INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

IFAA Annual General Meeting Minutes

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8pm CDT 29th Oct, 2025

1. Meeting opening and welcome (President John Heywood)

1.1. In attendance (12) John Heywood, Ben Schulz, Nick Gunner, Heather Macfarlane, Glenn Peverell, Myles Gavin, Jaemie Wilson, Andrew Butler, Shaun Ritson, Phil Peverell, Chris Payne, Mark Jarred

1.2. Apologies (4) Bentley Conn, Susannah Gillam, Kevin Luff, Glenn Murgatroyd

2. Previous meeting minutes to be approved

- The previous AGM was 25 October 2023.
- The 2024 General Meeting was held on 13th Nov 2024 to discuss the boat rule changes.
  John Heywood Proposed accepting both sets of minutes,
  Seconded by Myles Gavin.
  Motion passed unanimously.

3. Business arising from AGM and Rule change Minutes

- World Championship results showed a mix of the boats designed based on the new rules. The teams' results were across the fleet similar to what they experienced in their previous boats. Thus it appears the objective of modernising the cockpit and controls while keeping the same hull performance has been achieved.
- 2nd hand boat sales have been continuing and we are running short of good options in Australia. Ben is updating his existing YMS to retro-fit some of the same control systems as the new boats.
- Further discussion of rule changes postponed till General Business

4. Reports:

4.1. President

IFAA President's Report 2025

As we launched into the 2024-25 season there was excitement about the prospect of sailing at Lake Garda. Several new teams purchased boats and were participating in events.

Unusual weather plagued the 2024-25 season. Fireballs were fortunate comparatively, in that we managed to get regattas completed, but two events in our calendar were completed with only 2 races:

- The National Championship at Eden, in Feb 2025, was the most disappointing in this regard, with 2 very light races completed on day 2. Days 1, 3 and 4 were blown out with no racing. Tom Gillard and Andy Thompson won after well calculated tactics saw them come back from mid fleet to the front in race 1. The name of their boat that they bought after the 2024 World Championship

stayed in the theme of "Expensive Event"! Brendan Garner and Ben O'Brien sailed very consistently to take out the Australian Champion title, finishing just behind Tom and Andy overall.

- The Cairn Curran Sailing Club - one of the IFAV iconic country camping events was also completed with only 2 races in November 2024. It included a weird mini-tornado that ripped along the water line picking up and throwing boats in the process of launching around. It was less than a 20m wide path of devastation! Tents 50m up the hill were fine - go figure!
  Then on day 2 of the regatta - no wind!

State Titles held in Victoria and South Australia had better luck with the weather and created a good meeting point for fleets to get together.
Victorian States, sailed bayside at Sandringham Yacht Club saw some very tight competition. Countback was required to separate 1st and 2nd place with Heather Macfarlane / Chris Payne winning from Sophie Jackson / Andrew Perry.
South Australian State Titles were sailed across 2 weekends at Adelaide Sailing Club in November 2024 and Brighton Seacliff Yacht Club in March 2025. Small fleets and tight competition saw racing go down to the wire and the experience sailing together plus time on the water saw Jalina Pivetta (née Thompson-Kambas) / Nathan Stockley take out the title from up and coming team Jess De La Perrelle and James Gaskell.

Focus of IFAA for 2025 was #MFSMO: More Fireballs Sailing More Often.

Many sailors contributed to generating social media posts incorporating #MFSMO.
Top contributors ranged from Lyndon Zimmerman who was new to the class in SA at the start of the season through to the winner and now seasoned fireball sailor Jaemie Wilson.

The final event of the season was the Inaugural Fireball Youth National Championship held in conjunction with the Yachting Victoria Western Region Easter Regatta at Lake Bullen Merri. Of the 18 fireballs competing from 3 different states, 10 were Youth teams. Camping together was great fun. The weather was kind with each of the 3 days having different wind conditions, covering light air to strong breezes.
Youth Nationals Results were as follows:

1st Josh Garner / Ben O'Brien
2nd Calin Went / Chris Went
3rd Ben Garner / Sam Williamson - 1st Double Youth
4th Ben Schulz / Matilda Schulz
5th Charley Stevens / Will Farnell - 2nd Double Youth
6th Imogen Farnell / Finn Buckley - 3rd Double Youth

We hope to see most if not all of these teams in fireballs more regularly and welcome the fun they bring to the regatta. The 2nd Youth National Championship is at Indented Head on 21st and 22nd March 2026.

To conclude, 2024-25 was a successful season, in terms of interest levels with a moderate level of translation to sailors on the water. The interest generated from the Geelong World Championships and the translation of that interest into 17 Aussie boats competing at Lake Garda in the 2025 World Championships is exciting. Based on the social media reports the majority of Aussie participants in Garda took the opportunity to add fantastic holidays to their Worlds participation. Please continue to

support the class by attending the events, contributing on social media and engaging with newer members at your club at events and on social media.

