**Website Minutes of Fireball Executive meeting on 27 April, 2015; 9:00pm UCT**

**Present**: Steve Chesney, Ben Schulz, Debbie Kirkby, Hiroshi Kato, Jakub Napravnik, David Laing, Russell Thorne, Andrew Davies, Penny Gibbs, Tom Egli, Mianne Erne (minutes).

**1 Agree the minutes of the last meeting.**

No comments on the minutes of the last meeting – they are accepted as a correct record.

Steve introduces Mianne, who till take this meeting’s minutes as a trial for a possible post of Secretary to the Executive.

**2 Secretariat re-organisation status.**

Steve welcomes Andrew; who has agreed to the splitting of his office as agreed on in the last meeting. This meeting is intended to resolve issues, clear up mis-understandings and conspiracy theories.

In a lengthy discussion the members of the executive lay open grievances and opinions on a re-appointment of Andrew as a class secretary openly. In the end it is stated that the Executive is still divided on the issue, and so are NCAs. It is pointed out that, if an appointment fails before Council, a lot of time will be lost before a new candidate can be presented, approved by Council and appointed. In order to avoid this, Steve proposes to email all NCAs and ask what their stand is on the issue of Andrew’s re-appointment. This should happen within a week.

**3 Application from Switzerland to have a representative on the Executive.**

It turns out that the list handed in by UKFA was obviously missing quite a few active members and didn’t count married couples as two persons. The list according to which the payment was made, however, counted 187 members. The constitution defines “paid members” as being relevant for votes, it is stated that GBR has 5 votes, SUI and FRA have 4 each.

It is stated that correct lists must be handed in, otherwise votes can be bought by paying for non-existent members. The constitution needs to clarify the definition of member.

One problem with full address lists is that we can’t send around for reasons of data protection. Again the constitution is not clear on this issue, but if any member of a NCA automatically made a member of FI, then there are no problems with data laws.

A discussion on how to count crews, especially temporary ones, follows. The issue of member definition needs to be addressed when the constitution is worked on.

**4 Status of rule changes.**

ISAF has not approved the rule changes officially, inofficially they say they see no problems with the sail measurement amendment. Tom will be revising the rules for publication on the website. He is also doing the paperwork for the in-house certification so as soon as it is approved it can be implemented.

Tom: Emergency rule change on corrector reduction is in effect, but ISAF asks for small changes in the wording. Measurement certificates need to state that only correctors were re-weighed, not the whole boat.

**5 Discuss Barbados as possible venue for 2018 Worlds.**

In Slovenia, there was consensus about going back to Barbados; the earliest possibility Barbados can offer is 2018. The officials in Barbados are enthusiastic, made a presentation at the North American Fireball Nationals last month. No contracts have been signed yet, though.

Since it is too far in the future, no budget has been made yet, but since the Barbados government has agreed to sponsor the event just like last time, the budget is expected to be about the same as in 2010.

Discussion about Barbados:

Positive aspects:

* The event in 2010 was a success
* Open Forum in Porto Roz was quite clear on the wish to return to Barbados
* Barbados is keen to have us
* The Bajan government has promised to sponsor the event heavily

Negative aspects:

* It’s too soon after 2010
* One of the draws for people is that we want to see the world, go to new venues
* Getting to Barbados was quite expensive except for the British.

It is decided that NCAs should be asked about their opinion on Barbados. The Rear Commodores are to canvas their regions. Alternatives to Barbados would be another Caribbean island or mainland North America.

*Note: The minutes of both Slovenia and Thailand Council meetings say Andrew was commissioned to secure a slot in Barbados in 2018.*

The question about profits from Worlds organized by Fi is raised.

**6 Status report from Rear Commodore Africa on possible new builder.**

David reports that the potential builder is prepared to build if he can get a more modern mould. Efforts are being made to purchase one. One of the problems is whether or not there is going to be a marked for boats. It is estimated that boats can be built for about half the price of a Winder. Building charter boats for the SA Worlds and then selling them might be an attractive option.

Ben and David are asked to work together on promoting building and sales of boats from SA.

**7 Status report from Rear Commodore Africa on the 2016 Worlds organization.**

Preparations are on schedule, except for budget and website. It is unclear as to what number of boats to base the budget on – 40? 60? Progress on the website has been very slow.

Steve asks for a facebook site for people to show their intention of going, at the same time he urges David to push the website. Ben offers to put whatever is available on the FI website, on a sub-site for the Worlds.

Steve reminds us that we need to sell the SA-Worlds this year, next year is too late. We need to publish the fact that things (incl. beer) are cheap in SA.

Russell informs that there is an evening reserved for a presentation in Pwllheli

**8 Update from Rear Commodore Europe on 2016 Europeans organization.**

Andrew visited the site and club in October, they’re enthusiastic about hosting the event, expect great numbers. ITA are going to Brenzone as a trial this year. Very good winds can be expected every morning and afternoon, with a lull at noon. SUI may be asked to provide some charter boats in exchange for being provided with boats in Tampa this year.

One possibility to ship boats by NCAs who can’t fill a container may well be Autolines, they ship cars all over the world. It worked well and worked out a lot cheaper than a container for two boats from GB to Florida this spring. There is a harbour in Genoa. This service might also be interesting for the Worlds in SA.

David is sceptical of Autolines, the service didn’t work out for Africans to ship to Wales.

**9 Update from UKFA on the 2015 Worlds organization.**

Russell informs about the clubhouse that is being built. Steve wants to know if measurement has been organized yet, if they have spoken to Pam about the equipment. Russell says not yet, Tom says the class has everything necessary, but there is still a fair amount of work to be done.

**10 Discussion of FI Digital presence.**

The website should be “internationalized”, should reach out to non-Anglo-Saxon sailors, but having it in several languages will cost. The cheapest option is to rely on google translate, although their translations are not always high quality. That would still cost £ 2000; a more thorough approach would be £4000 – 6000, since the page would more or less have to be doubled.

**11 AOB.**

The Rear Commodores are reminded to get in touch with the new or re-surfaced NCAs.

Steve is asked to send a list of what has to be achieved and by when.