IFDCO Annual General Committee Meeting 2023 Meeting Minutes

Place: Gdynia, Poland

Date: Thursday, 27th July 2023

Begin: 07:07 pm

End: 11:08 pm

Participants and distribution list for the General Committee:

Executive Officers:

- Peter van Koppen (President)
- Meike Greten (General Secretary)
- Roman Houdek (Treasurer not present)
- Rinaldo Rinaldi (VP Championships not present)
- Guzmán Egea (VP Communications)
- Paul Hemker (VP Technical not present)
- Juan Egea (newly appointed VP Development)

Administrative Officers:

- Tanja Heijink (Chief Measurer)
- Tony Lyall (Boat Registrar not present)

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

- GER: Tom Greten
- ITA: Luigi Macci (not present), Piero Eustachi
- NED: Maarten Bausch
- AUS & NZL: Matthew Moore (not present)
- USA: Gerhard Panuschka (not present)

TOP 1 Presidents Opening Remarks

Peter van Koppen welcomes the Committee to this Annual General Committee Meeting 2023.

TOP 2 Apologies for Absence

See above

TOP 3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGCM

The Minutes of the AGCM held 9th September 2022 in Italy are agreed.

TOP 4 Matters arising from those Minutes not covered by Agenda items No matters arising.

TOP 5 President's Report

Peter van Koppen

With the Worlds in Poland halfway the northern season 60 boats made the trip to Gdynia. After some issues with the registration a solution was found for an easier entry and the fear of having a too small number of boats was taken away.

As the whole team of the Yacht Klub Polski Gdynia is organizing more than 10 big events every year (the Gdynia Sailing Days even takes 3 weeks) it was very pleasant working with them to set up the Worlds. Their experience was easily recognizable. All issues coming up were taken care of immediately. The organizers also made a good offer to install trackers to follow the races in full action. We will see if we like it and do it again in the future.

The idea of time slots for the measurement worked out really well. It was much more relaxed and everybody knew when it was their turn to be measured.

Sailing activity is still good in most countries. Too bad that the UK flee does not show much activity or presence at the Worlds as it was really one of the 'big' countries in the past.

In regard to the next years Worlds in Florida the question if there would be enough competitors seems to be solved. I just got a mail from down under and probably 10 boats from Australia and New Zealand will be in St. Petersburg. Also Hungary confirmed one full container with 6 boats. Together with the US fleet and the Germans, Italians, Dutch etc. we will have a big enough fleet. So no worries there I would say.

One other topic is worrying me a lot: it is the price of new boats! A new Mader right now is about € 53.000.

Also the number of boats build this year was very low. We have a nice number of builders at the moment but the price-development as such is not good for the class. It will disencourage newcomers and youngsters to join the class.

We are very aware of this development and thinking what we can about it!

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

Meike Greten

- World Sailing
 - World Sailing is optimizing its processes and communication
 - If there is any accident in our class (hurt of people) we need to report this to World Sailing immediately

- We will update the Byelaws and Championship rules
- We are working on an overall member-database
 - o Bring all in members in App

TOP 7 Treasurers Report

Roman Houdek

31.12.2022- reserved account 52.707,38 Euro

31.12.2022 - working account 61.526,82 Euro

A whopping 210 sailbuttons were sold in 2022, similar to 251 in 2019.

For 2022 we have 495 members from 14 countries.

Same as every year - It is a common practice for some members to pay the fee only when they are going to the World or European Championship.

We have higher expenses for the website, as we launched a social site an application, which is in order.

We welcomed 13 competitors under 25 years in Campione 2022.

2023

05.09.2023 - reserved account 52.707,38 Euro

05.09.2023 - working account 61.046,74 Euro

This year, the member fee will vary similar like last year.

However, compared to last year, we have higher expenses for presentation Cap, Bulletins etc. and Trademark Re-Registration.

2023 will be money for advertising in the bulletin from sail-builders.

We will receive money for advertising in the bulletin from sail-builders.

Decision: The container cost-sponsorship for the Worlds in St. Petersburg (400 €/boat) will be taken from working account.

TOP 8 Officers Reports

a) VP Championships

Rinaldo Rinaldi

WC Rules needs to be updated on our web site

WC 2024 St. Petersburg, USA

Contract/Agreement was sent to the organizers to be filled and signed.

