

Fireball Executive meeting of July 10, 2024; 20:00 UTC

Minutes – Executive Use

Attendees

- Nick Rees (Commodore)
- Olivier Burgaud (Secretary)
- Florence Devaux (observer)
- Mianne Erne (Minutes Secretary)
- Dave Hall (Technical Committee Chair)
- Hiroshi Kato (Rear Commodore Asia)
- Evelyn Chisholm (Rear Commodore North America) subbed by Richard Quinlan
- Heather Macfarlane (Rear Commodore Australia)
- Cormac Bradley (Rear Commodore Western Europe) briefly

Purpose

July 2024 meeting of FI Executive.

Agenda

1. Review of Actions
2. 2024 Europeans
3. 2025 Worlds
4. 2026 Worlds
5. Review of future events
6. Boat Developments
7. Promoting strong Fireball fleets
8. AOB

Minutes

1. Review of Actions

- *Action 2: Central Information Platform.* Ongoing. No action until charity status is resolved.
- *Action 10: Nick to visit/contact NCAs. – ongoing. Nick met Hiroshi in Japan in June.*
- **Action 14: Charity status:** Nick has been in touch with World Sailing with regards to other classes' experiences with charity status. There are some, Nick was referred to the legal department of World Sailing; **call has not been scheduled yet.**
- **Action 15: Website – list of content management tools: Waiting for answers to poll among NCAs.**

- **Action 16:** Guy to send FI fee bill to Australians after consulting with Heather. Heather to pay bill. – **pending**
- *Action 17: Nick to set up WhatsApp Community, invite NCAs.* – done, so far only FRA and GBR are in the group.
- *Action 18: Nick to look for former event guidelines and complete SI.* – Done, nothing new has come to light.
- **Action 19:** Nick to contact World Sailing about environmental points in NORs – **Awaiting reply from WS.**
- *Action 20: Draft for major event documents* – Nick has created a questionnaire based on an ILCA document.
 - **Action 25:** Nick to improve the questionnaire.
 - In checklist for event bids add: “Do you have space for containers?”
 - Define whose responsibility each point is – club, NCA, FI
 - Define how financial responsibility is split between club, NCA, FI
- *Action 21:* Done – Chris Henderson will run the measuring procedures at Maccagno.
- *Actions 22/24 – Worlds 2026* – done (see below)
- **Action 23:** *negotiations about future international events* – **ongoing**
- *Actions 25/26: Possibility for Worlds in Canada / Import tax for Canada (wasn't listed)- status unclear*

2. 2024 Europeans Maccagno (Italy)

Preparations are underway, registration has been open for several weeks. 66 boats registered (as of 15 July). Sailing instructions haven't been posted yet.

Action 27: Nick to chase up SI for the event.

Action 28: Nick to talk to Steven Borzani concerning charter boats for the event

3. 2025 Worlds Garda (Italy)

Preparations are underway. Several teams from over-seas have pronounced interest in chartering boats. Also Japanese and Canadians would be interested in charter boats. It would be good to find about 10 charter boats. Unless there are enough charter boats in Europe, a possibility might be to fill up the AUS container with some.

Action 29: Nick to ask for NOR, preferably to be received before the Europeans 24.

In Australia, there is quite a bit of interest; the question has been asked if grants for a container, but also grants for teams are available (grants for teams were given for the Worlds in Dromineer, IRL).

Action 30: Nick and Guy to look up documents concerning grants and make them available to teams interested in applying.

Action 31: Nick to ask Steven Borzani about possibilities of charter boats.

Action 32: Nick to ask around for charter boats at Europeans, at class meeting.

4. 2026 Worlds Torquay (UK)

The French NCA agreed to let Royal Torbay Yacht Club run the event in 2026.

Preparations are already underway.

RTYC suggests renting a marquee. This would raise the participation fees considerably, on the other hand a place for socializing is important.

Action 33: Dave to find out what RTYC would offer inside said marquee and if they might be able to find a sponsor for it.

5. Review of future events

Europeans 2027: possibly in CZE

Europeans 2028: possibly St. Raphael (France)

Options to be followed up: Kenya, Japan, Canada

Action 23 (ongoing): Nick to talk to Kenya (Alastair – what year?) and France (Jean – what year? Europeans or Worlds?)

Action 25 (ongoing): Richard Quinlan/Evelyn Chisholm to look and see if a 2027 worlds in North America is possible.

6. Boat Developments

The chosen boat has been remodelled with a double floor, but the rear tank left in place, with two over-sized tubes for drainage instead. Fitted with only the most important control lines.

The boat has been sailed by various people at several events, feedback by helms is quite positive, by crews mixed.

Helms find only little difference to what they're used to.

Crews: on the positive side: less stumbling over the centre board casing. On the negative side: less space between floor and boom, you have to duck lower and it feels cramped in low wind situations. Several mentioned that they felt rather like being ON a boat than IN it.

There will be some more trials, by the time of the Europeans Dave Hall and Dave Winder should be able to propose further proceeding.

Action 34: Nick to make the presentation of the new design publicly available.

Trackers: new technologies are being developed and pushed to monitor boats' exact positions. This helps especially with OCS, or with finishes in handicap races.

Presumably this will become standard practice in most races. Discussion as to whether we should volunteer for testing, possibly for a discount in the future. In some NCAs the technology has been discussed already, not everyone is keen.

Action 35: Heather to investigate trackers, both the system developed by Vakaros and their competitors.

7. Promoting strong Fireball fleets

Action 36 Heather: chase up video material from Geelong

Charter boats – need to be good – how to deal with costs if chartering team has made improvements?

New posts on the executive proposed for:


- Person responsible for charter boats (it shouldn't be the organizing club's responsibility).
- Person responsible for social media and a newsletter to alert sailors to deadlines and such. A plan for when to post what should be set up, as well as NCAs reminded to post their events in the FI calendar.

Action 37: Nick to look into creating these roles on the executive. Contact Esteban to discuss the social media post.

It would be welcomed if, at big events, more attention was paid again to awarding trophies or at least mentions to categories other than the winners.

8. AOB

Next Executive Meeting: 9 Oct 2024, 20:00 UCT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ME' followed by a flourish.

Mianne Erne