



## General Secretaries report 2013

ON AGCM AND COMPETITORS MEETING,  
3th of June 2013

APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

It is no secret that there was some controversy regarding the nomination and appointment of new officers prior to the worlds. To resolve this issue a procedure was adopted and published on 26 May to resolve this democratically. Ultimately only one nomination proceeded to a vote at the competitors meeting and a unanimous vote was recorded for each position. Thus, I was appointed General Secretary, Paul Hemker was appointed V-P Technical and Tony Lyall was appointed V-P Development of the IFDCO. For the future a clear democratic process is envisaged, and a new Bye Law has been drafted to give affect to this.

It is as follows:

“When an election is required by the Bye Laws it is to be conducted and concluded by a vote of all current IFDCO members present at the competitors meeting. The IFDCO General Secretary will act as the returning officer for the election and will advise the general committee of the result. The general committee shall then

appoint the new members of the general committee in accordance with the IFDCO Foundation Rules.

At any election a member may hold up to 5 proxies from other IFDCO members. Any such proxy shall be in writing and include an endorsement from their national secretary that all such proxies are from current IFDCO members with a valid and current membership card.”

It should be born in mind by all IFDCO members that in two years the President and Treasurer both come to the end of their terms and the class as a whole must think to the future.

The Committee wishes to express a vote of thanks for the many years of service of Peter Doran as IFDCO General Secretary and Peter Hinrichsen as V-P Technical. It is hoped that they will both be able to attend next years World Championships in Largs Bay and the class as a whole can express their thanks in person.

### MANAGEMENT OF THE IFDCO

The Treasurer reported that the class remains in a

strong financial position and has an appropriate reserve of funds. A full copy of the accounts and budget are available to those members who want one via their national secretary or from me.

There is currently no sponsorship arrangement in place for the IFDCO, but discussions have been continuing with Gottifredi Maffioli. A sub-committee is to be formed to approach appropriate sponsors for the class as a whole, or for specific combinations of events such as the World Championships and Europe Cup series.

The Committee is considering a detailed review of the IFDCO website. In particular, it is intended that a more detailed calendar of all FD events be published on the IFDCO website, similar to that currently maintained on the German website. Over time the IFDCO website will be updated and have its content expanded. The new content is to include material previously on the old website and new material.

There was discussion at the AGCM about the desirability of producing a class yearbook annually, in addition to the Bulletin.



## General Secretaries report 2013

No decision has been reached at this stage and the Committee would be assisted by member's views as to the desirability of this publication.

An issue which has arisen in the past is that some members buy their stickers at championships from the Boat Registrar rather than from their national secretary. For the future the procedure to be adopted is that the Boat Registrar will only sell IFDCO membership stickers to a member if (1) the member is unable to purchase a sticker from their national secretary because of the national secretaries absence from the championship (otherwise the member is to purchase a sticker from their national secretary) and in that event the member must agree to pay any additional dues which are ordinarily payable to their national association, or (2) the member is from a country which does not have a national association.

The national secretaries meeting scheduled during the Worlds was unfortunately canceled because sailing finished late and it could not be conveniently reconvened. An informal meeting of national secretaries is proposed for October, during the German National Championships.

### FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The VP Championships has reported that planning for the 2014 worlds in Largs, Scotland, and for 2015 in Sydney, Australia, are both well advanced.

For 2014, and in the future, the Committee is keen to support non-European competitors to attend the worlds. There are cost difficulties in shipping part filled containers and consideration needs to be given to more than just a subsidy. Whilst container subsidies will continue for future world championships, it is intended that the IFDCO will additionally support the supply of quality charter boats to encourage non-Europeans to attend the World Championships when a container cannot be sent cost affectively. To achieve this Germany, the Netherlands and Italy will be requested to, when possible, make available their class promotional boats or appropriate private boats for charter. The approval and financial support for each charter is to be on a case by case basis, and therefore sailors will need to individually approach the IFDCO for support.

