

Fireball AGM of August 22, 2022; 17:30 local time Dromineer, Ireland

Minutes

Present: Christina Härdi, Dave Hall, Guy Newson, Linus Eberle, Cormac Bradley, Mianne Erne (minutes). Representatives from AUS CAN FRA GBR IRL ITA RSA SUI

Agenda

1. Short Reports (Commodore's, Financial, Secretary's)
2. Future Worlds: 2024: Geelong AUS
3. Future European Championships: 2023: Portoroz SLO
4. Further Continental Championships?
5. Discussion: Definition of Classic Boat: Narrow Bow vs. Age
6. Discussion: Class Rule 25: New Rule RRS 42.3(i): open to any regatta?
7. Any Other Business

Minutes

1. Short Reports (Commodore's, Financial, Secretary's)

Africa: very quiet, most fleets have more or less collapsed, Kenya had Nationals with 8 boats.

Australia: affected by COVID, those championships that could be sailed didn't attract a lot of teams. There are some strong fleets. Problems finding new people for their executive, preparations for Worlds in Geelong are well underway.

North America: CAN: Memberships slightly increased, mostly club racing, but also regional and national races are organized. Work being done on Website, promotion of class. COVID also had an effect on the class.

USA: no activities for the past two years.

Western Europe: IRL: class seems quite stable but a lot of young people start sailing but don't stay on. Good turn-out for Worlds. FRA: only few active boats, so events had to be shared with other classes. SHE no report, but still about 10 members paying fees.

Eastern Europe: CZE: a good bit of sailing, but there is a lot of competition from other classes. SUI class hanging in there, some younger members, but also established teams quitting. ITA quite a lot of young sailors, active class but don't travel. SLO slowly growing, organizing next year's Europeans. Visiting other NCA's Nationals still works well even though the European Cup has been abandoned.

Commodore's report: COVID was a problem, but Europeans were a great event except that neither the British nor the Irish could attend, and no social events could be held.

Technical Committee report: After taking on the position in 2020 by Dave Hall few queries were sorted or answered. Two major rule changes were accepted by Council and WS. 2021: Allowance of carbon spinnaker poles; 2022 Allowance of any trapeze harness hooks in contrast to RRS 50.1(c)

Finances: graphs were handed out, Guy suggests keeping the fees the same.

Measuring: We have a new measurer; he needs to come to two events to be accredited. The class needs an accredited measurer to be recognized as a World Sailing class.

Secretary's report: very few new boats were built. 3 amateur builders world-wide; quite a few people ask for plans but then we don't hear from them. Memberships are decreasing slowly.

2. Future Worlds: 2024: Geelong AUS

- Discussion referred to Open Forum

3. Future European Championships: 2023: Portoroz SLO

- Discussion referred to Open Forum

4. Further Continental Championships

Besides Europe and Australia no plans according to our knowledge.

5. Discussion: Definition of Classic Boat: Narrow Bow vs. Age

- Discuss referred to Open Forum

6. Discussion: Class Rule 25: New Rule RRS 42.3(i): open to any regatta?

Everybody present agrees that the rule should be abandoned. There will be a vote by mail.

7. Any Other Business

Measurer was unhappy with certain measurement specifications, thinks they should be made more precise. FRA: We should have a competition weight rather than a hull weight. IRL: make measuring as simple as possible. AUS/RSA competition weight would be a good idea (weigh the boat including mast, boom and everything)

Dave Hall is asked to work out a suggestion for competition weight

End of meeting: 18:15 local time

Dromineer, 22 August, 2022

Mianne Erne

Commodore's Report

Past regattas: The first international event after the Covid Lock Down was the European Championship in Piombino ITA. What a pleasure to see so many international Fireball Friends after this crazy year 2020. However, the feeling of special conditions appeared to be still present: No social events, besides Nick and Evelyne only continental participants. But still it was a great success and I know, that this was mainly the Italian NCA which put all their energy into the organization (sometimes seemingly against the club and the Marina being part of the Organizing Committee).

To be here now and attending the first World Championship since 3 years and having fun with over 80 boats on the water reassures me that our decisions from last year were right: Hold the Worlds in Europe and give the Irish fleet a second chance to use all their inputs already made for the Worlds in 2020. Many thanks to you guys!!

Next Events: Unfortunately this was followed by a second postponement: The Worlds in Geelong AUS. Here too we probably were right! Prices for flights and container shipping exploded, first due to the Covid mess in China, and now the next disaster did hit us: a war in Europe, unbelievable, but fact and followed by an energy crisis predicted for the next winter and again influencing the costs for travel massively. We now hope to realize our plans for 2023: the Europeans in Portoroz SLO and then our next Worlds Geelong 2024.

FI website including the FI calendar: We are trying hard to keep it up to date at any time. However, we also depend on you: Thus, please inform us always if you have an announcement to be made, an event to be published, or a missing out of something important you have found. Get your information at: www.fireball-international.com.

Technical Committee: We have changed the International Fireball Class Rules twice: First the carbon pole is now allowed. And second, we have added a rule which changes RRS 50.1 (b): On a Fireball the trapeze harness worn by a competitor may or may not be of the quick release variety complying with ISO 10862. Both requests were accepted by World Sailing.

Unfortunately the building of new boats came to a nearly complete stop during 2020 and 2021.

Finances: FI is still in good condition. We have budgeted again 2000.- pounds to support young sailors mainly to make affordable the participation of international events.

World Sailing: For the first time our new International Measurer Chris Henderson is in action here in Dromineer. Thus, we will soon be able to comply fully with the WS requirements as World Sailing Class.

Thanks: Finally, I would like to thank all of you: It is a great pleasure to be surrounded by so many enthusiastic sailors from the very young to the white haired oldies as I am. This makes it so rewarding to help keeping the class going on!

It is with all my heart to thank all the members of the Executive, who support me at any time and which act as a real team, such that I am very confident, that we can solve the upcoming problems together.

Your FI Commodore

Christina Haerdi