in Santa Cruz, and the very unfortunate circumstance that Alberto's crew had to return to Italy for family reasons, meant the Alberto and I had the opportunity to sit down and go through the proposed bye laws in detail. This took four days and included two meetings with Peter Doran, Zsophia Csanda, Lyn Robson, Jan Lechler and John Best, all of whom contributed constructive suggestions which we incorporated.

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It was hoped to streamline the executive, and it was even suggested it be reduced to three members, but the Foundation Rules require that the number of Commodores be less than the executive, so we settled for an executive of:

The President
 The General Secretary
 The Honorary Secretary
 The Treasurer
 The Vice president Championships
 The Vice president Communications
 The Vice president Technical
 The Vice president Development

The latter position is a new one intended to represent all the National FD Associations whose secretaries are not on the General Committee. If the proposed bye laws are adopted then it is hoped that there will be a number of enthusiastic candidates for this position. The suggested bye laws propose that:

- 1) When a vacancy occurs, new members of the General Committee be proposed by five IFDCO members from three countries and then elected by e-mail vote of all the members of IFDCO. Short Curriculum Vita of the candidates together with a photo will be posted on the FD website.
- 2) The Chief Measurer and the Boat Registrar both perform essential functions for the class and can provide vital information to the General Committee and so will become members of the General Committee.
- 3) Rather than co opt Commodores, the National secretaries of the five major National FD associations become Commo-

dores and thus members of the General Committee. At present these would be GER, ITA, NED, USA+MEX, AUS+NZL but could be expanded. The name Commodore has been retained in order not to have to change the Foundation Rules, but their appointment has been radically changed. As an aside all past Commodores are sincerely thanked for their service to the class, this proposed change in no way reflects on their past contributions.

7) The class webmaster and Bulletin editor are ex officio members of the communications sub committee and the Transportation Officer is a member of the Championship sub committee.

These are the major changes in the proposed new IFDCO bye laws which are presented for comment and suggestions before they are considered by the General Committee for adoption. They have NOT



- 4) The proposed Championship Rules now become a separate document as they are invoked by the Class Rules and therefore part of them. They have been significantly updated and include the Ranking List scoring systems.
- 5) The FD Yearbook will be updated on the class website and only published occasionally for publicity and new members.
- 6) Each Vice President will be the chairman of his sub committee, members of which he is free to choose subject to General Committee approval.

been adopted and can in any case be amended at any time by the General Committee. It is hoped, however, that they form a basis for discussion.

Many people have contributed their suggestions to this review of the IFDCO bye laws and they deserve many thanks, especially Alberto, however, any errors or omissions are solely my responsibility.

Peter Hinrichsen
 IFDCO Vice President Technical
 6 October 2012