INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

IFAA Annual General Meeting Minutes

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8pm CDT 26th Aug, 2026

1. Meeting opening and welcome (President John Heywood)

1.1. In attendance (17) John Heywood, Ben Schulz, Nick Gunner, Heather Macfarlane, Glenn Peverell, Myles Gavin, Andrew Kean, Dom Brandon, Jaemie Wilson, Andrew Butler, Shaun Ritson, Phil Peverell, Chris Payne, Mark Jarred, Bruce Shand, Peter Sinclair, Addy Bucek

1.2. Apologies (2) Bentley Conn, Kevin Luff

2. Previous meeting minutes to be approved

- Minutes updated to be correctly found at this link from the AGM page.
- Heather Macfarlane: Proposed accepting the minutes,
  Seconded by Myles Gavin.
  Motion passed unanimously.

3. Business arising from the previous AGM Minutes

- To be discussed under reports.

4. Reports:

4.1. President

IFAA President's Report 2025-26
August 16, 2026

The start of the season 2025-26 was a bit slow as a lot of crews were still waiting on boats coming back from the Worlds at Lake Garda. Which meant we couldn't schedule any championships until after Christmas.

- The National Championships were held at Adelaide Sailing club, in Feb 2026, in a mix of light and shifty conditions as well as 1 day of 15-20 knots which certainly tested some lighter and less experienced crews. The winners were Chris Dance & Chris Payne with Heather having to sit out due to hip surgery. Now Chris has 1 more title than Heather! With second going to John Heywood & Daniel George with the boat going surprisingly well with little preparation. 3rd going to Brendan Garner & Ben O'Brien with consistency in the light to moderate stuff and pure domination in the heavy breeze with 2 bullets for the day.

South Australian State Titles were sailed across 2 weekends at Adelaide Sailing Club in March 2026 and Largs Bay Sailing Club in May 2026. Small fleets and tight racing kept it interesting with mixed results across the fleet in mainly light and fluky conditions. It was great to see some youth joining in with the first weekend of states

with Carter Baker & Will Gaylard sailing the association boat and taking the overall lead after the initial leaders were scored an OCS in the final race of the day. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend the second round due to a clash with teams racing championships. The second round was sailed in very light conditions. With the first race led from start to finish by John & Brett after a starting tangle at the boat between Ben & Matilda Schulz gifted them a handy lead up the first beat. The second race was won by Ben and Nathan with John & Brett close second. The final results were 1st John Heywood and Daniel George + Brett Littledike, 2nd Jake and Dan Miller and 3rd Ben Schulz and Chris Went + Nathan Stockley.

We also had 3 boats representing Australia at the World championships in Torbay, England in July 2026. Heather Macfarlane & Chris Payne, Ben Schulz and Nathan Stockley and Kevin & Nicolas Luff. With Ben & Kevin in brand new boats out of the new mold configuration. Congratulations to Heather and Chris with 8th in the Pre Worlds (losing 1st place to gear failure on the final day) and 5th in the Worlds after a super strong finish on the last day with 2 bullets.

In conclusion, 2025-26 was a successful season, in respect to quite a few boats changing hands and quite a few boats being built out of the new configuration mold internationally. We hope you can continue to support the class by attending as many events as possible, engaging with new members at your club, at events and on social media.

I hope to see you all at the Nationals in Gipsland Lakes Yacht Club from 28th January – 1st Feb in 2027!

John Heywood
President
IFAA

John Proposed to accept the report
Seconded: Heather Macfarlane
Accepted Unanimously

4.2. Treasurer

IFAA Treasurer's Report Year ending 30 June 2026

Expenses for the year remained steady compared to last year. An increase in subscription numbers brought income up six hundred dollars from 2025 resulting in a small profit of $237.55 for the year.
There is $12,908 in the bank, of which $2,820 is being held in trust for frame upgrades for the container going to Kalifi, Kenya for the 2028 world championships.

This leaves equity at $9,763 compared to $9,525 last year.

Membership numbers should be steady for the coming year with good numbers expected in both Victoria and South Australia.