Schedule:

Friday, March 22 - Container arrival unpacking the boats and placing the boats at the Sailing Center

Saturday, March 23 - Measurement

Sunday, March 24 - Measurement

Monday, March 25 - Free day to everybody's own disposal (eventually practice race)

Tuesday, March 26 - 2 Races before the Opening Ceremony (around 18.00)

Wednesday, March 27 - 3 Races

Thursday, March 28 - 2 Races

Friday, March 29 - Lay day (to be moved forward or backwards if the circumstances so require)

Saturday, March 30 - 3 Races and Dinner at the Club

Sunday, March 31 - 2 Races Price Giving and Closing Ceremony at the Club

Monday, April 1 - Loading the containers

Attention: Containers cannot stay in the area of the yacht club

European 2024

Possible options

- Cesenatico, Italy (bid received)
- Porto Sherry, Spain (bid received)
- Dervio, Italy (bid expected)
- Denmark (not possible before 2025)

Decision: The Bid of Porto Sherry (near Cádiz), Spain, is accepted. The Europeans 2024 and Worlds 2025 will be held in Cadiz.

Dates: Europeans after Sail GP in Cadiz (probably end of October 2024), Worlds probably 14.-23.03.2025

The next World Championships shall be on the following venues. Details and options will be clarified:

Worlds 2026: Denmark (confirmed by Committee)

Worlds 2027: CZE (Meike, Rinaldo), Backup CRO?

Jubilee Regatta 2027: Loosdrecht (Peter organizes)

Worlds 2028 (overseas): Ask South Africa, Dubai, AUS

Europeans 2028: Ask Germany, Kiel

Worlds 2029: Ask NED, Medemblik (Maarten checks), otherwise HUN, AUT

b) VP Communications

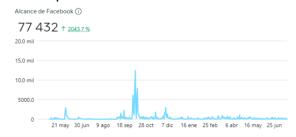
Guzmán Egea

It has been a very good year in social media. We have made a massive improvement in all the aspects, and we have reach tons of new people and persons while gaining lots of followers. We have time when we have more people visiting us and its because of the videos. We have been active all year commenting and posting posts and histories that give a sense of activity and life. The strategy is the same one that we have been doing so far. With this we will get more people and we will more visible to different sailors all around the world.

We have had a lack of videos that have limited our growth. It is crucial that we start doing more videos because it is the most important thing. We made 2 giveaways with one being very good and having lots of participants and the other one not being that good.

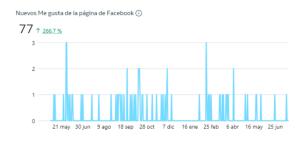
Also, it must be said that the collaboration of the FD sailors has been very limited and only some of them have collaborate with us by facilitating videos and pictures.

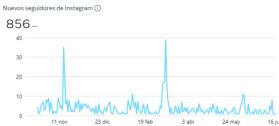
Total Impressions:





New followers:





Total Visits:





Audience:



My proposals:

1. Bulletin for 2023 and calendar for 2024

Deadline for nations: 31.10.2023 Deadline for production: 30.11.2023

Mailing: before Christmas

- → check Mailing Services to send out Bulletins to members directly
- 2. More videos for social media.
- 3. More ads and more giveaways.
- 4. Cheaper merchandising that FD sailors really want (e.g. T-Shirt with Logo).

c) VP Technical

Paul Hemker

Newly designed boats have been inspected and are expected at the 2023 Worlds. We hope this will encourage additional sailors to enter the class. This Worlds all boats are expected to be in compliance with the centerboard and rudder profile rules. In addition, we will be requiring masts to weigh with only rigging permitted in the rules. A stop at Band 3 will also be checked.

d) VP Development

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TOP 9 Commodore Reports

a) Australia & New Zealand

Matthew More

The 2023 year for Oceania has seen good sailing in Australia and New Zealand. The countries committees have been meeting remotely to look at matters such as combined regattas and attending future World's. We have also looked at the issue of available (good) FD's in both countries and are exploring options for future regattas.

