

IFAA Annual General Meeting Minutes 8pm CDT 25th Oct, 2023

- 1. Meeting opening and welcome (President John Heywood)**
 - 1.1. In attendance (10) John Heywood, Nick Gunner, Heather Macfarlane, Glenn Peverell, Peter Sinclair, Chris Payne, Myles Gavin, Mark Jarred, Jaemie Wilson, Andrew Butler
 - 1.2. Apologies (3) Ben Schulz, Brendan Garner, Susannah Gillam
- 2. Motion to accept meeting to continue with due notice despite breach of constitution rule 8.1**
 - Moved by Rear Commodore Heather Macfarlane
 - Seconded by Secretary Myles Gavin
 - Passed
- 3. Special General Meeting Vote on the IFAA Constitution Updates 3.1.**
 - 3.1. Speaker to the Changes: Heather Macfarlane walked attendees through the changes
 - 3.2. Question was asked about why original version of grievance procedures had been dropped from previous versions of the IFAA Constitution
Glenn updated attendees with the background that the proposed clauses 3.3 and section 7 have previously been approved by CAV for Frankston Yacht Club.
It was noted that at the next Annual Review, we may want to review the CAV model rules to check for alignment.
 - 3.3. Andrew Butler moved the motion that the IFAA Constitution be updated as proposed.
Seconded Peter Sinclair
Passed
- 4. Previous meeting minutes from 31/05/2023 to be approved**
 - Report highlights noted by John Heywood
 - Myles moved minutes be accepted
 - Seconded Glenn Peverell
 - Passed
- 5. Business arising from May 2023 AGM Minutes**
 - None

6. Reports:

6.1. President

IFAA President's Report 2023

With the start of the 2023-24 sailing season the focus for IFAA is on the Worlds in Geelong in February 2024. IFV committee & RGYC are have preparations well progressed. 28 international sailors are already committed and most are entered in the regatta. It is encouraging to see some Aussie fireball sailors who have not sailed for a while getting back into action and we hope all enjoy the fun of getting some time on the water in preparation as well as competing at eat Nationals and World Championship. If you are unable to make the time but would be willing to lease your boat there is a waitlist of overseas and local sailors seeking a boat to sail at the event. In the interests of getting the best Worlds fleet we can if you are in this situation please phone Heather Macfarlane on 0405 161 656 to discuss the options and how much you could expect to get for your boat. With the Worlds preparation in hand IFAA focus should be on the future of the class beyond 2024, where to have our National championships & how to attract and maintain new sailors to the class. This is a key to our survival in Australia. Some ideas raised overseas recently will be presented during the AGM by Heather and Chris who attended the recent European Championship and I would like to open a discussion in general business to get your input. I would like to again thank the committee for their work over the last year & look forward to seeing you all on the water soon.

John Heywood IFAA President

6.2. Treasurer

IFAA Treasurer's Report Year ending 30 June 2023

Please find attached the financials for the 2023 financial year with 2022 comparatives. The 2023 income was up on 2022 due to the increase in membership fees. General expenses were steady, however we have spent an additional \$900 refurbishing the perpetual nationals trophies. As a result, the loss for the year was \$990.76 compared to the 2022 loss of \$134.56.

At the end of 2023 the association has net assets of \$11,760.18 which includes \$7674 in the bank and the association boat costing just over \$4000. Going forward we expect membership numbers to increase in 2024 with the worlds in Geelong.

There is likely to be a bit of a write off when we manage to move on the association boat so we aim to break even or make a small loss in 2024 with subscription fees remaining the same as they are now.

