## Secretary's Report

**Introduction**
1. It has only been a few months since our 2013 World Championship, so this will be a short report.

**Slovenian World Championship**
2. Gosailing was appointed by Fireball Slovenia, they were experience at putting together sailing championships but had limited experience of the Fireball Class and what was required to deliver a world class Fireball championship. I worked with them to fill the gaps in their knowledge and together we produced what I know the sailors considered a great event.

3. One minor issue was a shortfall in the budget which meant that whilst all the sailor facing requirements were met and all the ISAF race officials had their expenses paid. I made a personal contribution to ensure the budget balanced.

**2014 Worlds Thailand**
4. Selecting and confirming the venue for the 2014 WC was the most troublesome I have ever encountered.

5. Following extensive research I had secured a venue in Turkey after a request from sailors.

6. This venue choice did not meet with approval from certain quarters who suggested several alternatives which I investigated. They were:
• Busan, South Korea I had visited the city for an ISAF conference. It is a former Olympic sailing venue. It is a heavily industrialised city which did not tick the boxes as a holiday venue.
• Langkawi, Malaysia Whilst this ticks the boxes as a holiday venue the prevailing wind speeds max out at around 8 knots. This was not going to provide the exciting sailing the Fireball fleet expects.
• Phuket, Thailand This was considered as an alternative Thai venue as the Tasar Class had held an event from a hotel there. The winds in March are unreliable with the best winds occurring in July which is right in the middle of the European season and when most NCAs hold their Nationals Championships. There were logistical issues and cost implications with getting containers to the venue and transferring the necessary infrastructure from the RVYC.
• Ho Hin, Thailand Similar logistical issues and cost implications as with Phuket.

7. Fortunately the RVYC, which has become a good friend of the class since 2000, was happy to step up to the mark and provide a venue.

8. It is lucky that we are working with such a friendly venue as this year's small fleet has presented budgetary challenges. The RVYC has worked with me to ensure we deliver a great event for the sailors despite the budgetary constraints.  Not all clubs would have been that accommodating.

**2014 Europeans Shetland**
9. I was invited to attend the launch of the event at the Shetland Boat show in 2013 and have been assisting Fireball Shetland on all aspects of the event ever since. All matters are on track for a fantastic event.

10. This is a superb sailing location and the Shetland hospitality is second to none.   Please do not be put off by any moody atmospheric Nordic TV dramas you may see; the only similarity is the wide open spaces.

**2015 UK Worlds**
11. I have been asked by the UKFA to head up their delivery team for their 2015 Worlds.

12. After an extensive search Pwllheli Sailing Club have been appointed as host club.  They enjoy probably the best sailing waters in the UK and coupled with their new club house, which I am assured will be ready in April 2015, and the stunning local scenery they provide a perfect venue for UKFA to host a world championship. The club is welcoming and enthusiastic which just adds to the
attraction.

13. Promotion of the championship was started at the UK Dinghy show in March, however the UKFA have decided to formally launch the event at Easter 2014.

14. You should have all received flyers for the event with the 2014 stickers and membership cards. Please put the dates in your diary, as this is sure to be the biggest Fireball event since the 2005 UK worlds.

15. The UKFA are keen to attract sailors from all the Fireball NCAs and to assist with this they are ensuring the 2015 worlds web site will have multi lingual functions to make entering as easy as possible for those who do not use English as a 1st language.

**2016 RSA Worlds**
16. I have had several Skype meetings with Anthony Parker and David Laing and a face to face meeting with David in Manchester. Initial preparations are well in hand.

**2017 Europeans**
17. After requests from the class at the Slovenia worlds for a major event at Roses Bay, Spain I did a site visit in October. Roses appears to tick all the Fireball boxes.

**ISAF matters**
18. My regular contact with the Secretariat continues to ensure when I contact them on behalf of the Fireball class the matters are always dealt with promptly and effectively.

19. As usual the ISAF International class returns for Fireball were submitted in accordance with the regulations.

20. This year I have needed to keep ISAF informed of the size of the fleet at the 2014 Worlds in Thailand as the numbers are so low.

21. As a class we currently continue to meet ISAF's requirements for holding a World Championships but we must not become complacent and allow some of our smaller and more remote NCAS to disappear.

22. On this note I have recently intervened to ensure that Fireball Kenya continues as part of Fireball International.

23. I have been able to assist a Fireball sailor who had the misfortune to be threatened by a fellow member at his local club. I contacted ISAF's legal department for advice and was able to put the sailor in contact with them. They have assisted in clearing his name and ensuring action is taken against the perpetrator.

**General Admin**
24. I continue to administer the ISAF plaques on behalf of ISAF, the Sponsors and the Builders. Numbers of new boats remain steady the latest being 150112.

25. David Winder has confided in me with his ideas for options to improve the deck mouldings and thus move the class forward once again.

26. There continues to be a constant stream of requests for plans to self-build a Fireball. These are from all around the globe and include countries where we have no record of Fireball sailing.

Andrew Davies
International Secretary