It is likely that the insurance premiums will increase a little as they have been the same for the last two years.

I propose that membership fees remain the same for the next year as we have a strong account balance at this point in time.

At the bottom of the financials, I have provided a reconciliation of the incomings and outgoings for the Australian container that travelled to Lake Garda for the 2026 world championships.

We would love to send a full container to the Kenya Worlds so will be seeking expressions of interest at the nationals next year. Freight costs at this stage look 40% lower than Lake Garda and costs once in Kenya are low so lock in a spot in the container for the ultimate safari experience!!

Ben Schulz
IFAA Treasurer

Business arising from the report:

Director / Liability insurance is the single largest annual expenditure. It protects Fireball officials at National and State level. The increase is ~$150 over last year. Given the risks this protects us against it would be favourable to maintain the insurance. It is the insurance through Australian Sailing and they found the best new provider.
Action: Investigate in more detail if this insurance overlaps with other insurance and IFAA Committee to make the assessment whether to maintain the insurance.

Propose that report be accepted and membership fees stay the same: Ben Schulz
Seconded: Heather Macfarlane
Passed unanimously

Financial Report

See link here for excel file of financial details

4.3. Measurer

Measurers Report July 2026

Last year was very quiet with just minimal checking at the Australian Title at Adelaide Sailing Club .

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 .
Do you know of a Fireball that has changed ownership ?

A change that you will have to have to have made before the next Australian Title is stopping the main sail going past the black bands. See Fireball rules: Section 17.6.5 for the mast stopper and 18.4.1 for the boom stopper.
We will be sending out information on what we will be checking for the Aust Title in Paynesville.

Nick Gunner, Australian Measurer

Business Arising:
There was some controversy at the Worlds about the stopper location for the projection of the end of the sail on the boom. Some stoppers need to be 3-5mm further in board to ensure the sail did not go past the black band.
Some new boats were light and the measurer at the Worlds made a few boats take lead out of the boat, to check the lead separately. Adjustments were made to correct weights that were too heavy.

Report proposed to be accepted Nick Gunner
Seconded: Ben Schulz
Accepted unanimously

4.4. Rear Commodore

Rear Commodore Australia Report

August 2026

Headlines from FI:

- FI Fees to remain at 2025 levels
- Fireball International Annual Report published
- 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.

Fireball International Annual Report

- A first publication in quite a number of years, but we selected online publication rather than a physical magazine.
- See the report in english at this link. Unlike the earlier physical magazines, the online publication and AI assistance makes it feasible to publish in the language of all the contributing nations and work to complete this is in process.

International Regatta Schedule

- 2026 Pre-worlds and Worlds were held at Royal Torbay Yacht Club, UK. 3 Australian teams competed - all with boats stored in UK
- International events include continental and world championships
- Here is the list of planned overseas events as far as is agreed at this stage:
    - 2026 no Europeans
    - 2027 Europeans in France: St Raphael, South of France
    - 2028 Worlds Kenya, 30th Jan - 11th Feb 2028
    - 2028 Europeans Belgium
    - 2029 Worlds Europe – Garda likely with only concern being closeness to 2025 Worlds
    - 2030 Worlds Europe – France
    - 2031 Worlds - Canada most likely

Rule Updates

- Rule change about stoppers on masts and booms to prevent mainsail going outside black bands was checked as part of Worlds measurement process

- Application to World Sailing was rejected regarding: Reduce centreboard weight tolerance, then include a specific regatta weight measurement. After strong input from sailors at the Open Forum in Torbay about the appeal of having a regatta weight measurement this topic will be re-visited by the Technical Committee and Class Measurer.
- With respect to the rules concerning GoPros which aimed to better support marketing and publicity content production, World Sailing refused to put that comment in the class rules and asked for us to put it in the SI's. The clause that was included is:
  “14.8 Images from cameras fitted to boats in accordance with class rule 8.2 shall not be submitted as evidence in a protest hearing. Adding to RRS 63.4(b).”

- No update on start control systems for consideration of future rule changes.