Ben Schulz IFAA Treasurer

In lieu of Treasurer heather Macfarlane proposed to accept the report

Seconded: Myles Gavin

Passed

Financial Report

INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA			
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023			
		2022	2023
Ordinary Income			
Subscriptions		2,150.00	2,610.00
Interest		28.72	25.94
Profit on sale of mast		190.00	-
Total Ordinary Income		2,368.72	2,635.94
Ordinary Expenses			
Bank Fees		81.00	70.00
YA Affiliation Fees		226.12	476.12
ASIC Registration		60.10	61.20
FI Fees		637.90	636.18
Trophy Upgrades		-	900.70
Association Boat Write Off		-	-
Insurance		1,344.07	1,482.50
Total Ordinary Expenses		2,349.19	3,626.70
Net Ordinary Income		19.53	- 990.76
Extraordinary Income & Expenses			
Nationals Income		-	-
less		-	-
Nationals Expenses		154.09	-
Net Extraordinary Income or Loss		- 154.09	-
Net Income		- 134.56	- 990.76

INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA			
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023			
	2022	2023	
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank	6,913.40	7,674.74	
Debtors	2,150.00	-	
FI Fees Pd in Advance	-	-	
Masts on Hand	-	-	
Total Current Assets	9,063.40	7,674.74	
Non Current Assets			
Boats on Hand	4,085.44	4,085.44	
Non Non Current Assets	4,085.44	4,085.44	
Total Assets	13,148.84	11,760.18	
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors	397.90	-	
Total Current Liabilities	397.90	-	
NET ASSETS	12,750.94	11,760.18	
EQUITY			
Opening retained earnings	12,885.50	12,750.94	
Current year earnings	- 134.56	- 990.76	
TOTAL EQUITY	12,750.94	11,760.18	
Notes to Accounts -			
DEBTORS			
Subs - SA	875.00	-	
Subs - Vic	1,275.00	-	
	2,150.00	-	
CREDITORS			
Fireball International	397.90	-	
Myles Gavin - Business Affairs Inv	-	-	
	397.90	-	

6.3. Measurer

Measurers Report October 2023

I was elected as the Australian measurer at the last AGM. I also look after the administration of the measurement process that mainly revolves around the change of the measurement certificate, when a boat changes ownership .

We have done many change of ownerships this year and it's important that whenever a boat is sold the change of ownership form is completed as you won't be able to compete in a title event without a measurement certificate in the owner's name .

With the Worlds coming to Geelong, we have started planning for what we must do for that event. Chris Payne and I started this process under the guidance of Fireball International. I will send out information on what we will be checking for the worlds in Geelong coming up in February 2024. Things competitors will have to think about are:

- That the sails you are using are measured and the serial numbers are clearly visible
- Black bands on the mast and boom are visible and are in the correct place (boom will have to be removed from the boat)
- You have a measurement Certificate in your name
- Hulls will be weighed .

More details after we get it approved internationally
Australian Measurer Nick Gunner

6.4. Rear Commodore

Rear Commodore Australia Report

Despite the short time since our last AGM there are a few updates to report from the Fireball International front. Here are my topics.

- Next FI Commodore announced.
- Updated International Regatta Schedule
- Championship boat measurement feedback from Europeans
- New boat design ideas discussion from Open Meeting at the Europeans

Next FI Commodore:

After failing to have a nomination for Commodore, our current Commodore Christina Haerdi (SUI) started to think. As a result we now have Nick Rees (an Aussie sailor resident in the UK) as the appointed Commodore to start in 2024. Please see Nick's bio attached. I expect Nick and his wife and crew Evelyne will be a fantastic Commodore and very aware from personal experience of the "tyranny of distance" for more remote fireball NCAs like Australia.

Updated International Regatta Schedule:

International events announced for the next few years are as follows:

- 2024: Grand National event: The CZE Nationals will take place at [YC Černá v Pošumaví](#), Lake Lipno from 4th to 7th of July 2024.
- 2024: Europeans in Maccagno Italy will be organised in cooperation between Club Unione Velica Maccagno and the Italian and Swiss NCAs, 14th - 20th September 2024.
- 2025: The venue for the 2025 Fireball Worlds Championship is in North Lake Garda; it will be CIRCOLO VELA ARCO (circolovelaaarco.it), located between Riva del Garda and Torbole in September 2025.

