

Fireball Executive meeting of April 07, 2024; 09:00 UTC

Minutes

Attendees

- Nick Rees (Commodore)
- Mianne Erne (Minutes Secretary)
- Guy Newson (Treasurer)
- Dave Hall (Technical Committee Chair)
- Hiroshi Kato (Rear Commodore Asia)
- Evelyn Chisholm (Rear Commodore North America) subbed by Richard Quinlan
- Heather Macfarlane (Rear Commodore Australia)
- Jakub Napravnik (Rear Commodore Central Europe)
- Cormac Bradley (Rear Commodore Western Europe)
- Evelyne Schotte (observer)

Purpose

April 2024 meeting of FI Executive.

Agenda

1. Review of Actions
2. 2024 Plans and Budget
3. 2024 Worlds feedback
4. 2024 Europeans
5. 2025 Worlds
6. 2026 Worlds
7. Review of future events
8. Boat Developments
9. Promoting strong Fireball fleets
10. AOB

Minutes

1. Review of Actions

- *Action 1: Charity status:* Discharged. Nick and Guy have looked into it, but this would take a major effort. FI constitution would have to be changed, among other things, and FI would in the future be linked to one single country.
 - **Action 14:** Nick to contact World sailing – do they have any suggestions or experience about a class adopting a Charity status?
- *Action 2: Central Information Platform.* Ongoing. No action until charity status is resolved.

- *Action 3: Website:* Discharged. Whatever platform we use, some will always be unfamiliar with its workings. Changing the platform would be a lot of work, this would have to be worth it.
 - **Decision 10:** We stick with Umbraco as the website platform for the time being.
 - **Action 15:** Nick to compile a list of content management tools used by NCAs, discuss website solutions with Ruedi.
- *Action 4: FI fee from entry at Geelong Worlds:* Discharged. The fee was included in the budget.
 - **Action 16:** Guy to send FI Fee bill to Australians after consulting with Heather. Heather to pay bill.
- *Actions 5-8: 2024 Worlds:* All discharged.
- *Action 9: UK Worlds:* Discharged. See below.
- *Action 10: NCA Discussions:* Ongoing. Nick will be visiting Japan in June and South Africa (and possibly Kenya) later in the year.
- *Action 11: French worlds.* Discharged, see below.
- *Action 12: Executive document handover:* Discharged.
- *Action 13: WhatsApp –* Discharged. Heather looked into creating an FI community, but AUS do not have a national WhatsApp group. The Worlds group is now titled Lago di Garda Italy August 2025 but admins haven't changed yet.
 - **Action 17:** Nick to set up WhatsApp Community, invite NCAs.

2. 2024 Plans and Budget

Budget was accepted by AGM and has been posted on FI website.

3. 2024 Worlds Feedback

“Major Event Guidelines” on FI website are useful and helpful but partly outdated, e.g. SI don't conform to World Sailing template anymore. The Guidelines should be updated periodically, e.g. in a four-year cycle. Heather and Cormac have collected a lot of information that will help future event organizers, including economical challenges and benefits. A document to be shown to potential organizers should also list the “must haves” and “nice to haves” to help clubs decide whether or not to invite us. A lot of information goes missing between events – in the past there have been very good diagrams of courses.

Action 18: Nick to ask Joe Jospe and/or UK Fireball for former event guidelines and complete SI.

One aspect that is becoming more important is addressing environmental issues.

Action 19: Nick to contact World Sailing about environmental points in NORs.

Action 20: Heather and Cormac to create a draft for major event documents, from Worlds feedback; upload to Nick's Google Drive

4. 2024 Europeans

Preparations are underway but communication is very slow.

Plans are to have not an international jury but a multi-national protest committee.

We need to find out whether Chris Henderson needs to be present, resp. how often he does need to be present.

We would like to have a say in the choice of RO.

Action 21: Nick to get in touch with Chrisina: find out if Chris Henderson's presence at Maccagno is necessary, see if she is more successful communicating with Maccagno.

5. 2025 Worlds

Necessary paperwork has been done; preparations seem to be underway.

6. 2026 Worlds

Either South of France or at Torquay – Royal Torbay Yacht Club are keen and experienced. Agreed to let France have an opportunity to table a bid since we had offered it to them when it appeared the UK wouldn't be able to do 2026. However, France would have to respond quickly (in the next month) so we don't lose the UK bid. Decision to be taken as soon as possible.

Action 22: Nick to contact Jean Robillard about French Worlds in 2026.

Action 23: Nick to talk to Kenya (Alastair – what year?) and France (Jean – what year? Europeans or Worlds?)

Action 24: Dave to get back to Royal Torbay YC: we'll decide in May.

7. Review of future events

The 2027 Worlds should be outside Europe possibly in Africa.

Richard Quinlan said a US or US/Canada bid might be possible. (see point 9).

Action 25: Richard Quinlan/Evelyn Chisholm to look and see if a 2027 Worlds in North America is possible.

If the 2026 worlds end up in France, a British option would be Weymouth in 2027 (or later).

For 2028/29 no options discussed yet, there are clear options. Generally, we have potential offers for a major event from Torquay, Weymouth, Southern France, Kenya, and North America. None of them have been specified, possible dates will have to be discussed.

8. Boat Developments

A suitable boat has been found, experiments to be started shortly.

It is felt that things should progress rapidly to keep the momentum.

9. Promoting strong Fireball fleets

- Heather is collecting video and photo material from Geelong to put together clips of different lengths. Minimal costs (copyright only).
- IRL: People/individuals who do something for the class are celebrated.
- The idea of loan/charter boats should be further developed: find good boats that are available, work out insurance issues. In Australia, the term “loan boats” was used for insurance reasons.
- Don't discard the idea of sharing boats quite yet, it might bring more international participation.
- Canada has a new executive, there is a revival of having three championships a year in North America. The big problem is the lack of good quality, modern boats. A Worlds in Canada might bring new boats into North America.

Action 26: Canada to look into import tax situation – would it be feasible/worthwhile to send a container to a Worlds with boats to stay in North America?

10. AOB

Next Executive Meeting: 10 July 2024, time to be communicated.

End of meeting: 10:35 UCT

Aarau, 18 April 2024

Mianne Erne