

IFDCO ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Place: Regatta Center, MED, Medemblik, Holland
Date: Thursday, 26th July 2018
Begin: 16:00
End: 19:00

Participants and distribution list for the General Committee:

Executive Officers:

- Tony Lyall (President - not present, called in via Skype)
- Meike Greten (General Secretary)
- Peter van Koppen (Treasurer)
- Rinaldo Rinaldi
(VP Championships – not present, called in via Skype)
- Marc Strittmatter (VP Communications)
- Paul Hemker (VP Technical)
- Svend Vieweg (VP Development)

Administrative Officers:

- Tanja Heijnk (Chief Measurer)
- Zsófia Csanda (Boat Registrar)

Commodores

(National Secretaries of 3 major EU FD Nations + AUS & NZL, USA):

- GER: Tom Greten (not present)
- ITA: No representative present
- NED: Fred Schaaf (not present)
- AUS & NZL: Ian McCrossin
- USA: Paul Hemker

TOP 1 Presidents Opening Remarks

Tony Lyall who cannot participate today, calls in via Skype. He thanks the whole committee for all the work. He enjoys his time as president and cannot fulfill his duties anymore. He steps back by today as President of the IFDCO.

TOP 2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Lyall and Rinaldo Rinaldi.

TOP 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGCM – Scarlino 2017

The Minutes of the AGCM held 28th September 2017 in Scarlino are agreed.

TOP 4 Matters arising from those Minutes not covered by Agenda items

No matters arising.

TOP 5 President's Report

Firstly, I apologise in advance that this is a rather brief report but not being able to sail & therefore absent from most events & championships for the last few years means I've very quickly lost touch with what's happening.

Activity

Generally, in Europe the class is holding up well however I'm seeing that entries for some events are slowly declining.

Looking at the wider picture as a class we should be starting to get very worried about what's happening in USA, AUS, NZL and even in GBR, because if we don't we will very soon become a European mainland centric class. I have to say it's a bit worrying that the decline particularly in the USA & UK seems to have come about without even a raised eyebrow from IFDCO!

It's something I've been asking for many years and that's a list of the number of IFDCO Members sorted by Country say for the last 10 years, this would be a very useful tool for the GC to see the trends and then the can act & plan accordingly

Whilst I think we all agree that the young sailors are out future and as a Class we need to do everything we can to encourage them, however equally we need to make sure we retain the current sailors because if we don't there won't be a viable class for these young sailors to 'grow' into.

In last year's report I outlined what I thought were the priorities for 2018 -2020 and where we needed to focus our energies ...

- Increased promotional activity to attract new members into the class.
- Take the young sailors initiative the next step and establish a youth development programme.
- Attract a major Class sponsor. We desperately need a significant injection of external financial resources if we are going to properly support a youth development programme. We also need to be in a position where we can offer substantially better grants towards container costs to enable more people to attend our World Championships.

Alas my absence from the FD scene has meant any progress in these areas has stalled.

Championships Events and Regattas

We were all on a massive high having had over 100 boats at both of the last two WC's (Steinhude & then Scarlino) so just 74 boats here in Medemblik is a massive disappointment especially when we would normally expect something around 100 boats for a Championship in Holland (112 in Dan Over in 1998 & 92 in Medemblik in 2009).

It would seem from what I'm hearing & being told is that the choice of venue and timing are big factors when competitors are deciding whether to go or not to go to major Championships.

It's always going to be difficult to satisfy everyone, so it's always going to be a delicate balance between maximising attendance whilst at the same time not excluding any one segment of our membership. For this reason, I think much more care, time & thought must be given during the selection process when we are choosing venues for World & European Championships.

Communications

Communications are key to the success of any organisation whether it be in business, Charitable organisations or sports clubs such as ours. The members want and expect quick & easy access to information.

I can't understate just how important it is for us to continue communicating on all mediums, we are in an era where we can't take anything for granted, we have to work hard not only to attract new members but also to keep the existing ones.

Summary

People's lives are busier than ever so getting the balance right between work/family & leisure activities can be a real struggle. Sailing is a time consuming & expensive hobby so we need to remain mindful of that when we are planning our regatta programmes.

As we all know the FD is a great boat that is both exciting, challenging yet so satisfying to sail, but that might not be enough in itself to attract sailors in the future.

The world of sailing is changing, 'foiling' is the new must do, IOC are looking for more diversity & inclusiveness, so it's looking inevitable that there will be changes in the Olympic Classes and the conventional/traditional classes could lose out, I know discussions are going on about changing the Medal Race format, the Club League sailing is becoming really popular especially in Germany, the single handed classes are having a massive resurgence. Now all this may seem remote from us but down the line all these changes & little tweaks will have an impact on our sport & the FD Class, so we need to be prepared.

In closing. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President albeit for only one term. I had so many ambitions & plans, alas injury's, all starting with a simple fall here in Medemblik 3 years ago have seriously curtailed my sailing and limited my effectiveness as President for which I apologise. I want to thank all those that have served on the GC during my tenure it's been a pleasure to work with you all. I wish the Class and all it's the very best for the future. Hope to see you all on the race course sometime soon.