Championship boat measurement feedback from Europeans

The Fireball International Measurer, Chris Henderson did a great job organising a team of volunteers in Slovenia and doing very thorough measurements. Two things have been achieved as an outcome:

1. Chris is endorsed as the Fireball International Measurer now (they have to complete 2 regattas to qualify)
2. A new set of advice is being pulled together for championship measurement guidelines.
Based on the measurements of the 70 fireballs in Slovenia, Chris is satisfied that the variation in centreboard weights is no more than 1.5 kg and that all but one boat fell within a range of < 1kg.
The new guidelines will be published and used at the Worlds in Geelong. That should make the measurement process simpler and faster for competitors.

New boat design ideas

At the Open meeting in Slovenia Dave Hall informed participants that no new Winder or Weathermark fireballs have been built for several years. The impact of this flows on to the 2nd hand market inhibiting class growth. New ideas to bring the boat to a modern and attractive shape were discussed. Minor changes such as in-deck jib-sheet blocks and cleats and allowance of carbon fibre. A major idea is to have hull length side tanks which are bridged fore and aft with a deck the same size as the existing decks. The rear transom would remain open and have a double floor, making a self-draining cockpit. All these ideas were discussed. Most attendants agreed upon the need to keep up with modern classes to keep the Fireball alive.

Dave Hall was requested to further explore and elaborate the design concepts to test the feasibility of the options.

Heather Macfarlane

Business arising:

- Rear commodore appointment passed unanimously
- FI Commodore appointment passed unanimously

6.5. Other verbal reports from States

- NSW has 1 new sailor who has bought Viper
- IFASA State Heats at Largs Bay on 4, 5 November
- IFAV has a focus in Geelong. Training events have been reasonably well attended, especially considering the weather. There is a small shortage of crews. 12 boats are in the yard at the moment.

7. Election of Office Bearers

- 7.1. President (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
John Heywood nominated as President. Proposed by Myles Gavin, Seconded by Chris Payne
Passed
- 7.2. Secretary (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
Myles Gavin nominated as Secretary. Proposed by Heather Macfarlane, Seconded by Glenn Peverell
Passed
- 7.3. Treasurer (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
Ben Schulz nominated as Treasurer. Proposed by Chris Payne, Seconded by Nick Gunner
Passed

- 7.4. Measurer (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
Nick Gunner nominated as Measurer. Proposed by Chris Payne, Seconded by Myles Gavin
Passed
- 7.5. Rear Commodore of Australasia is appointed by state associations as required but approval from the floor to continue current representative
Heather Macfarlane was nominated to continue as Rear Commodore. Proposed Myles Gavin, Seconded Glenn Peverell
No other nominations and no objections.
Passed
- 7.6. FI Commodore, Nick Rees, appointment approved from members
- 7.7. Other positions recommended by the committee or members (approval not required)
- Chris Payne nominated as special adviser. Proposed by Nick Gunner, Seconded by Glenn Peverell
Passed
 - Brendan will continue to be invited to IFAA meetings until the worlds

8. General Business

- 8.1. Update on future National Titles
- 2025: Two options under negotiation: Twofolds Bay, Eden and Jervis Bay
 - Mark reported on the contact with Jervis Bay. February is a quiet month and works for their YC. It is mainly retirees that run racing and events. They have 3 boats - 2 on the water and a 3rd that sits on the beach and observes
 - Feb is outside school holidays so accommodation should be good.
Rates are \$750 per day for up to 20 boats, plus 25 per boat per day over that.
With 20 boats over 4 days the rate works out about \$150. If there is only 15 boats the rate works out to be about \$200
Jervis Bay could hold the event any time in February.
 - Myles contacted Twofold Bay
Their cost is \$200 per boat for an event.
They have a regatta on the Saturday and Sunday and they have an FD championship which would be part of the regatta.
If we want to supply an additional RIB or a PRO they are happy to work with them, but alternatively Twofolds Bay can supply a PRO, race management and boats, Class organises Trophies
They will offer a dinner and BBQ
 - Stuart Edgar having sailed at both indicated both NSW are great locations.
Accommodation is probably a little bit more expensive as it is a larger centre
 - Discussion saw the distance differences to either club as insignificant.
Eden has a rolling swell but is reasonably protected.
Jervis Bay is likely to be fairly flat.
If we have a large Geelong contingent
Request for more information to be brought to next IFAA meeting
Timing of February is difficult for sailors with children in school. Even though regatta is 4 days over a weekend additional travel time needs to be

allowed for. Shoot for the weekend of 24 Feb 2025.

