

Fireball Open Forum of August 22, 2022; 18:30 local time Dromineer, Ireland

Notes

Agenda

1. Future Worlds: 2024: Geelong AUS
2. Classic boats
3. Any Other Business

Notes

1. Future Worlds: 2024: Geelong AUS

- Costs of containers have doubled; delivery also takes longer. Boats would probably be gone from October 2023 until possibly as late as May 2024.
- Australia doesn't have enough high-quality boats to charter, so they came up with a boat sharing idea. Those who would be willing to share their boat with another team would get a considerable reduction in entry fees. Those who want to sail shared boats would pay more.
- Sharing boats would mean sailing in two fleets.
- There would be an effort to match teams with similar weight etc; If possible bring your own sails.
- First half of regatta would have 6 races to split fleet into gold and silver fleet. Those who share, if they end up in the same fleet as the owner of the boat, would have to be given a different boat to share.
- In case of damages, there would be boat builders on location, also some spare boats on hand as emergency.
- Price of shipping: offers (as of Aug 2022) 1 container £18'000, (about EUR 2'000 per boat if we can fill a container)
- If people bring their own boat from Europe, they can either share or decide not to share.
- Sailing a shared boat would make your entry fee about Euro 1700; Fee without a boat about Euro 800.
- Insurance issues are still being worked on but seem to be solvable.
- Temperatures mild to warm/hot.
- There is a lot of choice for accommodation within walking distance from Yacht Club: Camping, B&B, AirBnB,
- Hands shown pro and contra sharing boats are about even.

2. Classic Boats, Classic Fleets

- What should be counted as a classic boat?
- Wide bow vs. narrow bow? Wooden vs. glass?
- The organizers of Worlds 2022 felt that there were too few narrow bows registered, while there were a lot of young sailors who dug out old, neglected boats and restored them for this event.
- At Worlds in Dromineer, there are two categories: classics and modern classics.
- Australia feels there are both real classics as well as "modern classics".
- Africa has some real classics but also a lot of wide-bow wooden boats.

- Composite boats are quite good but take a lot of effort and work to keep up.
- USA has mostly classic, narrow-bow boats
- IRL older boats take a lot of upkeep or they will not be competitive
- Suggestion: modern classics would have to be 25+ years old
- Show of hands in favour of modern classics having to be 25+ years old.

3. Any Other Business

- Question: Could we get rid of the heavy correctors? Answer: Some boat builders put more weight into the boat by building it more strongly. Older boats have very light correctors, they would be penalized.
- USA have March/April races, usually have boats to charter. "Midwinters" in Florida in March, Arizona in April.
- Topic for the future: in-house measuring has brought about a loss of skills among measurers. Could this lead to a future problem? Possibly training would be necessary.

End of meeting: 19:45 local time

Dromineer, 22 August, 2022

Mianne Erne