Heather Macfarlane, Rear Commodore, IFAA

Business arising:

- Starting control systems were discussed, including the fact there are now multiple systems. It was suggested FI would need to wait now as the expense to individuals is too high and the various control systems are not interoperable.

HM Proposed to accept report
Seconded: Nick Gunner
Report accepted unanimously.

4.5. IFAV Report

IFAV Report

Season 2025-26

The 2025/26 Season events were well attended, very competitive and had a warm and collegiate atmosphere off the water. It's particularly encouraging to see some new younger members in the class sailing competitively and enjoying themselves. Congratulations to Rain Forbes with Patrick DiStefano and Oscar Forbes with Bentley Conn for sailing some very competitive races and regattas this season.

CAIRN CURRAN REGATTA _ 29-30 November 2025

The number of Fireballs attending the Cairn Curran Regatta were fewer this season as the container from the Worlds had not yet been unpacked. Given this 7 entries was a very good number and the Class welcomed Oscar Forbes sailing with Bentley Conn and Rain Forbes sailing with Patrick DiStefano.

The conditions on the first day were challenging with the wind approximately 12 to 17 knots with hard gusts going well into the 20 knot range. Sunday morning was considerably lighter.

Congratulations to Heather and Chris Payne, who were the first Fireball across the line in all the races, however they were pushed all the way in one race by Oscar and Bentley, who most likely would have won if they hadn't unnecessarily gybed on the way to the finish line. Oscar and Bentley placed 2nd Fireball overall. Rain and Patrick spent the weekend sorting things out, which clearly paid dividends when the Nationals came around.

Thank you to the Cairn Curran Sailing club for a well run event, excellent hospitality and making the Class welcome.

NATIONAL TITLES

Congratulations to the Adelaide Sailing Club and the International Fireball Association of South Australia for hosting an excellent National Titles. All races were completed in a variety of conditions with a high level of competition among the 24 entries.

Congratulations to Chris Dance and Chris Payne for winning the Australian National Title. This is Chris Dance's first Fireball Title and regatta win and we hope to see him sailing Fireballs again.
Congratulations to John Heywood with Daniel George for placing second and Brendon Garner with Ben O'Brien coming third.

A special congratulations to Calin Went sailing with his father Chris for placing Fourth overall, winning a couple of heats and winning the first Youth Helm trophy,

Special mentions also to Rain Forbes and Patrick DiStefano for placing sixth overall, and previous Olympian Jeni Danks sailing the Peter Danks for winning a heat, and placing 7th overall in spite of being unable to compete on the last day.

It was wonderful to see the overseas competitors join us, Andy Thompson from the UK, Don White from Kenya, Matteo Bevilacqua and Elisa Ascoli from Italy and Olivier Burgaud with Florence Deveux from France.

We hope to welcome everyone to the next National Titles in Paynesville in late January.

STATE TITLES 25/26 _ FIREBALL YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS_INDENTED HEAD YACHT CLUB_ 21 - 22 MARCH 2026.

The IFAV Victorian State Titles were held at the Indented Head Yacht Club, in Association with the Fireball Australia Youth Championships and in conjunction with the OK Dinghy Victorian State Championships. Thank you to the Indented Head Yacht Club for hosting a very successful event, and thank you to the event sponsor Discount Yachting Sailing Supplies.

Four races were tightly contested in light moderate winds on the Saturday afternoon and light winds on Sunday morning, fading out to nothing. The fifth race was abandoned. There were fifteen entries, and thank you to Dom and Alex Brandon for making the trip from NSW to join us,

Congratulations to Heather Payne and Chris Payne for winning three out of four heats and successfully defending their Victorian State Title. Congratulations also to Addy Bucek with Peter James for placing second overall and to Josh Garner with Ben O'Brien for placing 3rd overall. Josh and Ben won the fourth heat.

Josh and Ben successfully defended Josh's National Youth Champion title, and Ben Garner and Sam Williamson were the first places all Youth Team.