The Australian Class during summer 2023 had a series of well attended regattas starting with the 2022/2023 Australian Championships held in February at Royal Geelong Yacht Club Victoria (site of the 1982 Worlds), with other regattas at Sorento Port Phillip Bay Victoria, Eden Two-fold Bay NSW and Batemans Bay NSW.

In AUS, there has been several boats change hands and some new members joining the class. The AUS website has also been a focus this year and the two Facebook pages are also now managed by the committee. The AUS FD WhatsApp group has also proved very useful in sharing information and updates quickly.

In NZL over the summer the South Island Championships were held in February 2023 at Naval Point, Lyttleton (Round 9 of SailGP 22/23 was held there) and the NZL Championships were held in March 2023 at Queen Charlotte Yacht Club, Picton with a small but fast fleet. Matthew Bismark now concurrently holds both AUS and NZL National Championships.

As in AUS, NZL have had some boats change hands and crews are working with the new owners on the development curve.

As noted above, the Oceania fleet are working on numbers for the 2024 World's and so far, early planning shows a box (6 boats) plus some others which would require a second box.

The AUS Committee will hold the 2023/2024 Australian Championships and other long standing FD regattas in the first half of the season from October 2023 to clear the new year of important events freeing the calendar for shipping and travel for USA 2024.

In sad news 3 giants of the FD class in Australia, NZL and World sailing died in the last 12 months.

Carl Ryves in October 2022, Ralph Roberts in March 2023, and Sir James Hardy in June 2023.

Carl represented Australia in the 1968 Olympics in the FD class finishing fourth and was Australian Yachtsman of the year in 1968. Carl won the FD AUS Championship in 1979. He was on the 1970 Australian Americas Cup team and was an advisor to the 1986 Australian 12m Worlds team. He was a helm on the 1973 AUS Admirals Cup team.

Ralph represented NZL in the 1964 Olympics as reserve for gold medal FD team of Helmer Pederson & Earle Wells, and in 1968 in the FD Class finishing eighth. He was 1984 NZL Olympic Sailing team manager (yielding 2x Gold & 1x Bronze) and was Yachting NZL President in 1986-89. He was an international jury member for the 2004 Melbourne Worlds.

Sir James won the Australian FD Championships in 1964, 505 worlds in 1966, represented Australia in the 1964 and 1968 Olympics (5.5 metre Class) and was on four Australian American Cup teams as Skipper in 1970, 1974, 1980 and 1983 as advisor to J Bertrand, he was also on four Admiral's Cup teams.

b) Germany

Tom Greten

The German Flying Dutchman Class is active on a constant level like the years before. We have about 260 members in the German Class Organization and the ranking list of 2022 shows 122 active competing boats.

It seems that the travel activity to the different venues is reduced, probably because of the costs.

The German Class Organization took the opportunity to promote the FD Class at Kiel Week 2023 with branded sunglasses as an invitation for sailors of other classes to join the FD class after the youth-class.

The race calender is almost unchanged to the years before.

c) Italy

Luigi Macci

Also for the year 2023, the Italian Flying Dutchman Class manages to maintain the number of members with an average value of 60-65 with an improvement trend in the distribution based on age which sees a fair number of athletes in the 23-38 age group.

Zone IV (Lazio) and zone X (Marche) are consolidated as zones with a consistent number of crews; in the latter the leading crews made an excellent advertising campaign among a young audience also taking advantage of the promo boat of the Class.

The national circuit and the World Championship held in Campione del Garda saw a good growth of the crews of our class which allowed us to obtain excellent results.

The regatta organized in Italy are always well appreciated by foreign crews who can enjoy both the favorable weather conditions and the excellent hospitality that our country can guarantee.

The collaboration for the restoration of a large fleet of boats from numerous Italian shipyards is continuing with the group "FD Storici". There have been promotional events both on the Tyrrhenian and on the Adriatic and the intention is to maintain this trend and combine where possible events of the Class with these wonderful old FD's made of wood.

Here are some points that we would like to bring to the attention of the International Executive Committee:

- improvement of the coordination function of the Committee towards the National Classes for the definition of the calendar of events aimed at greater participation.
- evaluate the possibility of exploiting part of the economic resources of the International Class to favor the growth of the FD movement (contribution for promo boats, economic contributions for crews under 26, etc.)

