



## International RS Feva Class Association (IRSFCA) Annual General Meeting

International Sailing Center Medemblik

Vooroever 1, 1671 SG Medemblik, Netherlands

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 16:00

### Members Present:

Nick Neve (NN) GBR, Ian McCoy (IM) GBR, Jon Partridge (JP) Builders representative, Marieke Gijzel NED, Duncan West (DW) GBR RYA Representative, Martin Vacha CZE (representing ITRSFCA Vasek Braber Development Officer) , Ian Jameson (IJ) IRSFCA Vice President, Julia McCoy Class Secretary, Jon Webster (JW) GBR (UK RS Feva Chairman), Jop Dutich (JD) NED, Tim Rush (TR) GBR (Coach Representative), Emma Crawford (EC) HKG

In the absence of the IRFCA President the meeting was Chaired by Jon Partridge RS Sailing Builders Representative and Ian Jameson IRSFCA Vice President.

### International RS Feva Class Association (IRSFCA) Update

Jon Partridge explained that the current President Insaf Amri was not present at the meeting nor had she been present at the RS Feva Worlds event. Insaf has no children sailing in the class making the working relationship extremely challenging for the committee to work effectively and for the best of all sailors and their families. It is vital that the class President is engaged and active within the class. The constitution states that a Chair Person should serve 2 years in the post but due to the challenges explained and lack of support and input to the RS Feva Class it was felt that the current situation could not continue and a vote of no confidence in the current Class President was requested

NN asked if Insaf would be surprised at this. JP explained that over the year Insaf has done nothing to support the class secretary Julia McCoy, Julia has been left to run 3 large International events with no input or oversight from Insaf. Many emails had been sent with no reply and there had been no input into the organising of any of the 2017 events. JD- Bill Tucker got Insaf into the role, is he aware of the situation, JP – Bill knows and fully understands.

A show of hands resulted in a unanimous vote of no confidence

JP introduced Emma Crawford from Hong Kong, Emma introduced her self – Mum to a sailor in the RS Feva fleet currently enjoying being in the class. Emma explained that she is keen to build the fleet in Hong Kong and would very much love to be part of the International RS Feva Class Association Team.

JP proposed that Emma Crawford take on the role as IRFCA President, this was seconded by Ian Jameson

JP invited a show of hands in favour of Emma Crawford becoming the International RS Feva Class President.

All hands raised in favour of Emma Crawford becoming the IRSFCA President resulting in a unanimous vote.

On behalf of all RS Feva sailors and their families the committee and members present at the meeting would like to thank Insaf for her input over the year.

### **Election of Committee**

JP – The class are still looking for a class Treasurer

Ian Jameson will continue as Vice President

Jon Partridge will continue as builder's representative

Tim Rush UK RS Feva RYA National Squad coach will join the committee as the Coaches Representative

### **IRSFCA Secretary**

After a big year of events current IRFCA Secretary Julia McCoy will be moving on and so Lucy Jameson UK RS Feva Class Secretary and previous International and UK Class Secretary for the Tera Class will take on this vital role, this will ensure that the entry and management of the RS Feva Worlds in Florida continues with no issues. This will be reviewed in October/ November.

### **Events**

#### **The Americas Cup Endeavour Program**

Bermuda

RS Sailing and last year IRSFCA invited sailors to apply for the opportunity to represent their country in Bermuda for the Americas Cup Endeavour Program RS Feva Regatta, this proved to be an incredible experience for all those involved, it has raised the profile and increased exposure of the RS Feva. Work is ongoing to ensure the same invite is extended to the RS Feva Class when the Americas Cup takes

place in New Zealand. One idea is that the 2021 RS Feva World Championships could coincide with the Cup and take place in a club close by. The class has good contacts and links with the club and so conversation is ongoing. The format will need to be agreed as to invite only or open. Lots of ideas to work on and a way off for now and ultimately it is understood that nothing can happen without the permission from the event organisers

Endeavour Program Pop Up Educational Program – This will involve a container with 8 Fevas topped up with local privately-owned boats taking part in 1 off standalone regattas around the World as well as all World Series Events if appropriate. Due to the increased exposure, this would give RS Feva and RS Sailing it was suggested that over this time RS Sailing would not attend any boat shows but use the budget and amazing opportunity to build exposure at these prestigious and highly attended events

JD – Perhaps the class could extend this to other large events such as Volvo Ocean Race? The committee will look into this.

European Championships Switzerland- This was a great event, conditions where a little light.

France – The French National Sailing Federation has increased its recognition status of the RS Feva and so they should be sending a French National Team to events in the future.

Australia is working well

America- The RS Feva has been invited to the Orange Bowl event in Florida, this can only be a positive for the class and the RS Feva World Championships 2018.

Denmark – Have a new dealer who has a strong regatta sailing background, plans are to form his own RS Feva squads which is a huge positive for the class.

Estonia and Lithuania continue to work hard as is evident in their entry numbers to the RS Feva Worlds.

China – boats were in China with another batch soon to be delivered. Looking for a strong double handed boat for their sailors and the Feva fits the bill. They are keen to host a World Championships but first have to run their own National and regional events.