For 2015 the Committee has decided that there is not to be a dedicated separate European Championships. The reasoning for this decision is that a strong Europeans tends to

detract from attendance at the World Championships because it inevitably competes with the non-European event. This was observed in 2008 with New Zealand and in 2012 with Santa Cruz. The Committee intends to promote the World Championships as the premier event for the FD Class each year. Supporting and encouraging attendance at the worlds is desirable for the class as a whole. As a substitute an additional Euro Cup event will be added to the program.

The Committee has decided that the program for future World Championships will be:  
2016; Steinhude, Germany.  
2017; St. Petersburg, Russia (To be confirmed at the 2014 AGCM at Largs).  
2018; To be determined.

There was some general discussion about potential venues for the 2018 world championships, but there are no firm proposals. It was agreed that after St Petersburg it was desirable to have the worlds at a strong European venue which will attract a large fleet. Possible venues discussed were in Italy and the Netherlands. An oral presentation was made at the competitors meeting to host a championship at Portorose/Piran in Slovenia.



## General Secretaries report 2013

No decision has been made and invitations are invited to be submitted for consideration at the competitors meeting and AGCM at Largs in July 2014.

The Euro Cup Program for 2014 will be:

- Altea in March.
- Kiel week in June.
- Italy, in or around September, (at a venue to be determined).
- Gulcher Memorial in October.
- One additional 3 day event in another country is also proposed for 2014, but its location is not yet finalised.

A number of issues arose for future consideration for Championships. These included (1) the desirability of insisting that the spare day be retained in World Championships where possible, (2) that when scheduling events allowance should be made for competitors to drive home with minimal interference with their work, (3) The role of VP Championships in giving instructions to race committees, (4) the protest notification rule used in the sailing instructions. All these issues will be considered further over the next year.

### MEASUREMENT AND TECHNICAL

The measurers report is to be published separately,

but in short the topics discussed were as follows:

- Whether a larger spinnaker, such as the 505 spinnaker, should be trialed and the FD rules changed.
- Whether loose footed mainsails should be permitted.
- Whether the rules regarding electronic compasses and digital cameras should be reviewed.
- The procedure for weighing boats at a championship when presented with wet ropes.
- Corrector weights.
- Costs charged by measurers at Championships.
- The identification of measurers in different countries.

All of the foregoing issues are to be the subject of consideration by the V-P Technical and Chief Measurer, together with a sub-committee. I will not preempt their consideration of each issue, except to set out two resolutions of significance.

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First, a bigger spinnaker trial has been adopted so that the maximum number of FD sailors can form an informed opinion on whether to change the spinnaker. No other changes to the mast, spinnaker halyard height or pole length are included in the trial. Because of the importance of this trial the resolution is set out in full: **"RESOLVE** that from 1 August 2013 the following temporary rule will apply up to the commencement of the 2014 AGCM in Largs, Scotland:



## General Secretaries report 2013



1 That at any Flying Dutchman race (with the exception of the World Championships, a National Championship, a Euro Cup event or a regatta which counts towards a national ranking list having a ranking factor greater than 1.2) it is permissible to use either a spinnaker complying with IFDCO Class rules 102-106 or a spinnaker complying with the International 505 Class Rules. It

is noted that in Flying Dutchman events it is not permissible under this rule to change the spinnaker hoist height or other equipment, and IFDCO Class Rule 69 continues to apply.

2 Any national class association may make additional guidelines for the commencement of this temporary rule and to des-

ignate at which regattas it shall apply.

3 The question of whether the International Flying Dutchman Class should change IFDCO Class Rules 102-106, at a time after 1 January 2016, is not to be determined prior to the 2014 AGM in Largs Scotland.

Second, the Chief Measurer and V-P Technical, are to prepare a modified rule to permit booms without a sail track and loose footed mainsails. It is expected this will reduce the cost of new booms in the future, but without any change in performance. This rule will be prepared in consultation with sailmakers regarding the cost of changing existing sails. Existing booms with a track and bolt rope will remain legal in any event. An electronic survey of members' opinions will be conducted with a view to the new rule commencing in approximately 12 months.

Ed Cox