As always, we are available to support possible candidacies of our Clubs to host international events.

d) Netherlands

Maarten Bausch

The NFDO (Dutch FD Class Association) is starting to get out of the difficult period we had during COVID. Although it had been rough times the NFDO is looking to a bright future.

We said good-bye to Fred Schaaf as our Class President. We thank Fred for this second period he was NFDO President. Maarten Bausch will take over this role. The new Regatta Officer is Rowena van der Maat. The financial status of the NFDO can be descripted as "healthy".

We have around 40 sailors who are attending the regattas in the Netherlands. The social cohesion is growing. The result of that is that there is more informal communication to get temporary teams together for a regatta. Big positive point of that is that sailors learn from each other. Also the fun on shore makes sailors keep (or come back) in the class.

In the NFDO AGM in February 2023 the sailors spoke out for a diverse regatta program. So as a class we are looking for regatta on the North Sea, IJsselmeer and the lakes. This is not always easy because the Dutch sailing clubs are also struggling to get their regatta calendar fit the sailors and the volunteers. A priority from the new Regatta Officer is to make the calendar for next year as soon as possible so we can (partially) in line with the calendar from other countries. We think this will benefit all sailors because they have more regatta's they can attend.

The NFDO bought a newer Promo Boat. She is used more often than the previous years. We had 2 youngster (18 years old) racing 2 regatta's and now it is used by a temporary team on this Worlds. As a class we are looking for a team that will use the boat for a whole season but in the meantime, we are very happy with this usage.

With great confidence we are looking forward to the rest of this season and the coming years.

e) USA

Gerhard Panuschka

We are coordinating the upcoming Worlds at St. Petersburg Yacht Club in Florida 22 March to 1 April 2024. Lin Robson is our local contact with the club.

The North Americans are coming up at the same location 16 to 18 February 2024; this would be a good opportunity to tune up for the Worlds.

Our 2023 Nationals take also place at St. Petersburg Yacht Club from 10 to 12 November 2023. There is opportunity to store boats at a nearby storage place.

Other major events in the US are the:

- Canandaigua Dinghy Regatta from 28 to 30 July 2023 (mentioned above)
- Pig Regatta at Brookville Lake Sailing Association from 9 to 10 September 2023

Lin Robson will run two to three sailing clinics at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club during the months of November and December 2023.

Paul Scoffin and Pavel Ruzicka have refurbished a 1987 Mader.

Lee Costello refurbished a 1987 Lindsay. The boats look great. Both the boats are sailing in the Canandaigua Dinghy Regatta.

TOP 10 Boat Registration Report

Tony Lyall

2023 - 3 new FD's having been built so far this year (1 Mader, 1 Martin Herbst & 1 Aeolos)

2022 - 2 new FD's built - all Mader

2021 – 6 new FD's built – 5 Mader & 1 Martin Herbst

2020 - 5 new FD's built - all Mader

2019 - 5 new FD's built - 4 Mader & 1 Planatech

2018 - 6 new FD's built - 5 Mader & 1 Planatech

2017 - 4 new FD's built - all Mader

Again this year I encountered many of the same issues that I reported last year which is frustrating and just slows down the whole process of issuing new documents.

I think National Secretaries can help by taking a more active part in the boat registration process, just sending me an up-to-date list of who had been issued with what Personal Number would be a great start.

Some (mostly non IFDCO Members) don't seem to realize that we are volunteers and expect me to produce documents almost immediately, a couple have been quite demanding. I would also add that the postal system in Europe seems to be unbelievably slow as it's seems to be taking on average about 3 weeks for documents to arrive with the boat owners.

So far this year I have issues 10 new sets of documents (MF & MC), compared with 30 for the whole of 2022.

Two things that stand out:

- 1. There seems to be a fairly active 2nd hand market though that appears to have slowed somewhat compared to previous years.
- 2. 50% of the new documents I issue are to owners that are not members of IFDCO

TOP 11 Chief Measurers Report

Tanja Heijink

2022 we had a really nice Worlds in Campione, Italy

In 2023 we have the Worlds in Gdynia, Poland

Italy

In Italy we measured 68 boats in 2,5 days.