New Zealand – Hayden PRO for the RS Feva Bermuda event and shareholder for North Sails is working on a development program for the BIC class and is very interested in bolting the RS Fevas alongside, this would come with Sir Russell Coutts backing so would be very desirable for the class.

## Future Events

2018 RS Feva World Championships Florida – Work is underway and entry is open. The event will predominantly be Charter Boats with a few coming along with private local boats.

## Other Major Events

2018 will see the RS Games a summer long of RS events at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy in the UK. Opening the proceedings will be RS Tera and RS Aero World Championships, RS Feva Europeans Opening Ceremony will be going on as the RS Tera RS Aero Prize Giving and closing ceremony will be happening making for an energetic and fun atmosphere. 5 days of racing with a bumper turnout anticipated. The aim is to have 2 courses if the numbers allow

Sweden – Will be hosting the RS Tera Worlds in 2019 so there is an option for the Fevas to join. Discussed pros and cons, 2 week events can mean volunteer fatigue resulting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week not being as energetic, pros getting more sailors in each fleet with families staying in 1 area.

Hungary are working hard at building their fleet, currently have 32 Fevas sailing from Lake Ballaton. They are very keen to be considered as Hosts of a European Championships. Fear is that it is known to be a venue that has light winds. IM said that they will be there in September for a Finn event and would feedback their findings.

2020 World Championships is currently pencilled in for Travemünde, this was a terrific venue enjoyed by all in 2015.

Historically the class has struggled to get volume of numbers to events further east than Italy so event placement needs careful consideration to ensure accessible and easy for the majority while keeping it fair for all.

Suggested venues from around the room – IJ Garda, JP explained that one end of the lake has best wind in the early morning meaning sailors have to wake up early and get racing early in the morning whereas the other end of the lake is renowned for its high winds. TR suggested France, JD suggested Gibraltar all options will be explored.

EC is keen to get some regional events happening in Hong Kong and keep the fleet growing.

JP explained that the RS Feva is present on many of the islands around the world and would like to see an “Island Championships” series. This would be an amazing opportunity to involve sailors from

places such as Hawaii, St Bart's, Antigua to name a few and will support the smaller nations. The idea would be to organise a series and encourage participation at as many events as the sailors can manage.

## Finances

JP in the absence of the class treasurer JP explained that the accounts would be published in September but to show where the class currently lies

January 2015 the bank account had in the region of £15000

January 2016 the bank account had in the region of £16000

The class is breaking even, there is no intention to stockpile money it is used to keep the class running

In the future, it would be good to support some more International training events as this has dropped off recently. The training events should pay for themselves.

PA Consulting have very kindly agreed to support the class for 1 more year, this is superb news for the class.

Land Rover have shown a real interest in the class and discussions are ongoing. Countries Land Rover are particularly interested in would be UK, Germany, Italy, Spain, India, China and USA. If this level of Sponsorship to the class does come about then JP explained the need to employ someone Part Time to manage all sponsorship matters.

JP explained that upto this point he has driven all sponsorship deals for the class. JD asked how much the various sponsorship deals are

£2500 from PA for International Class.

Alan Deck Hardware award £3200, this money is used to cover stickers for boats, rash vests and goodie bag.

Bolle - £750 which was split between Europeans and Worlds, they also awarded sunglasses to be given as prizes.

Icom – Loan of Private land and VHF Radios at the RS Feva World Championships, this allowed the shore team to communicate easily and for us to supply the Jury and Race team with radios on the water

JW asked if plans are in motion to replace the PA Sponsorship after 2018. JP explained that moving on there is a good relationship building between Rooster and RS, RS make Boats and Rooster make clothes and both build a relationship based on this with each encouraging their customers to use each other's companies. RS are no longer a Magic Marine distributor and so Magic Marine are no longer onboard.

## AOB

IJ requested a washup meeting as soon as possible after the event. Items needing discussion on water safety, Kill Cords, Sailing Instructions and Notice of Race. The class have asked John Doerr who has been a tremendous Chairman to the Jury at the 2018 World Championships to support the class in producing up to date accurate Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. There will be an annual cost to do this of around £300 but the class feel it is well worth the cost.

TR – Could Coaches be involved in the discussions about format of racing. This raised discussion about future events and the courses that may be used, JP explained that with anticipated turnout of 80 at the 2018 World in Florida it would be 1 course however the current plan is for 2 courses in Weymouth for the Europeans. Having a 2<sup>nd</sup> racecourse has serious cost implications and so are always looking to find the balance between numbers verses cost

DW suggested a Survey gets sent out to all competitors as soon as possible after the event, the RYA did this after the RYA Youth Nationals and it proved very useful to receive the feedback – Lucy and Emma will action this

JD – The Eurocup is very powerful for the class encouraging travel around Europe but needs to work on coordination and not having big clashes. The series can be a blueprint for other series around the world

JP explained that there will be a fleet of 16 charter boats that can be used at events if logistically possible

JP Thanked Julia McCoy for all her hard work and dedication over the past year, Julia has been instrumental in successfully delivering 3 major events in a short space of time.

Meeting Closed