

Fireball International AGM
8 p.m. Thursday 27th August 2015
Pwllheli Sailing Club
Agenda

1. Commodores report
2. Secretaries report
3. Treasurers report
4. Rear Commodore Africa
5. Rear Commodore Asia
6. Rear Commodore Australia and Oceania
7. Rear Commodore America
8. Rear Commodore Europe
9. Future Championships -
Fireball Italy - status of 2016 Europeans
Debbie Kirkby - bid from Fireball Canada to host the 2018 or 2019 worlds
in Nova Scotia (St Margaret's Bay).
10. A.O.B – open discussion of other subjects.

MINUTES OF THE FIREBALL INTERNATION AGM AUGUST 27th 2015
PWHELLI SAILING CLUB

Before the meeting proper started David Laing from Fireball South Africa was given the opportunity to talk to the audience about the forthcoming Worlds in 2016 in Mossel Bay. He presented a video about the area and the sailing venue. To date he has had a quote of £5000 per container for taking boats out there and there is a travel link on the FI website. Everyone was very positive and receptive about this world championship. He then handed out bottles of wine from one of the Garden Route wineries.

Jakub Napravnik from Fireball Europe then gave a short presentation on behalf of the Italian Fireball Association for the 2016 European Championships to be held on Lake Garda at Brenzoni from July 30th – August 6th. He pointed out that the Swiss Cup will be held the weekend before the championships at another lake close by so people could take advantage of that event also.

1. Commodore's Report

Steve Chesney welcomed everyone to the AGM. He thanked everyone for their support over what had been a very difficult last six months for the class and hoped that all would start to come together for the good of the class. He stated that the Executive Committee had been approved by a 2/3 majority as follows:

Tom Egli	Technical Representative
Jackie Barker	Secretary
Penny Gibbs	Treasurer
Will Moody	Professional Events Management
Francois Schluter	ISAF liaison
Russell Thorne	Largest NCA Representative (GBR)
Ben Shultz	Australia Representative
Debbie Kirkby	North American Representative and Canada
David Laing	South Africa Representative
Jakob Napravnik	Europe Representative and Czech Republic
Hiroshi Kato	Japan Representative

2. Secretary's Report

Having just been appointed Jackie Barker introduced herself and said she would be working as hard as possible to get FI back on track. She said she was looking forward to promoting this special boat in the future and hopes to help the class flourish. She stated that with the team in place now the future does look bright as long as everyone works towards one goal.

3. Treasurer's Report

Accounts at the end of December 2014 – the class had made £1000 in the year. Normally the class breaks even. Going forward, costs will be down so we will be able to spend some money where necessary.

4. Rear Commodore Africa

David Laing had already given his report at the beginning of the meeting.

5. Rear Commodore Asia
Hiroshi Kato had submitted his apologies.
6. Rear Commodore Australia and Oceania
Ben Shultz updated us on the status of the web site including the plan to add translation. He stated that the class was one of the more healthy in Australia and that there continues to be a level of interest in New Zealand but not yet enough to form an NCA. The class is not helped by the Australian MNA's focus on Olympic classes and the recent decline in the strength of the Aussie Dollar is making boat imports expensive.
7. Rear Commodore America
Debby Kirkby stated that the class was healthy in North America and wished to host a World Championship in Nova Scotia in 2018 or 2019.
8. Rear Commodore Europe
Jakub Naprovnik introduced himself and gave a talk about the 2016 Europeans at Lake Garda to be hosted by Fireball Italia.
9. Future Championships
Europeans 2016 – Italy. It was felt that FI should support smaller organizations such as Italy with help in promotion etc. Links should be provided on the website and as much information should be supplied to attract as many boats as possible. The Commodore stated that he had been trying to get information from the Italian Class for a while but had struggled to make contact. However very recently contact had been made and progress can now be made in the promotion and support of the event next year.

There will be no Worlds in 2017 because the 2016 Worlds are in December. World Championships 2018 – where does the class want to go? A lot of people favour Barbados as it was such a good championships as well as a holiday. Russell Thorne stated that it may be too early to go back and maybe somewhere different would be good. If we overdue a venue it can become worn out e.g. Thailand. The US or Canada was suggested – perhaps Nova Scotia. Debbie Kirkby spoke and said that it was last in Nova Scotia in 1976 and in Victoria in 2006. The East coast is also possible in St Margaret's Bay and competitors could fly into Halifax. Some stated that it can be very cold and they would prefer a warm location, especially after Wales this year! Kingston is also a possibility.

It was pointed out that it would be good to choose a venue where Fireballs are already sailed in order to promote the class within that country to increase numbers.

No decision was reached.

10. AOB
 - i. Tom Egli was open for questions re the rules etc. He pointed out that the class had recently reduced the weight by 3 kg so people should be re-

weighing their boats and reducing the amount of correctors accordingly. The class is looking into the possibility of using carbon in foils and spinnaker poles. This all needs liaison with ISAF which will involve Frederick Shultz who is the new member on the Technical committee for his links with ISAF.

- ii. Rod Levy commented that we don't define an NCA very well in the constitution. It needs to be clearly defined what is an NCA and what is an Association. How many boats does an NCA have to have? Steve Chesney stated that Rudy Moser will be helping to review the constitution for FI. In order to do this, it needs more input from more people. As we are an international class we have to report to ISAF as they lay down the rules. Rob has agreed to work with Ruedi.
- iii. Louis Smyth (who had agreed to represent the Shetland Islands despite being resident in Ireland) stated that there had been a problem with the constitution in the recent voting rights. He pointed out that Shetland had voted against the new executive but that the class sends best wishes to FI and believes it is a time for reconciliation. He pointed highlighted a anomaly in the constitution re the Rear Commodores, all Rear Commodores have only one vote to represent all their countries, yet Europe has the majority of NCAs and Sailors. The Commodore pointed out that since the UKFA was separately represented on the Executive Europe in practice got 2 votes.
- iv. It was mentioned that we need to bring in the younger generation, which is difficult but needs encouraging. We should possibly forge links with those who don't make it in the Olympics classes and encourage them to sail a Fireball which is just as much fun. Torie Morley suggested that FI had a youth representative on the Executive; the Commodore agreed that this was a good idea.
- v. T-shirts were then handed out from FI for the youngsters who took part in this World Championships.