Rudders and Centerboards

In Italy we did an extra check on the rudders and center boards. The newest template was the template in that championship. For 4 years we had the policy that we measured the items in the new template, and when the sizes were not ok, we allowed people to sail with them with the comments to adjust them for the next championship. But this year this time was over and only the new template is valid. All centerboards and rudders that were not in the right margins were rejected and the sailors needed them to adjust. About 30-40% of the fleet is adjusted.

Masts

We discovered that too many sailors could hoist their main sail above the band on the mast. We mentioned this during the competitors hearing and decided to sharpen the rules. In 2023 a stop in the top in the mast is mandatory to prevent to hoist the main too high.

Competitors hearing

During the competitors hearing in Campione the sailors asked for time slots during measurement. They also asked to limit the check-in in station 2 (pdc's, harnesses, mooring line etc.). We will do a pilot in Poland.

Electronic Measurement Form

We are working on an electronic Measurement Form to replace the current handwritten one. The form will follow the rules of privacy. The owner of the boat can download a pdf and a few people can make changes f.e. during measurement.

Centerboard and Rudder Measurement

A new template has been developed for measuring the centerboard and rudders. We are using this template now for more than 4 years and it is following the mylars. It appears that a couple of centerboards and rudders do not meet the rules. We informed the owners about this, allowed them to sail the race and gave them the opportunity to change them for the next championships. It is communicated that every rudder and centerboard needs to meet the template as of the worlds in Spain. Due to Covid-19 we postponed this to Italy.

2023

3 new boats are developed. This is really good for the class:

- Aeolos by Hans Genthe. Build in Dubai.
- Herbst. Build in Germany.
- Mader, new design. Build in Germany.

Measurement Gdynia, Poland 2023

Measurement team: Tanja Heijink, Ioannis Remoundos, Bill Bernard and Maarten Bausch. Unfortunately, Paul Hemker could not make it due to health issues.

We had a great team from the Polish Sailing Club.

A compliment to the organization of the Polish Sailing Club as well for supporting us and the wonderful organization.

- We had a real good measurement areas
- We measured 59 boats
- We used the time slots for the first time
- We had an extra check on rudders and center boards
- We checked the stop in the top of the mast
- We limited the controls at the first station. We only checked the pdc's, the
 existence of the mooring line and the paddles (and of course if the boat is
 wet or dry)

Lessons learned measurement Poland

Measurement slots

- The measurement slots were ideal to work with. It is more structured and for sailors the waiting time is reduced
- It was easier to complete the boats leaving the measurement area instead of doing it at the last days.
- The reserve time slots of 1 hour at the end of each day are necessary to do the last bits.
- However, 15 boats were not registered before the event and the slots of Saturday and Sunday were fully booked. We need to work on this. Luckily, sailors (who did not register) were on time, so we could squeeze them in on Friday and Saturday. And some sailors wanted or we could convince them to take an earlier slot.
- We need to check how to handle when the lucky parts are not working.
- Now we closed the register time for the time slots at Friday morning at 0800 hrs. Maybe we need to do that earlier (or not). To be checked during the competitors hearing

General

- It is always a struggle to have the papers ok. For some boats I have the old measurement forms in my laptop, but we need a share where to find them. Is it possible to share the directory of the administrator of the class (Tony, only reading rights). But we have to emphasis that the papers of the boats (and the crew) need to be ok. It is mandatory for the sailors to prepare
- Not all boats were ready for measurement and some people do not read the notices on the board. A lot of people did not know you need a stop in the top of the mast. We need to think how people can prepare for the Worlds and Europeans

Sails

- 2 genua's (one boat) were without buttons. They had the new sail button but they were removed. The sailor needed to buy new ones.
- o Still a few rudders and centerboards were out of the limits.

- A lot of sails were without the buttons (mostly König). Sail buttons were arranged but it is better to have the buttons sewed under the last layer of the sail to prevent from removing.
- One main sail was without a window. A new sail was measured in.

Boats

- All boats were fine. 2 boats were allowed to remove the weights and 4 boats needed extra weight.
- Rudders and centerboards
 - Extra communication is needed for centerboards and rudders as mentioned above.
- Masts
 - A lot of boats did not had a stop in the top of the mast. They did not read the notices.
 - We allowed sailors to have a temporarily solution (f.e tie-wrap).
 Otherwise 1/3 of the fleet was not able to sail
 - For the next regatta we do need solid and future proof solutions.