EASTER REGATTA 2025 - LAKE BULLEM MERRI

Fireballs have continued to support this regatta with a continuing good number of entries. The regatta is held in a relaxed atmosphere with good racing in classic lake winds and fun camping. This year there were 13 Fireball entries. Thank you to Jalina Pivetta with Nathan Stockley and Jess Overelle with James Gaskell for making the trip across from SA.

There were four races completed ranging from light conditions to very gusty. The wind disappeared completely for the last three races.

Congratulations to Ben Garner and Sam Williamson for being the first placed Fireball, Myles Gavin with Finn Buckley came second and it was great to see Jack O'Brien with Ben O'Brien come third.

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 Ben O'Brien for winning the IFAV Travellers Trophy for the 25/26 Season.

The travellers trophy is awarded to the Fireball sailor who has competed in the most contributing events and placed best in those events.

Rain Forbes and Patrick DiStefano can consider themselves unlucky not to have won the travellers trophy in their first season.

Notable events for next season include:

The Cairn Curran Regatta across the 28th- 29th November 2026.

The National Titles to be held at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club in Paynesville in late January 2027.

The Victorian State Title in 2027 is currently proposed to be held in conjunction with the Easter Regatta at Lake Bullen Merri from 26 to 29th March.

TBC Coaching days.

To conclude, it has been a successful season overall while attendance at some regattas could perhaps have been a bit better, 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. IFANSW AGM Report

The NSW fleet has remained steady in terms of just a few boats however racing has declined and no NSW championship was held this past season. The association has a boat available for loan to sailors interested in a try or for a championship. The boat is kept at Saratoga Sailing Club on a registered trailer if anyone is interested.

Next season we expect some of the NSW boats to compete in Nationals and looking further ahead, to the Worlds in Kenya.

Mark Jarred
IFANSW representative

4.7. IFAWA

No additional fireballs sailing in WA at this stage.
Kevin Luff
IFAWA representative

4.8. IFASA verbal report

State championship to be run over 2 weekends - 1 either side of Christmas:

- Henley Sailing Club - as practice for Nationals pre-Kenya Nationals
- Brighton in Feb

Ben Schulz
IFASA representative

5. Election of Office Bearers

5.1. President (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
John Heywood nominated as President.
Proposed by Heather Macfarlane,
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 Andrew Butler
Passed

5.3. Treasurer (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
Ben Schulz nominated as Treasurer.
Proposed byNick Gunner,
Seconded by Chris Paybe
Passed

5.4. Measurer (proposer, seconder and vote req'd)
Nick Gunner nominated as Measurer.
Proposed by Chris Payne,
Seconded by John Heywood
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
  Accepted their nominations

- Future nominees to follow up: Jess de la Perelle.
  Action: JH to approach Jess to join IFAA

6. General Business

6.1. SA has been asked to host Nationals in 2027-28 season to enable packing and timely shipping

Packing needs to occur 8 - 10th November at the latest to ensure timely shipping

Proposal to talk to Henley SC in last week of October or early November

6.2. Ben described the World Championship likely experience at Kenya with meals provided by resort or by staff if you rent a house that will cook for you.

- Qatar airlines flights are currently the cheapest option - can fly into either Johannesburg or Mombassa. Currently ~$2,800 pp for flights.

6.3. Update on future National Titles

- 2027: Paynesville, club house to be maintained
- 2027-28 season: South Australia
- Some more international attendees were considering coming to participate in the Australian Nationals. We should test their interest and search for good boats if they are serious.

Members were thanked for attending the AGM and Committee members for putting their hands up to contribute.

Next IFAA Committee meeting: Wed 21st October 2026.

Meeting closed 9:30pm CDT

ACTION SUMMARY:

Action	Who	By when
Investigate in more detail if IFAA Director / Liability insurance overlaps with other insurance to inform IFAA Committee assessment whether to maintain the insurance.	Ben Schulz	20 Nov 2026
Approach Jess de la Perelle to see if she would consider joining the IFAA Committee	John Heywood	15th Oct 2026
Approach Henley Sailing Club to see if they can host the Nationals in 2027 late October or 1st week of November to enable packing containers for Kenya straight after (in time to announce at Paynesville Nationals)	Nathan Stockley	21 Dec 2026