

## FI Commodore's Annual Report 2018

As we had no World Championship in 2017, I wish to look back and remember the unique event of December 2016, the South African Worlds held in Mossel Bay. Although the sailors did not show up in high numbers, the organizer's effort to make us feel happy was unprecedented. On the water, wind and waves provoked amazing feelings of adventure and speed, and fascinating encounters with all sorts of marine inhabitants. On shore, an exciting program introduced us to the fascinating nature and culture of South Africa!

In 2017 our highlight was the European Championship in Lyme Regis. The picturesque town embedded in the impressive Jurassic coast attracted 84 boats, of which 30 originated from non-GBR European countries. One participant was CAN and one AUS, making it a true intercontinental event. The organization was superb, we were cheerfully received in the tent on site and had a lot of fun in the evenings following the daily events on the water. A slight drawback was the scarceness of close-by accommodations and the prices, due to the high season!

The preparation for the Worlds 2018 is in full swing. Carnac promises to be an excellent event. For further championships the interest of NCAs and Clubs to organize an event is comforting: The bids for the worlds 2019, 20, and 22 have been submitted to FI. And so are the bids for the Europeans 2019.

To foster the motivation of Fireball sailors to get in closer contact with our neighbours, a new idea was implemented in 2017: the **Central European Cup**. Last fall a prize was offered to the best of those who attended at least 3 out of the 4 national championships in Central Europe (CZE, SLO, ITA, SUI). Only a few boats fulfilled these requirements but we hope for more attendance in the 2018 edition.

All NCAs are suffering from stagnating numbers of members, and many have taken diverse actions to counteract. FI wishes to foster the cooperation between the NCAs and pass on the knowledge and experience gained by the different actions taken. It also wishes to implement measures on the international level.

The year 2017 was an election year again. All candidates standing for Rear Commodore or Commodore were elected without opposition. We all thank the membership for their confidence.

The new Executive has taken over and began its work. We benefitted from the work done by the last Executive for the current events such as the Worlds in France and the scheduled future events. A great thanks! FI will continue to support NCAs and Clubs willing to organize our Championships. We will come back to meaningful traditions such as publishing reports and minutes on our homepage. Furthermore we intend to install useful tools for our members to get any information as up-to-date as possible and for our NCAs to act in a coordinate way in particular when planning national and international events.

Finally, I would like to thank our former Commodore and Secretary who supported me when I took over my new job. A special thank goes to François Schluchter who, besides passing on his experiences for the annual report to World Sailing, took over the coordination and communication of FI with the organizing club for the 2018 Worlds and with Fireball France. This action will bring benefit to all sailors attending the upcoming championship in Brittany, France. And least but not last I want to thank the newly established Executive. The newcomers, including me, have struggled at the beginning but now we are all on our way and cooperate smoothly!

Kueblis, July 2018

Christina Haerdi