Decision target before Christmas

- 2026: SA
- 2027: Queensland

8.2. Update on future World and European Championships

- 2024: Grand National event: The CZE Nationals will take place at [YC Černá v Pošumaví](#), Lake Lipno from 4th to 7th of July 2024.
- 2024: Europeans in Maccagno Italy will be organised in cooperation between Club Unione Velica Maccagno and the Italian and Swiss NCAs, 14th - 20th September 2024.
- 2025: The venue for the 2025 Fireball Worlds Championship is in North Lake Garda; it will be CIRCOLO VELA ARCO (circolovelaarco.it), located between Riva del Garda and Torbole in September 2025.

8.3. Update on association owned boats and loans

- IFAV has 14826 Issues - in combination with Frank and Ed from Ireland for their use at the Worlds
- IFASA has the red boat Smokin'Gun 14972 Trailer has been upgraded but the boat needs a bit of TLC. Could be used or sold
- IFAA owns Silver Surfer and is for sale. If it is not sailed soon then it will come into dis-repair. Could move to Geelong if there was interest.

8.4. Strategic planning for future of IFAA class

- At the Open meeting in Slovenia Dave Hall informed participants that no new Winder or Weathermark fireballs have been built for several years. The impact of this flows on to the 2nd hand market inhibiting class growth. New ideas to bring the boat to a modern and attractive shape were discussed. Minor changes such as in-deck jib-sheet blocks and cleats and allowance of carbon fibre. A major idea is to have hull length side tanks which are bridged fore and aft with a deck the same size as the existing decks. The rear transom would remain open and have a double floor, making a self-draining cockpit. All these ideas were discussed. Most attendants agreed upon the need to keep up with modern classes to keep the Fireball alive.
- Dave Hall was requested to further explore and elaborate the design concepts to test the feasibility of the options.
- Doubts were expressed about how shallow a false floor would make the deck.
- Simplifying the rig and control lines to make it simpler and easier to rig would be beneficial. Fireballs is one of the slowest boats to rig from the trailer.
 - Nick has run down a mouse for the spinnaker pump up system, which significantly reduces rig time of spinnaker halyard.
- Making the radius bigger in the cockpit
- Loose footed main would make it easier to rig and simpler to manufacture
 - Contender felt like the loose footed main bent the alloy boom. Loose foot does not spread the load consistently like a bolt rope does.

- Sharpies have problems with carbon booms as they can't get fittings
- Contender does not have any problem with carbon booms
- Fully battened main would increase main longevity, but would change sailing characteristics
- If we can stick to class weight and manage corrector weights then moving to other materials would be good.
- Contenders have extra weights distributed more evenly from forward bulkhead

8.5. Any other business

- New IFAA committee needs to think about what the association wants to do with the mould. It is currently sitting at Brendan Garner's factory in it's trailer.
 - Chris wants the mould to be useful.

Chair thanking committee members for standing again, and thanked members for attending the AGM-SGM..

Next IFAA meeting Wed 29th November

Meeting closed 9:55pm CDT

ACTION SUMMARY:

Action	Who	By when
Can Australians get “pre-measured”?	Nick G	Sep 2023
People who are willing to contribute to measurement at the Worlds are requested to email Brendan Garner on brendan@garnermarine.com.au. Volunteers will need a “Working with Children” check.	Members and family / friends	
Email required to alert members who were not present	Heather M	Jul 2023
Myles to work with Mark Jarred about NSW options for 2025 Fireball Nationals	Myles G	Oct 2023
Advise IFASA of expectation IFASA will host 2026 Fireball Nationals and location needs to be identified	Matt C	2024 AGM
Talk to Peter Sinclair about options for location of a Queensland 2027 Fireball Nationals.	??	2025 AGM
Matt and Ben to consider constitution changes and bring to next IFAA meeting	Matt C & Ben S	24 Jul 2023
Set up zoom meeting for next IFAA meeting on 24 Jul 2023 and distribute details to the committee	Chris P	6 Jun 2023