

# Minutes 2012 BFA Annual General Meeting

Saturday 10 July 2021 at 17:00

at Royal Torbay Yacht Club

1. **In attendance:** John Heyes, Chris Barbary, Dan Belton, Sander Kooij, Peter Blick, Russ Ward, Don Francis, Alex Atkins, Kieron Holt, Ray New, Steve Hayles, Russell New, Simon Philbrick, Simon Percival, John Greenwood, David Kitchen, Jim Downer, John DeLeeuw, Andrew Wylam, Richard Sharp, Allen Burrell, Julian Smith, Lawrence Crispin, Garry Phare, Roman Khodykin Ivan Burden, Richard Hart
2. **Apologies:** Fergus Allen, Jean-Louis Simons, Peter Vinton, Rory Barnes, Andy Denison, Howard Sellars
3. **2020 minutes** – Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Approved John Greenwood; Seconded David Kitchen
4. **Matters arising** - No Matters arising
5. **Election of officers**
  - a. **Chairman – John Heyes**
  - b. **Treasurer – Ray New**
  - c. **Secretary – Martin Hughes** – (must stand down at AGM in 2022)
  - d. **Membership Secretary – Chris Barbary**
  - e. **Registrations Secretary – Rory Barnes**
  - f. **Classic Rep – Peter Vinton**

Due to no changes in roles it was agreed all officers would be elected as a block election. This was proposed by John Greenwood and seconded by Russ Ward. The Chairman made it clear that he and the Secretary must stand down in 2022 and we are actively looking for members to take over at the end of this sailing year.

## 6. Chairman's report

After a slightly belated start to the season due to lockdowns, I am pleased to report that BFA events recommenced as soon as possible with lots of pent up enthusiasm for open meetings. Attendances have been up at all our events to date, from Bough Beech to Solway, with several new and returning members travelling, which is great to see. Sadly, we now know the Finn will not now be an Olympic class in Paris 2024. There has been little word from the International Finn Association on the decision, or their plans for the international circuit in the future. Your committee has been asking the IFA to address these issues and how the class can move forward in the coming years. In order to approach the IFA Executive with some positive proposals and ideas, we are currently running a survey to canvass member's views on ways forward. The questions include; What would you like to see the IFA do for Finn sailing in the future, Should the IFA campaign for the Finn to be reselected to the Olympic Games or accept it cannot offer a gender equal solution, Should the IFA aim to set up a professional racing circuit, similar to the Star Sailors League and how could this be funded and finally How could the IFA revitalise and engage more U23 sailors to enter the Silver Cup? I would urge you all to have a say on this, so we have a strong mandate to present your suggestions to the IFA. Much of your BFA subscription goes to the IFA in order to run the international circuit, so as a National Member Association we should be asking how and where our money is now to be spent.

Last year we said goodbye and thank you to GAC Pindar for their six-year sponsorship programme of the nationals and their generous support of the U23 programme over that time. I am pleased to welcome Ronstan Europe and The Old Salt Loft as our new sponsors. Ronstan, the Melbourne based hardware manufacturer has provided many great prizes for our championships here in Torbay, as well as generous 30% discount vouchers for every individual competitor, so please do spend your voucher on some new goodies.

The Old Salt loft is a young company we are keen to support in Burnham on Crouch, who produce a range of bags

created from redundant sails – so very sustainable and the answer to the question of what to do with your old sails. The Old Salt loft have also printed our event shirts and will be setting up a BFA online shop for our branded clothing, so look out for that and do support it when it goes live on our website.

We hope the Finn World Masters will be able to go ahead and that restrictions on UK sailors attending will be lifted by then. We would strongly advise thoroughly checking out the new customs paperwork involved in taking your Finn abroad post Brexit and to minimize the number of border crossings. Details were in the last edition of Pump sent to members last month.

I would like to thank all the Committee for the huge amount of work they put in behind the scenes to maintain our class at the forefront of UK sailing and to actually grow during the recent pandemic. There has been much more work than normal in organising events - continually checking if they can go ahead and then having to cancel when restrictions have prevented them from going ahead, so we should thank our Sailing Secretary for all the additional work over the past 18 months. Thanks also to Chris Barbary who has taken over as Membership Secretary and has been working hard to automate the subscription process further, together with help from Steve Hayles and our Treasurer Ray New.

