**Website Minutes of Fireball Executive meeting on 15 March, 2016; 22:00 UCT**

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

Due to problems with upgrading and connecting, not everybody was connected all the time.

**Agenda**

* Treasurer's report
* Secretary's report
* Commodore's report
* Constitution review, please read the document!
* Championship update
  + 2016 Europeans - Jakub
  + 2016 Worlds - David
  + 2017 Europeans - Lyme Regis - proposal from UKFA - Russell
  + 2018 Worlds - situation with Barbados, alternatives - Steve, Jackie
  + 2019 World - Nova Scotia Debby
* Marketing, publicity and training fund. How do we allocate this?
* Potential applications for rule changes - twin poles, carbon masts, deck moulding.
* AOB.

**Minutes**

* **Treasurer's report**

So far only 2 plaques sold, all Winders. Steve knows of a third Winder that is being bought.

* **Secretary's report**

---- (secretary not present)

* **Commodore's report**

Constitution review has been most of the work of recent months, but most of the things will come up in other points.

There are changes in World Sailing constitution; World Sailing is mostly concerned with Olympics.

* **Constitution review**

Thanks to Rob Levy, Ruedi Moser and François Schluchter for their big effort. Some tricky parts concerning number and role of NCAs. The way in which votes are counted is discussed. Not all NCAs vote according to the same procedure, but Executive can’t control the way NCAs vote. Is winner takes it all the best solution?

The new proposition seems a good idea. The Countries would still have an NCA, but if they have less than 10 members, their votes go into a pool.

The definition of “in good standing” must be better worded. Add the subscription of the previous year.

Council needs to be able to vote on it in Dec, a 60 day window is suggested.

* **Championships update**
  + **2016 Europeans – Jakub**

NOR on website of organiser, 350 Euro, 400 late entry. Do we have any means of asking an organizer to lower fees. Tom: have they presented a budget? Italians are still afraid of low numbers because of UK-championship.

Link from FI website is complicated. Ben has added the direct link, has had no contact with organizers.

Steve and Jakub need to talk to Italians about measuring process etc. What is their break-even point? Additional boats will cost less. Russell: UKFA has already booked a lorry for Garda – about 9 or 10 boats. 1 African boat will take part.

What happens with profits? Does it go to class or club? Issue of levy will have to be brought up. Jakub wasn’t informed of that. Jakub is asked to connect Umberto and Jackie. The levy is usually determined by: the more FI do, the higher the levy. 20£ for SHE, 10£ for Pwllheli.

* + **2016 Worlds – David**

Basically things are on track, committee etc. are finalized, entry list open pretty soon. Only few people have looked into accommodation. SA would like to get some idea of how many boats plan on coming. Entry fee about 500 Euro. Container costs are bouncing around, depending on how many entries there will be, they might subsidize containers. CZE and SUI count on one container together. David: budget is based on 50 boats, minimum of 3 containers. AUS is looking into leasing boats to Asians and NAmercans. Are the Irish coming? We need direct promotion into Ireland and places where we hope to get boats from. It looks Kenya will bring some boats, together with SA about 20 African boats. Currency is very low at the moment. Security should not be a worry, no security issues. Ben: a flyer would be helpful. David: everything is on the Website, but people aren’t looking at it. Ben: make it as easy as possible for participants, and make sure they know it. Jakie: send info out, don’t expect them to look stuff up. Keep posting!

Ben: Australia is struggling to fill their container for SA, looking to other nations if they want to charter AUS boats.

* + **2017 Europeans - Lyme Regis - proposal from UKFA – Russell**

Steve: circulated Russell’s proposal in Europe, no objections, so after this meeting information should be sent out. Russell: Club wants to know whether it’s going to be the Nationals or the Europeans. Nobody on Executive is against it, so go ahead and tell the club at Lyme Regis it’s going to be the Europeans. Jakub – it’s always good when a club wants to organize it. Only reservation: do Europeans want to travel to UK again? Steve will issue an official confirmation after the meeting.

* + **2018 Worlds - situation with Barbados, alternatives - Steve, Jackie**

Jackie wrote to Barbadoes but hasn’t got any reply. Inofficially there is no possibility for FI as long as AD is involved in Barbados.

Barcelona might be an option, but not at the height of summer. Finn championship was last week. A yacht regatta was in June, with good wind. There is no NCA in Spain, but we might get some Spaniards to sail Fireballs. Looking at beginning of season, between April and June in 2018. No wind in July.

* + **2019 World - Nova Scotia Debby**

Debbie: waiting for what happens in 2018, and if class wants to go. We need to get approval from Council in SA. Debbie has contacts in Nova Scotia.

Discussion about Europeans combined with Worlds, pros and cons.

* **Marketing, publicity and training fund. How do we allocate this?**

We’ve got some more money available. We’ve had some requests from ITA, for subidising their Youth. Can we get criteria? Steve: who can take that in hand? Penny: rather pay a coach than individuals. Port Camargue: one team can’t go anyway. Good idea to send a coach to Italy before the Europeans, to entice Italians to go to Garda. Tom: Individuals should be funded by their NCAs, coaches provided/subsidized by FI.

* **Potential applications for rule changes - twin poles, carbon masts, deck moulding.**

Russell: UK has a feeling the boat should be made easier to sail, esp. for crews. Suggestion: allow twin poles. Hull shape should stay the same.

Tom: 505 have found twin poles faster for everyone, but now everyone needs them, which raises the cost of the boat. We would need some hard data on how much it’s going to cost, what are the advantages. Can UKFA give it some try? Russell: How many boats? Tom: especially towards the end of the fleet. Any solution to make pole work easier. Try out options.

Steve: Crews in Fireball are essential, so do we really want to de-skill? Jackie: it is difficult, but gives a feeling of achievement. First change in quite a while that will benefit the club sailors rather than the top end sailors. We need to look into what it costs – it might be a small cost for big benefit.

Super spars would be willing to give someone a carbon mast to experiment with it. Looking at other classes at the dinghy show, Fireball looks a bit outdated with a metal mast. On the other hand, we need to avoid an “arms race”.

We would have to have a single supplier, because standards are difficult or impossible to set. Carbon will be more costly; sail makers would have to be included in process because masts react differently. Smaller parts of carbon or partly carbon wouldn’t be all that expensive. We could probably try to find people to try things out through the website. Steve asks Tom to go with it, get both Winder and Hull into the loop. There are some issues with class rules about building the hull. Russell: Molds will have to be exchanged after a certain number of hulls anyway. Most boats are going for a-symmetrical kites.

* **AOB.**

Australia thinking of hosting 2022 Worlds. Steve: Kenya has an eye on Zanzibar as a Worlds venue. Tom: We need to officially welcome and ratify Kenya in Council – E-mail to council asking to re-recognize Kenya.

End of meeting: 0:32 UCT