TONY LYALL

TOP 6 General Secretary Report (including any item from World Sailing)

Meike Greten mentions following points:

- The interaction between the countries have to be improved and a better exchange of information over the whole world is necessary to have a better coherence in the whole class.
- We will provide an iPhone/Android App for the whole IFDCO class to spread news from each country to the whole FD fleet all over the world. This App should be THE communication channel for all FD sailors. There should be no necessity to install local Apps or similar things.
- We need to update the Byelaws in terms of the wording "ISAF" vs. "World Sailing". A proposal will be send to the Committee by Meike.
- World Sailing
- WS implemented a new Regulation 38: Mandatory Reporting of Safety Incidents
- Meike will check why WS is not updating our information on their website regarding titels, pictures, dates etc.

TOP 7 Treasurers Report

Accounts for 2017

Peter van Koppen hands out and presents the financial report in a detailed way.

Peter highlights the following points:

- A lot of sails were sold 2017, good income from Sail-buttons.
- The costs for measurement were so high because Pauls puts in his costs for several years back. They are all correct and were paid.
- The Bank account has a total of roughly 75.000 €. It is necessary for the class to keep a sum of round about 50.000 € for a championship if there may be no volunteering sailing club hosting a World championship.

Decision: IFDCO supports the Dutch organization of the WC 2018 in regards of prices because there are not 100 boats as expected. A total of 700 € is paid to the Dutch WC 2018 organization.

Decision: Creating new measurement certificates for owner changes are free of charge. The creation of new certificates in case of any lost will be 30 € (50 € on spot)

which needs to be paid to IFDCO. Peter will prepare an invoice model.

The report is agreed.

Update on the Finances for 2018 to date

The budget 2018 was presented by Peter van Koppen. There are no special expenses in 2018 expected.

Decision: The youth will be supported by a "Youth Development" budget of 1.500 € for training purposes and other things to support the happiness of the young sailors below 25 years.

The report is agreed.

Budget for 2019

The budget for 2019 will be similar to 2018. No special expenses are expected.

Decision: Grant for containers for the Worlds 2019 in New Zealand is agreed to 2.500 €. Another 1.000 € is agreed for as a grant for youth (same conditions like Youth Grand). Applications till 15th October 2018 to Peter van Koppen. The 1.000 € grand will be divided by the amount of applications.

Decision: For the Worlds in New Zealand (in general "overseas") the costs for officials will not be taken over by IFDCO (e.g. Boat Registrar, VPs). Peter will double check the minutes of AGCM 2014, 2015 as this was already discussed in those years.

TOP 8 Officers Reports

VP Championships

Update on the Worlds in New Zealand 2019:

The notice of race (NOR) is updated and hangs out already at the Worlds notice board in Medemblik, Marc will publish it on the official website. The course may be shortened, but sailing will be first sausage, then triangle. Decision: Appendix P of the Racing Rules of Sailing will be tested for the FD class in Hungary at the European Championship.

Decision: Rinaldo will take care that the Championship rules will apply at the next events.

Decision: The Championship Rules need some updates; each member of the General Committee will send out his/her comments so that we can come to a decision in a short time.

Decision: The events for the EuroCup 2019 will be the same as 2018 (Altea, Kiel Week, Dutch Championship, Achensee, Lake Garda, Czech Championship).

Decision: The European Championship in Hungary will be from 16.-20. September 2019 (Hungary Nations as warming up on 6.-8. September 2019, Measurement from 13.-15. September 2019). There will be no lay day. For the Worlds 2020 the General Committee received an application from Spain to sail in Altea including a pre-race (free of costs for all participants).

Decision: The World Championship 2020 will be in Altea some when in September.

We received some applications for 2021 (verbally) from Warnemünde, Germany, Lake Garda, Italy, Poland, Austria and Portugal.

Decision: Rinaldo will take care, that each nation will fill out the checklist and questionnaire with detailed information so that the General Committee can decide in the next meeting where to go.

Decision: The General Committee will create an online template for application for a World/European Championship this will then be send automatically to the whole Committee. Rinaldo will work out the checklist.

Official Proposal by Marc and some others: Increase number of races at regattas per day. Decision: We whole fleet will be asked, it is not a decision which the GC can do. Official Proposal from Sascha Schröder: No WC/EC in time of exams (difficult for a worldwide-class). Decision: Try to do so, based on costs/winds of the venue.

VP Communications

Marc presents the work of him and his subcommittee with Tim and Benedict (GER 90).

Established new homepage www.fd-worlds.com (hosted at Marcs hoster) for all official world events. Bulletin: Marc complains that no more material is coming in. It is very difficult to create a magazine without information from the sailors.

Marc invested the new budget of 1.000 € for bumper stickers, which were send out with the last bulletin, therefore Marc covered 500 € from his personal account, because he wanted high quality and UV protected stickers.

Marc wants to spend money in professional videos for a better promotion.

Decision: Youtube Channel – one place for all FD sailing videos – will be set up by Marc and his team.

