

## MEETING OF THE FIREBALL INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL – AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup> 2015

### Attendees:

Executive: Steve Chesney (Commodore), Jackie Barker (Secretary), Penny Gibbs (Treasurer), Ben Schultz (RC Australasia), Debbie Kirkby (RC Americas), Jacob Japrovnik (RC Europe), David Laing (RC Africa), Russell Thorne (UKFA - Largest NCA), Will Moody (Development and marketing), Tom Egli (Technical Committee)

### NCA's Represented:

GBR, CAN, CZE, SUI, IRL, BEL, AUS, RSA, Shetland

### Treasurer's report:

Accounts at the end of December 2014 – the class had made £1000 in the year. Normally the class breaks even. Going forward, costs will be down so we will be able to spend some money where necessary.

The Council gave it's thanks to Penny Gibbs for her hard work as Treasurer over the last few years.

### Lessons Learnt from the 2015 championship

- This year at Pwhelli there were lots of young people and female racers. Australia gives one free space to a youngster at every championships. When it is a world championship the youngster is given a free space in the container. Some kids go get into a Fireball but when they don't do very well they leave. We need to keep them somehow, mainly by encouragement and assistance i.e. coaching them so they can do better.
- FI needs to listen to the membership – needs to listen to the positive and the negative – this will help the organization succeed. The key to success is communication – telling people what is needed and those who can help to action.
- Having an independent coach at the event reviewing the racing was very successful. Adam Bowers is very good at communication – he is very inclusive especially with the youngsters. The smaller NCA's need assistance in mentoring and resources e.g. coaches. Maybe FI can fund some of this? It could possibly find coaches to go to various small NCA's and follow a designated coaching plan – maybe someone could come up with a manual/plan.
- A feedback survey soon after championship would be useful.
- Need to find a digital media person to tap into the modern method of communication – needs to feed information in regularly
- Facebook – Lesley DiFonzo can advise but cannot do the job due to time constraints.
- Need to be very inclusive of all NCA's, some feel left out and FI needs to embrace participation from all.
- The website needs to feature more languages, this inclusivity would also help with sponsorship.
- The straplines are in different languages or should be.

### Constitution

It was agreed that the constitution should be reviewed to try to prevent a re-occurrence of the recent controversy surrounding elections and the position of the Secretary. Thanks to Ruedi Moser(SUI) and Rob Levy(CAN) who have volunteered to work on this

### Future Championships

2016 Worlds in South Africa are in good shape organizationally, boat transport is an issue being investigated by the RC Africa. A good video is available on the Web Site.

2016 Europeans on Lake Garda. Fireball Italia sent a good video which has been uploaded to YouTube with facebook links. FI will provide any support requested by Fireball Italia.

2017 World Championship. There will be no World Championship in 2017. This is because the 2016 Worlds will be held in December.

2017 European Championship. The outgoing secretary had investigated the possibility of Spain but how much progress was made is unknown. European RC Europe will consult with European NCAs.

2018 World Championships – The Council has previously voted in favour of Barbados. Canada has also proposed an event in Nova Scotia, but may agree to shift this to 2019 if the Class confirms Barbados. How do we make a decision? It was agreed to re-consult the membership. David Laing said we should encourage all NCAs. Canada is on its way up in numbers and we should encourage this. If we put a championship where there are no boats it is difficult, as we're not supporting a local NCA. However it's very difficult to address the balance between a family holiday and serious racing.

2019 – Worlds could go to Canada in August (see 2018)

In the past there was always an FI levy granted at the Worlds. It was suggested that this levy should be kept to a minimum in order to allow the international associations to budget properly for their events without having to find a hefty extra expense for FI.

Sailors attending Championship events get more out of FI. There should be a cost benefit to all members. Some NCAs need more involvement from FI, namely the smaller associations, but others don't need as much support. FI needs to recognize this and behave accordingly. Offer help to those who need it and leave others to run their own events, within guidelines obviously. FI needs to encourage the rest of the world or Europe to attend events run by smaller associations, as they don't have numbers of their own.

Years ago Louis Smythe used to organize a local charity to support for each championship – this would be a good idea.

Tom Egli stated that he has lots of data on European and World Championships – he will dig it out and present it.

The Italians, Swiss and French are very capable of organizing a championship whereas others rely on more support from FI. There are some championship guidelines somewhere but they probably need updating. FI shouldn't impose but just be there to support.

We need to work on the Japanese and encourage them to organize an international event.