I hope to see you all at the Nationals in Adelaide on Monday 2nd Feb - Friday 6th Feb in 2026!

John Heywood
President, IFAA

4.2. Treasurer

IFAA Treasurer's Report Year ending 30 June 2025

The 2025 year has predominantly been spent accounting for money going in and out of the account for the team travelling to Lake Garda.
To date $46,563 has come into the account from team members and subsidies from FI.
Outgoings for the container came to $29,875.55, leaving $16,687.45 being held in trust to go towards the costs of return shipping from Italy.
The container is due back to Australia at the end of November so soon after this date the trip accounts can be settled and any remaining funds returned to team members.
Of note in the income for the association, is a one off item of $1,200 or $100 per boat for container frame hire. This will help cover any maintenance on the frames required before the next trip – hopefully Kenya early 2028.

IFAA paid for a promotional video utilising footage from the Geelong worlds. The fee for this was $990, of which $514.86 was reimbursed by Fireball International.

For the 2025 year IFAA has a book profit of $582.79.
If we remove the one off income from the container and the net outlay for the promotional video the result from ordinary operations is a loss of $142.07

It is anticipated that 2026 subscriptions will be similar or slightly higher than 2025.
Many boats have changed hands and hopefully the new owners will become members of the association.
Insurance continues to rise each year and is by far our largest expense. We may need to assess in the future whether it is worthwhile maintaining this insurance.

At this point in time I recommend that membership fees remain the same at $30 per person and $40 per boat.

Ben Schulz
IFAA Treasurer

Business arising from the report:
Director Insurance is 60 - 70% of annual expenditure. It protects Fireball officials at National and State level. During the next year we will have to decide whether or not to maintain this insurance. It is the insurance through Yachting Australia.

Propose that membership fees stay the same: Ben Schulz
Seconded Heather Macfarlane

Passed unanimously

Treasurer Ben Schulz proposed to accept the report
Seconded: Myles Gavin
Passed unanimously

Financial Report

See link here for excel file of financial details

4.3. Measurer

Measurers Report 29 October 2025

After all the work to run the measurement process for the worlds in Geelong, this last year was very quiet with just minimal checking at the Australian Title at Eden.

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 had some change of ownerships this year and it's important that whenever a boat is sold the change of ownership form is completed. You won't be able to compete in a title event without a measurement certificate in the owner's name .

These are fireballs that have changed hands

14777	Oct 24	Myles Gavin RGYC
15154	Feb 25	Dom &Alex Brandon NSW
15000	Feb 25	Kevin Luff WA
15159	Dec 24	Jeni Danks Davey's Bay YC
12778	Jan 25	Shaun Ritson Chelsea YC
14526	April 25	Reegan Bright Christies SC
14971	Sept 25	Bentley Conn Gippsland Lakes YC
14814	Sep-Oct 25	Mark Lainson
14972	Oct 25	Brad Graham
15032	2025	Chris Went

Do you know of a Fireball that has changed ownership ?

There have been some rule changes internationally and Heather will bring us up to date with this. It is very frustrating that rule changes happen in the UK, and we don't get officially told of these changes.
A change that you will have to have made before the next Australian Title is stopping the main sail going past the black bands. See Fireball rules.
It was surprising to me the amount of boats that failed measurement at the last worlds and we should aim to have the Australian Fireballs conforming to the one design rules and then making the measurement process straight forward.
We will be sending out information on what we will be checking for the Aust Title in Adelaide.

Nick Gunner, Australian Measurer

4.4. Rear Commodore

Rear Commodore Australia Report

Headlines from FI:
- FI Fees to remain at 2025 levels
- International regatta schedule
- Rule change updates agreed at FI AGM in Garda

FI Fees to remain at 2025 levels
- Given the healthy state of FI financials, fees due to FI from NCAs for 2026 will remain the same as 2025.

International Regatta Schedule
- Hopefully a number of the participants from Australia that went to Lake Garda will be enthused by the experience to compete in future international fireball events. Certainly some good friendships were made. It is likely we will have some overseas visitors coming to our next Australian National Championships to have their opportunity to experience some further international sailing with us.

International events include continental and world championships
Here is the list of planned overseas events as far as is agreed at this stage:
- 2026 Pre-worlds and Worlds Torbay
- 2026 no Europeans
- 2027 Europeans in France: most likely St Raphael, South of France
- 2028 Worlds Kenya
- 2028 Europeans Belgium?
- 2029 Worlds Europe – North of France
- 2030 Worlds Europe – Garda?
- 2031 Worlds Japan? / Canada?