Decision: Promoting videos creation, 1.000 € for Marc. Sailfd.com Website may be hacked. Check links to different countries.

VP Technical

Nothing!

VP Development

Svend was out of communication the last months. He works on the questionnaire, talks to communication expert and also to FD sailors. He found an easy tool to do questionnaire and small survey. This will be sent out to General Committee soon, then national secretaries for translations. Svend asks for feedback.

TOP 9 Commodore Reports

- Australia & New Zealand
- 10 people at national championship each year
- Problem: aging, very few younger people
- Gain from having WC in Sydney (3 new boats)
- Stable, 6 boats to NZ
- Germany
- Stable
- 250 sailors, around 110 boats in ranking list
- 1 promo boat from German class organization, 1 boat from Ernst & Kurt for young sailors
- Italy
- -
- Netherlands
- New members but class gets old
- Need attention to dutch class
- USA
- Class Secretary enthusiastic again, 22 members, 3 to NZ Worlds

Decision: Bill donated a Silver Bowl. Rules to get it at a World Championship: 18 or younger (had not the 19th birthday in the year of the event), crew or helm, best result overall with discard (both names of team will be put on the engrave incl. a star for the one who is under 19).

TOP 10 Boat Registration Report

Zsafia presents the numbers of the last year and this year:

Boats:

- In 2017 6 new boats were registered.
- In 2018 up to now 4 new boats (all Mader) were registered + 2 Planatech are coming.
- 2018: around 26 boat owner changes
- Average age of boats: 15+

Sailbuttons:

- In 2017 281 buttons were sold.
- In 2018 up to now 132 buttons were sold.

TOP 11 Chief Measurers Report

The measurement at this Worlds in Medemblik was well organized by the Dutch Team around Tanja. No big problems. A lot of corrections to rudder and centerboards, 10 % needed weight on the boat.

Bought a new swing to bring it anywhere. Boat measuring went very fast. Tanja will remeasure templates and also check measurement tools.

Decision: Test in NZ: Lottery first top ten, check one boat, penalty "Rule 69" if weight over 4 kg is missing, under that limit "DNE" in the last race of the day.

Article in Bulletin: People have to take care of paperwork, measurement forms have to be checked before NZ as Zsafia will not be present.

TOP 12 Matters arising from other Meetings

▪ National Secretaries Meeting
The meeting was hosted by Meike with 13 participants. Current development can be seen in the nations:

- ITA: 30 boats
- NED: 15-20 boats
- AUT: 15 boats sailing, 1 promo boat
- GER: 250 members, 120 boats in ranking list
- ESP: 9 boats
- CZE: 10 boats
- POL: 20 boats
- GBR: 3 active boats
- SUI: 2 boats

- RUS: 10 boats in Moscow, 3 in Siberia, 8 in St. Petersburg; 5 big events, 1 promo boat
- DEN: 1 boat

- POL is interested in organizing an European or World Championship.
- DEN is promoting the vintage games in September.
- CZE promotes their championship as "500 free-beer regatta".
- Competitor's Forum

The competitor's forum was held by Meike. She addressed following topics:

- Official information that Tony will step down as President and that we received no nominations within the time as announced on the website.
- Europeans 2019 will be Hungary
- Applications for Worlds 2020 from Altea. The feedback from the fleet was very good.
- Asked for availability of smartphones within the fleet and if it would be interesting to get an IFDCO App – yes.
- Frank told us something about the transport to New Zealand and that it will be round about 7.000 € per container.
- We got the following proposals from the fleet:
 - For a world championship:
 - 11 or 12 races instead of 9
 - Discard in the final series
 - Lay day not necessary
 - Finish on Friday with a party, instead of sailing one more race on Saturday
 - Do the course as already discussed: downwind first, then triangle
 - The international jury proposed us to use the whistle system on the water.
 - Youth Hearing

Marc hosted a youth hearing. 10 participants from GER, ESP, NED participated.

Very happy with this event. Measurement was great and is important. All participants want more and shorter races and all like the lay day. All participants want to go to NZ, it is just a question of financial issues.

Our Spanish young sailors want more exchange with youth sailors, they are able to travel, even to Germany.

The youth has a Youth-WhatsApp-Group now.

They want a training camp before big events for youth-training with professional trainer.

Decision: Youth Development Budget to support activities like training etc. Marc is responsible to find a young sailor who takes care of the budget.

TOP 13 Election of Officers for Executive and General Committee

President:

Tony Lyall stands down as president of the IFDCO.

The process for nominations was opened on 25th of January 2018 till 1st of April 2018 via our international website www.sailifdco.com. The Byelaws define in 6.6.5 that three months before an AGCM the nominations have to be received by the General Secretary. Up to the end of April no nominations have been received.

Decision: Peter and Meike will take over Presidents tasks interim till next AGCM.

TOP 14 Any Other Business

The IFDCO has to take care of the new Data Protection Regulation of the EU. We will talk World Sailing for samples (Tony will also provide some templates).

Close of the meeting

The Annual General Committee Meetings ends at 19:00.

Signature Meike Greten

General Secretary