**Minutes of Fireball Executive meeting on 19 September, 2016; 22:00 UCT**

**Present or partly present**: Steve Chesney, Ben Schulz, Jakub Napravnik, Penny Gibbs, Russell Thorne, David Laing, François Schluchter, Debbie Kirkby, Mianne Erne (minutes).

Due to connection problems Debbie Kirkby did not attend the first part of the meeting, Hiroshi Kato was connected for a few minutes only. Jackie Barker and Tom Egli were not included in the list of addressees and therefore probably did not get an invitation.

**Agenda**

1. Commodore’s report - State of the Constitution Review. The Commodore will report on his conversation with John Manson.
2. Report from the Secretary
3. Report from the Treasurer
4. Worlds 2016 status - Rear Commodore Africa
5. Euros 2017 status - UKFA Representative
6. Worlds 2018 - Commodore will report a proposal from Fireball France for an event at Carnac
7. Rule Change proposals - Chair of Technical Committee
8. AOB

**Minutes**

* Commodore’s report

Steve: The main problem with the new constitution proposal is the issue of SHE being a separate NCA.

Strictly speaking, keeping SHE as a separate NCA would be against World Sailing rules, but World Sailing don’t seem to be very interested. In addition, SHE has been around since 1993, also other classes sail under SHE in a lot of international events. SHE could be “grandfathered”, which would still give SHE and GBR together more votes than if they were a single NCA.

A proposal of John Manson’s was discussed: One person one vote. The problem there is, in large NCAs it is almost impossible to get every member’s opinion. NCAs could decide if they want to split the number of votes they have (e.g. allocate them to separate regions within the NCA).
If every Fireball sailor became a direct member of FI, and paid their fee to FI directly, FI would then distribute the fees to the NCAs.

Advantages: FI would have all the data, which would give it a marketable database (sponsoring). Every person’s vote could be counted directly. Or the votes could still be allocated to the NCAs, the question then would be if we keep the “winner takes it all” system in each NCA. Could NCAs hand in percentages according to what the active voters said?

Disadvantages: it would be a nightmare to collect votes from individual members (not if it was easy to do?), sailors would be less likely to sign up for membership in an international organization than in a national one, they might be skeptical of giving up a lot of personal data to an international body. In votes, people with strong opinions would recruit a lot of members to vote, the other side might get left out. Large NCAs would get a lot more votes that they can muster than small ones.

Time frame: The new constitution has to be in place before the next elections, but Steve assumes even if World Sailing have not approved our new constitution yet, we can already act on it once it has passed Council. This should be done by the end of January.

* Report from the Secretary

----- not available, Jackie Barker not present

* Report from the Treasurer

Skype too broken up to understand, therefore I inlcude Penny’s report as sent to me by mail:

*- all NCA's have requested membership cards & boat stickers & have been forthcoming with payments.*

*- 6 NCA's have still to supply membership data & will be chased.*

*- have invoiced 427 boat memberships & 752 helm/crew memberships (on a par with last year).*

*- have invoiced for 7 plaques so far, compared to 6 for the whole of last year. 3 of theze boats have been destined for Singapore.*

* Worlds 2016 status - Rear Commodore Africa

David urges us to tell members to pay their entry fees.

27 confirmed entries to date, which is disappointing; but hope for additional boats from Africa.

Sponsoring has proven difficult, both Gill and Gul have already committed to supporting next year’s Europeans, also for other potential sponsors SA just seems to be too far away. The budget is therefore very tight and RSA may ask for subsidies from FI. It will still be a great event, brilliant sailing. Small events are often better for sense of community. Some physiotherapists are going to be on site.

Some boats (including good ones) are available in SA for chartering.

David: it would help tremendously if British measurements equipment can be sent along in the British container. Steve: That should be possible.

As for worries about masts getting broken, David assures us that the bay is deep, breaking of masts unlikely.

Ben suggests putting some PR material together (among other things for Yachts and Yachting), the facebook page got a lot of attention.

Russell suggests FI might sponsor SA sailors, to invest in the future of Fireball SA. Steve is worried about setting precedents.

* Euros 2017 status - UKFA Representative

Russell: Preparations for Lyme Regis are on schedule: a lot has been done, race officer and 3 judges have been appointed, NOR is expected to be published shortly (end October).

The question of the necessary number of judges is clarified: 5 for Worlds, 3 for Europeans.

Steve reminds Russell to make sure there is web presence, both a separate page on the UKSA site and on the FI website; have list of participants up early.

* Worlds 2018

The French have been approached and they would like to have the event in Brittany. Are thinking of a club at Carnac – a proper dinghy sailing club. The club hasn’t been secured yet. Time of year would be July/August. (update 4 Oct: the club at Carnac – a proper dinghy sailing club – is interested but hasn’t committed in writing so far, the date would be probably late August).

Jakub is a bit worried about wind conditions, cf. La Rochelle.

Conclusion: Steve is to tell Jean we’ll support the proposition, to go forward.

* Rule Change proposals - Chair of Technical Committee

----- Tom Egli not present. A short discussion ensues: there is no real experience with twin poles, the idea hasn’t really been accepted yet. It would decrease the cost of poles.

* AOB

Ben brings up the Worlds 2019 in Canada. Guy Tipton, who lives in Nova Scotia, is in favour of having the event there, has contacted Shelbourne Yacht Club; there have been a lot of Worlds there. Steve will contact Guy Tipton directly.
Steve warns that the general idea about New Foundland/Nova Scotia is that it’s covered in ice.
We should make an announcement at the Worlds in SA.

Ben has been in touch with an Australian club regarding the Worlds 2020, this would probably be at the end of January (after high season, when flights and accommodation will be cheaper).

David asks if the French will make a presentation for the Worlds 2018 in SA. If possible, there should also be a presentation for the Europeans 2017.

End of meeting: 11:39 UCT

To be done:

Steve: get in touch with Guy Tipton about Worlds 2019

Make sure measurements equipment is loaded into British container for SA.

Ask FRA, GBR and CAN to make presentations for their events available for SA.

Tell Jean Robillard to go ahead with the Worlds in Carnac.

Russell: make sure there is web presence for the Europeans 2017 and that they publish a list of participants early on.

David: ensure that there is some more PR-material for the Worlds 2016.