New Measurers

We are still looking for new measurers for the class. At this moment Paul Hemker and I are the only official measurers for the FD Class. Ioannis Remoundos is still valid as a new candidate.

In Italy and in Poland a few sailors told us they were interested. I hope they will come forward.

We are still looking for 1 or 2 new people who would like to become a measurer as well.

Decision by comittee: Create Transportcases for material, Tanja will take care on cost of IFDCO.

Decision: Flightcosts for Ioannis from Greece to Poland will be taken by IFDCO this time.

TOP 12 Matters arising from other Meetings

a) National Secretaries Meeting

Moderated and reported by Meike Greten:

The meeting with the national secretaries was very positive. Everybody talked about current numbers of active boats in the regions. We are all convinced that it is very important to get more used but good boats for a good price on the market.

b) Youth Hearing

Moderated and reported by Guzmán Egea:

- 16 youths attended the meeting.
- They don't like the new rule of the trapezes. No sense. The rubber band is better.
- No one design.
- T-shirts. Sailing clothes.
- Not USA. Too expensive. Don't think a lot of will go. Some could go to Europeans.
- Youth grant should be 100€.
- More photos and videos for social media. More accounts. More content from the youths.
- Rule for the centreboard. Too small should not be.
- c) Competitors Forum

Moderated and reported by Peter van Koppen:

- Trapeze-Harness: Peter will doublecheck with World Sailing the official requirements and options
- Next Worlds:
 - USA: NZL/AUS and HUN said that each will ship a container to USA, so Worlds in USA are fix
 - EURO 2024/Worlds 2025: Proposal of Cádiz was presented verbally.
 All attending sailors are for the option to go to Cádiz and leave the boats over the winter time there and sail the Worlds 2025 in early spring in Cádiz
- The class shall check if we allow Rule 42 (pumping)
- Timeslots for measurement were perfect
- Question regarding amount of genuas for the Worlds (currently 2), option for 3? – opinion of attendees: equal
- 12 races, but shorter, 45-60 min if 3 races a day
- Youngsters like the current format of racing

TOP 13 Election and nomination of Officers for Executive and General Committee

Juan Egea is willing to become VP Development. Juan is working for an international company and has an amazing experience with international customers. All necessary formalities were fulfilled in the last months before the meeting.

Decision: Juan Egea is appointed as VP Development.

TOP 14 Any Other Business

a) Bid Book Update

Peter and Meike will update the Bid Book to make it a document which can be filled out by interested organizations.

b) IFDCO-App

The IFDCO App is installed around 400 times yet.

The focus is to create a member database within the app and to push the communication (specially for our official IFDCO events).

We want to configure a market segment within the App (including a contact to national secretary of the country) to push the international market.

Doublecheck if we can create an entry form for IFDCO Worlds within the App.

c) Update Championship Rules

Peter and Meike will update the Championship Rules with the last changes of the last events.

d) Update Byelaws

Peter and Meike will update the Byelaws with the latest requirements from World Sailing.

e) Establish an Event-Manager

The committee decided to establish an event-manager who has to check the event calenders of each nation to make sure that there are no big events on the same date. Therefore, each nation has to communicate their big-events till 31th of October each year to IFDCO. The responsible person will be Juan Egea as VP Development, who was willing to accept this task.

f) Youngster Training in Cadiz

Before Europeans 2024 and Worlds 2025, Guzman and Peter are organizing a training for the youth.

g) Raise of membership-fees and sail buttons

Decision: Raise from 30 €/member/year to 40 €/member/year, sailbuttons from 25 to 30 €

Decision: Increase of youth grant from 75 € to 100 € and ex-continental from 150 to 175 €

h) Format of communication

- Ask competitors for format of races, dates, race-format etc.
- Structure the competitors hearing: for each topic from committee ask the competitors (technical, communication etc.)

TOP 15 Closing of the meeting

The Annual General Committee Meetings ends at 23:08 pm.

preske Greten

Signature Meike Greten

General Secretary