

2015 Presidents Report

Dear presidents,

The 2014/2015 season has been again a challenging period for the class. With the large development in boats since the NZ worlds we have been fortunate, not only to retain our numbers, but in some cases increase memberships. No doubt we have generated a lot of interest in our class with the new foiling developments. The constant attention of Martin on the class webpages and social media such as the Italian run Facebook page have done a lot to maintain the momentum.

Despite this increased interest in the class we are not without risk for the future. The discussion on rule 8 continues and it becomes more and more obvious that the class is becoming divided. I have received many emails discussing different points of views and it is clear that there is no easy solution. What is clear however is that we need to do everything we can to keep growing the class, but also to make sure we retain our current members who have been loyal to us for many years. These members (not all so young) are the backbone of the class and it is of the greatest importance that they continue to sail and attend A class events. I have my own thoughts on this issue but I feel it is something IACA need put some thought into.

For the past three years we have operated under trial championship rules. This is the first time we have seen a real open world championship and we have already learnt a lot about fleet splitting and the potential problems. I would add that we have had continued support for a 1 discard system over the past three years and it would appear it is time to amend this in the championship rules.

The introduction of world championship venues being selected further in advance has also been a new introduction this year. Currently we are 4 years in advance having world championships set in place out to 2019. I would suggest we try to continue to select the venues at least 3 years in advance.

From the personal side, I have been very busy the last two years with my coaching role in the Australian sailing team, the sail loft, and the family property. It has left me little time for family, and sailing myself has become something I only dream about. There is no way I could have continued in my role as class president without the huge support from Graeme Harbour, Ian Johnson, and Thomas Paasch. Graeme particularly, has put in an amazing effort and has continued to remove loads of work away from my desk. I can't express enough how grateful I am for this support.

2016 being the olympic year will mean my time will become even more limited. At this time it is most probable that I will not be able to attend Medemblik. I believe it would be in the classes best interest to start considering who should be the next A class President.

Yours in sailing

Andrew Landenberger