

FI Commodore's Report

When taking over the position of Commodore last year, the first and most important issue was the World Championship in Carnac.

As a total newcomer, I heavily relied on the written documents on our homepage as well as the support from the former Commodores Steve and François. And thanks to them, Carnac was a real success! Over 100 boats met in the Baie de Quiberon, and 9 out of 10 races were sailed. The race officer, although living at the Mediterranean, did a perfect job on the water. The only critique was about the social program. In our championship questionnaire 47% of respondents were not satisfied about it. We will have to work on this in the future and certainly include the desires of families and other non-sailing visitors!

The preparation for the Worlds 2019 was very smooth. Two containers from Europe are now underway. We made all efforts to publish any pertinent information on the FI homepage and on Facebook to allow sailors sufficient time to plan their participation.

Also the organization of the Worlds 2020 in Howth, Ireland, is progressing as planned. FI is well-informed at any time. For further Worlds and European Championships bids exist until 2022. FI received no information about African and North American Continental Championships.

The Central European Cup was discontinued in 2019 because of the 2 big events, the Europeans in the Czech Republic and the Worlds in Canada. In 2018 only 3 boats were eligible for the trophy.

A big issue was the co-incidence of the European and the UK National Championships this year. To prevent such a huge flaw in the future, we have installed a publicly visible calendar on our homepage. We therefore ask all NCAs to plan their national events only after considering the major FI events. In this calendar we have also included the National events as soon as we got this information.

In 2019 FI has performed a poll concerning a Class Rule change about twin poles. This has been denied by a large majority of the NCAs. This was most likely due to the concern about the cost. However, we will go on with our discussion to modernize our class. During this year's open forum, we will discuss about the pros and cons of carbon tiller, pole and boom.

A council decision was made about a rule to subsidize organizers of trainings or events being of interest to our class. Financial support is also possible for participants of big events. Every year Council will therefore decide about the maximum amount used for such subsidies in the yearly budget. We are happy to have established this in time for two additional boats to participate at the Worlds in Canada.

Again, I want to thank all those who have supported me during the year! Firstly these are the members of the Executive Committee. We had very constructive discussions during our meetings and they advised me when I had specific questions. A special thank goes to UKFA who informed us about their analysis on opportunities and threads to the Fireball class in the future. They also supported FI in renovating some of our perpetual trophies; namely we thank Chris Turner who did a great job! And finally a very big thank you goes to Francis de Roeck who solved the difficult issue of getting the custom's logistics done for our continental container to Canada. What I tried during months he realized within one week! The boats are afloat now, thanks to his last-minute action!

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