Rule Updates
- Decision: Reduce centreboard weight tolerance, then include a specific regatta weight measurement
- Decision: Change rules concerning GoPros. Aim is to better support marketing and publicity content production.
- Decision: Keep looking into start control systems for consideration of future rule changes if we were to incorporate something to reduce general recalls.
  The balance of this issue is to keep boats as affordable as possible and not create competitive advantage to those with more money to spend vs. make the sailing as enjoyable for all as possible.

Heather Macfarlane, Rear Commodore, IFAA

Business arising:
- Rule updates discussed in General Business

4.5. IFAV Report

IFAV Report 2024-25 Season

The 2024/25 Season was a successful season given the previous season hosted a Worlds. The usual post Worlds slump in the class did not happen, and there were a number of events well run and well attended.

STATE TITLES 24/25 _ Sail Sandy Regatta 19-20 October 2024

The IFAV Victorian State Titles were held at the Sandringham Yacht Club as part of the Sail Sandy regatta across the weekend of 19/20 October 2024. There were 10 Fireballs entered with 7 competing in the regatta. Eight races were completed across the weekend with windy and challenging conditions on the Saturday and light winds on the Sunday. Congratulations to Heather and Chris Payne for winning another State Title to add to the multitude they have won previously. Commiserations to Sophie Jackson and Andrew Perry who placed second on a count back. There may have been some gear failure that contributed to this, and congratulations to Brendan Garner and Ben O'Brien for placing third.
Thank you to the Sandringham Yacht Club for hosting this regatta. Sandringham have continued to invite us to the Sail Sandy Regatta and would like to see Fireballs present at future regattas.
The scheduling of the State Title this early in the season was not ideal and along with the weather probably contributed to the lower turnout than we had hoped. It's possible the venue contributed somewhat to this as well. In planning this regatta the criteria was to have it in the first half of the season, in an already organised regatta, and preferably on the Eastern side of Port Phillip bay. These criteria were somewhat dictated by other events this season and are not the same going from season to season.

CAIRN CURRAN REGATTA _ 23-24 November 2024

There were 9 entries in the Cairn Curran regatta. Congratulations to Phil Peverell and Bruce Shand for winning this regatta, closely followed by Will Garner and Brendan Garner who placed 2nd by 1 point.
Colac Yacht Club Regatta - 7-8 December 2024.
The Colac Yacht Club regatta was held for the first time in 10 years because of drought. Thank you and congratulations to Susannah Gillam, Andrew Butler, and Peter and Jen Russell for representing Fireballs at this regatta.

NATIONAL TITLES

Congratulations to all the participants and organisers at the National Titles held at Twofold Bay Yacht Club on the 14th of February 2025. 20 entries was good and hopefully we can build on this.
Congratulations to the Open winner Thom Gillard and Andy Thompson.
Congratulations to the Australian Champions Brendan Garner and Ben O'Brien.
Congratulations also to Heather and Chris Payne for placing second and Jalina Pivetta and Nathan Stockley for placing third.

EASTER REGATTA / INAUGURAL FIREBALL YOUTH NATION CHAMPIONSHIPS at Lake BULLEN MERRI at Easter 2024

The decision to combine the Easter regatta at Lake Bullen Merri with the inaugural Fireball Youth National Championships proved to be very successful. There were 18 entries which is the largest Fireball contingent we have had at that regatta. Competitors experienced a variety of conditions from light and shifty, to heavy, gusty and shifty. Sailing was tight, the weather was good and everyone enjoyed the event.
Congratulations to all the competitors and especially the Youth competitors that made this event successful.
Results for the Youth Nationals are:
1st place: Josh Garner / Ben O'Brien,
2nd : Calin Went / Chris Went
3rd : Ben Garner / Sam Williamson - 1st Double Youth
4th : Ben Schulz / Matilda Schulz
5th : Charley Stevens / Will Farnell - 2nd Double Youth
6th : Imogen Farnell / Finn Buckley - 3rd Double Youth.
And the first Senior boat was Phil Peverell and Bruce Shand who placed 2nd overall.
We encourage everyone to attend this regatta in future as it is a fun regatta with camping by the lakeside in a picturesque location.

IFAV Travellers Trophy.

Congratulations to Brendan Garner for winning the IFAV Travellers Trophy for the 24/25 Season.
The travellers trophy is awarded to the Fireball sailor who has competed in the most contributing events and placed best in those events.

Finally, congratulations to the 17 teams who represented Australia at the World Championships in Lake Garda in Italy in August. This was a record number of Australian Teams at a Worlds outside Australia and was a fantastic effort from all involved. Everyone who wasn't there wished they were. It was especially gratifying to see some past and new Fireball sailors competing in this event.

