

BFA Honorary Secretary report

I have very little to say regarding the 2020 sailing season. It is now behind us and proved to be a very unfulfilling year for Finn sailing.

The BFA committee have been actively looking to amend the BFA constitution to update it and align it with the modern expectations of British sport. To that end a draft has been prepared but given the importance of the document we would like to give members more time to debate and comment on the revisions. The constitution will be presented to the membership at the 2021 AGM as the current constitution requires a 'majority vote' in favour of change.

Looking forward to 2021, I can report we have a full calendar of events in the UK, and CoVID willing we have clubs who are eager to be hosts to a Finn event. A draft calendar is on the BFA website and will be finally confirmed before the end of the year.

To start the year we have four events that make up the Spring Series with events in Warsash, Christchurch, Itchenor and Bough Beech. Assuming all four events are sailed the best three events will be counted for the new Richard Craegh-Osborne trophy. These are all one-day events with 4-6 races each day, just to get us all back into racing order.

Nine Finn events than combine to form the Travellers Trophy, assuming all events are sailed then three discards are allowed to identify a Travellers Trophy champion. Championship events include the Southern Championships (Lymington), Masters Championships (Mengeham Rythe), National Championships (Torbay), Northern Championships (West Riding) and Inland Championships (Draycote Water). Also, open meetings at Bosham, Mengeham Rythe, Solway, Christchurch and Warsash.

To encourage more sailors to enter and participate in the Travellers Trophy and the National Championships, a new prize in each event for the Club Team that gains the fewest points across the Travellers Trophy and separately the National Championships. To be eligible a club must count points from each of the following groups of sailors:-

Open (including all sailors under 39yrs), Master, Grand Master, Great Grand Master, Legend (including all sailors over the age of 69yrs).

If a club does not have a sailor in one or more of these categories the club shall score points equal to the number of participants in that group, plus 1. To qualify for a Club Team, sailors must be a member of that club, and must enter the series as a representative of that club. Changes of club are not acceptable mid series. The club with the lowest overall scores, for the top placed sailor in each of the categories, at the end of the series, will be declared the winning club. Sailors do not need to be named or identified at the start of the event all members of a club are entered and eligible for their scores to count for this trophy.

I would encourage you to persuade and cajole non-Finn sailors to enter any BFA events to constitute a club team. All sailors entering an event for the first time can do so as Associate members but must become full members to participate in further events.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again at the events in 2021.