Finally, I am sure you will all join me in sending good luck to Giles Scott as he flies out to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic regatta in Enoshima, yesterday. This Covid restricted Games will be very different, with a much reduced support team allowed - preventing his tuning partner Henry Wetherell from travelling and requiring Giles to fly home the moment his racing ends, not allowing him to stay on and support the rest of the British Sailing team. Coverage of the Olympic sailing regatta should hopefully be on BBC iPlayer or on Eurosport via the Eurosport streaming service. Enjoy the rest of the championships and we look forward to the remainder of the season and the 2022 National Championship next year in Weymouth, at the WPNSA over the 1-3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## **7. Revised constitution – copy available via the BFA website**

The Secretary provided context to the changes in the constitution to re-align it with that expected by sport England of a National Association. The main area for change is the requirement for officers to hold roles for a period of three years. Martin Hughes proposed to the membership the revised constitution; John Greenwood seconded. The constitution has been signed by officers and members and is now on the BFA website.

## **8. Membership and PSN**

Despite the impact of COVID the membership has stayed buoyant in 2021 with 154 members, which is consistent with the past 5 years. This breaks down as 133 Full Members; 9 Associate Members; 8 U23; 4 Honorary Members. The spread of membership geographically has not altered with the South retaining the largest membership but with growth in the northwest.

The GM and GGM categories now dominate the membership as the U23 and Open groups have dropped away, with the loss of the Olympic status.

Discussion from the membership, the membership secretary was asked to clarify WebCollect system – GoCardless is the payment system. WebCollect also allows you to do direct debit. John Greenwood supported the move to GoCardless and we should move away from WebCollect.

The Membership Secretary reminded members to pay for their PSN on time or they would be lost. He also requested that everyone pay by direct Debit through GoCardless and move away from WebCollect.

## **9. Marketing and communications**

We want to encourage more people to take responsibility to promote club events on the BFA website and Facebook – we need to try to get a picture of the event not just who was first to the windward mark. Several members around the country have editorial access to the BFA Facebook page and have started to add local Finn related posts.

Jim Downer made a good point that we need to drive our social media pages more efficiently, the importance of sharing all Finn information. Can we all put more information onto the website and social media. The Committee have already put in place a process to get ex-squad sailors to produce short video clips on ‘how to....’

## **10. Classic fleet report to include classic with carbon**

There has not been any formal sailing for Classic Finns for some time now due to COVID, the first event will now be the Roadford CVRDA open on 17/18 July, then the programme will run as published.

There's been quite a lot of interest in Classic Finns, particularly wooden ones which seem to be in short supply, so if anyone knows the whereabouts of an unused wooden Finn please let Peter Vinton know. The website is still being used a lot for information and support and a wooden Finn Facebook page has many posts from around the world.

## **11. Boat registrations**

Information regarding registration of new Finns since the last AGM is as follows

- Only one 2007 boat registered that had slipped through the system and 2019 hull only 18 months after production.
- 9 boats have been transferred/change of ownership
- 2 classic Finns have changed hands, together with a few enquires re certificates that we have been able to copy to the owners seeking information to update their records.
- Latest sail number 797

## **12. Accounts**

As an Association we are in a good financial position with a healthy bank account for FY 2020 with a small surplus made last year, although this is down on previous years due to the termination of the U23 squad. Our main income is from membership and PSN our outgoings are insurance RYA and IFA affiliation.

The heavily subsidised fee for the nationals was done to provide some return to the membership. The Covid Pandemic has reduced our income from events but also reduced the expenditure.

There is sufficient money in the bank to support regular training but a volunteer is sought to stand as Training Officer to organise training, not necessarily run training themselves but act to organise and coordinate training in a variety of venues.

John Greenwood – identified we need more Finn sailors with more disposable income, not focus so much on younger sailors but to focus on the 30 something to join the BFA.

Garry Phare – spoke positively about the possibility of changing to a carbon boom which will make a big difference to encouraging new sailors.

Dan Belton suggested we should identify changes we need to make and ask the IFA for support to grow.

Asking a new to BFA sailor – we need to change the perception of the Finn as an older person's boat not just for heavyweights.

## **13. Events 2022**

- Inland Championships 2021 moved to weekend of Sept 4-5
- Looking to do more events in conjunction with the Europe and potentially the OK class.
- Just beginning to plan 2022 events – any offers from clubs would be gratefully received.
- Nationals are at WPNSA 1-3 July 2022

## **14. AOB**

A brief discussion was held about attendance at the World Finn Masters in Spain in October. Concern was expressed about the lockdown requirements but of more concern is getting boats in and out of the country. John DeLeeuw identified that all boats going abroad and returning to the UK must have a VAT receipt for any boats returning to the UK.

**Post meeting note** – Obtaining a Small Ships Register registration along with insurance details and IFA registration should be sufficient to meet border control requirements. If taking more than one boat belonging to someone not in the party then ask them for a note to say they have given permission/authority for their boat to be taken and returned to a regatta. VAT receipts are not necessarily required unless carrying brand new equipment.

No further business. Meeting ended 18:14