Notable events for next season include:

- The Cairn Curran Regatta across the 29th- 30th November 2025.
- The National Titles to be held at the Adelaide Sailing across the 2nd-6th Feb 2026.
- The Youth Fireball National Championship held in conjunction with the Victorian State Title at the Indented Head Yacht Club across the 21 - 22nd March 2026.
- The Western Region Easter regatta at Lake Bullen Merri from Fri 3rd April to Mon 6th April.
- TBC Coaching days.

To conclude, it has been a successful season overall while attendance at some regattas could perhaps have been a bit better, while other regattas were very well attended. There has still been encouraging and concrete interest in the class. Please continue to support the class by attending the events and engaging with new members.

Glenn Peverell
President, IFAV

4.6. IFASA verbal report

- The algae around Adelaide is abating and the protocols are in place so sailing is continuing at the clubs where fireballs are sailed.
- IFNSW, IFQLD, IFWA: No reports

5. Election of Office Bearers

5.1. President (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)

John Heywood nominated as President.
Proposed by Nick Gunner,
Seconded by Glenn Peverell
Passed

5.2. Secretary (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)

Myles Gavin nominated as Secretary.
Proposed by Heather Macfarlane,
Seconded by Ben Schulz
Passed

5.3. Treasurer (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)

Ben Schulz nominated as Treasurer.
Proposed byNick Gunner,
Seconded by Myles Gavin
Passed

5.4. Measurer (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)

Nick Gunner nominated as Measurer.
Proposed by Heather Macfarlane,
Seconded by Myles Gavin
Passed

5.5. 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.
No objections.
Passed

5.6. Other positions recommended by the committee or members (approval not required)

- Additional Committee members Phil Peverell, Andrew Butler, Chris Payne

6. General Business

6.1. Proposal to formalise Life Membership Awards to Heather Macfarlane and Chris Payne:

Proposer: Glenn Peverell, Seconder: Ben Schulz

Passed unanimously

6.2. Update on future National Titles

- 2026: SA, Adelaide Sailing Club. Algal Bloom is somewhat controlled Hoping to encourage some unpackers to stay and participate in a States in SA. The likelihood the clearance and readiness for unpacking on 28th Nov was discussed and finalised

- 2027: Queensland
- 2028: Victoria

- 2029: NSW

6.3. Update on future World and European Championships
Planned overseas events as far as is agreed at this stage:

- 2026 Pre-worlds and Worlds Torbay
- 2026 no Europeans
- 2027 Europeans in France: most likely St Raphael, South of France
- 2028 Worlds Kenya
- 2028 Europeans Belgium?
- 2029 Worlds Europe – North of France
- 2030 Worlds Europe – Garda?
- 2031 Worlds Japan? / Canada?

IFAA is keen to capitalise on the enthusiasm of Australian sailors and try to get a container to Kenya. Ben described Kenya as his 2nd most favourite World Championship ever and a lot cheaper than Europe. 2nd only to Barbados.

6.4. Update on association owned boats and loans

- New owners and boats were discussed so that Nick Gunner knows what to finalise in order to make sure all the new measurement forms are prepared and sent.
- Refer list under Measurer's Report

6.5. Any other business
Rule Updates were outlined:

- Decision: Reduce centreboard weight tolerance, then include a specific regatta weight measurement

- Decision: Change rules concerning GoPros. Aim is to better support marketing and publicity content production.

- Decision: Keep looking into start control systems for consideration of future rule changes if we were to incorporate something to reduce general recalls. The balance involved in this issue is to keep boats as affordable as possible and not create competitive advantage to those with more money to spend vs. make the sailing as enjoyable for all as possible.

- Ben has published an article on how to set up a twin pole system.
- Ben has set up the rake change system on a YMS and he will publish that as soon as he has cross checked and confirmed the set up.
- Shandy and Tom Gillard are intending to get a boat with a chute behind the forestay. Their hope is that this style of chute will not take water in short chop like original fireball chutes.
- SA Nationals 2026 event page will be updated shortly. NOR has been published but has the incorrect last start time on the schedule.
  ACTION: HM to send Ben the updates for the NOR and Ben will get Adelaide

Sailing Club to update their version.
Ben will edit the event page and link to the Club version of the NOR.

- Heather to send process used with Australian Sailing to get admin access to IFASA RevSport so that prior Office Holders who are now in UK can be updated to current IFASA office holders.

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

Next IFAA meeting Wed 3rd December 2025

Meeting closed 9:30pm CDT

ACTION SUMMARY:

Action	Who	By when
Send Ben the updates for the NOR Ben will Get Adelaide Sailing Club to update their version. Ben will edit the event page and link to the Club version of the NOR.	HM	31 Oct 2025
Get Adelaide Sailing Club to update their version. Ben will edit the event page and link to the Club version of the NOR.	BS	ASAP
Send process for getting RevSport access updated from previous IFASA Secretary, Rachel Offer, to current President and Secretary.	HM	ASAP