

Eastern European Commodore's Report

Fireball racing in Eastern Europe varies from country to country. The fleet in SUI is slowly growing, they have managed to attract young sailors, which is a great success. The CZE fleet is keeping its numbers altogether, with slightly lower attendance at Czech cup regattas. The fleet in ITA is active but not so keen on travelling abroad. On the other hand, foreign sailors always receive a very warm welcome on Italian events. Slovenian fleet has diminished to only a handful of boats. They have agreed to keep the class alive at all costs with the perspective of attracting a younger generation of sailors – both family members and friends of current fireballers and sailors from other classes, e.g. Flying Junior which is popular in Slovenia.

In 2017 and 2018 we have tried a „Central“ European Cup, involving the four mentioned NCAs, with the intention to attract more boats to sail at national championships. It has shown that the attendance at these regattas is not driven by the Cup itself but rather by the ability and will of individual sailors to spend extra time and money travelling. As I am not convinced about the Cup being helpful, I propose to discontinue it for the next year.

In 2019 CZE will host the Europeans at Lipno lake. I am happy to say that all preparations proceed as planned and all sailors are more than welcome.

August 2018

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