**Minutes of Fireball Executive meeting on 12 December, 2016; Mossel Bay**

**Present:** Steve Chesney, Jakub Napravnik, Ben Schultz, David Laing, Tom Egli, Mianne Erne

1. **Rule Change Proposals**

* A request from GB for twin poles, because Fireballs are difficult for new crews. Cost will be higher, handling easier. We haven’t got a big spinnaker, are one of only few symmetrical spinnaker classes. Perception is that Fireballs are against any new developments. PB and Winder are for it. 505 tried it, once the weaker boats had it, even the best teams had to have it because the crew can stay out on the wire in the gybe. We have a lot less space to fit more blocks in the cockpit. We need more detail on pro and con, consequences, how to re-rig.   
  Proposals that oppose each other, going faster or going easier. Twin poles would make the boat more accessible, but single ended poles (manual or with launch), Sayce-Reese (double-ended) poles.   
  Tom is going to write it up and then we can have a vote.
* Two trapeze harnesses. That would allow for crew-changes during races, which is illegal. In club races it has been contested!! At international level it is impossible. We could implement it as trial, then it can’t be used on international level, but on club level. If World Sailing says no, then we’ll stop it.
* Rule about pumping. Now says: 42.2 at the moment national events have to apply to FI (originally World Sailing didn’t trust committees.) Suggestion: we get rid of this rule (application) or in fact we delegate it to NCAs, but this has to be approved by World Sailing. Or we put a template on the website. – Tom will word a request to World Sailing by the end of the year.

1. **Future events:**

Steve thinks Carnac is a great place. It has to go through council, but there is no alternative.

Yakub: what about Europeans in pre-Worlds? Having the combination weakens the Europeans. CZE sailors get subsidies from state if they do well in both events. One possibility would be to shorten the pre-worlds, but shortening the Europeans isn’t really a good idea. Yakub talks to Carnac whether having Europeans as well, but we’ll need council approval first.

Canada: They want to do it, want to boost the NA fleet. It doesn’t absolutely have to be Halifax.

Plan to suggest to Council:

* 2018 Carnac (August)
* 2019 Canada (Summer/Fall)
* 2020 Barcelona??? Unless an NCA puts forward a bid (CZE?) Francois is working on it.
* (2021 a big Europeans)
* 2022 Australia (February) Royal Geelong Yacht Club (bid received)

1. **Constitution**

The one aspect that is contentious is the “one man one vote”. Don’t implement it now, keep it in mind. One man one vote is done by 505 and Laser, no one else. Both are top-down organisations.

Get all the suggestions for Constitution out to NCAs before end of year, have council vote in mid-January. Do our best to legalize all NCA before end of year!

Kenya has applied for NCA status. Namibia feels they don’t have enough boats. Jakub asks NED to apply.

New Zealand: there are still Fireballs, but not organized as an NCA.

1. **Financials**

There is some money, what to spend it on will have to be discussed.

1. **Elections**

David Laing would like to be replaced.

After 18th Jan council meeting online. Invitations will have to be out 30 days before. Steve invites.

Informal council meeting here in MB. On Tue, after sailing (30 mins after protest period). Open Forum on Thu. David has notices put up.