

February 4th 2018

from FI Commodore Christina Härdi (SUI)

FI Executive confirmed by NCAs

Dear All

The poll is over! Many thanks to all of you for extracting your NCA members' will.

Thirteen of out of 16 NCAs answered. All of them gave a unanimous YES to my questions. Four of them said explicitly YES to both questions all others just YES to the group of appointed executive members. Five NCAs added their numbers of respondents, which added up to 84 FI members. One NCA decided by a ballot on the occasion of a NCA meeting. Thus, we have reached nearly 100 FI members, which I highly appreciate. The more members take actively part in our organization the more they will also feel responsible for.

Finally I don't want to withhold Guys self-introduction. He was late because of some health issues in his family.

Guy Newson:

I had my first real sail aged 10 years. A friend of my Dad's from work offered to take me out on an 18 foot catamaran. It seemed enormous to me. Unfortunately, he fell off as we were launching and I sailed off at high speed on my own. I managed OK for a while but eventually capsized. By the time they rescued me my Dad's mate was as white as a sheet and never asked me out again. My first Fireball was with my roommate from University. It was old and wood but fast. It was a freezing autumn day and the race was out to sea not far from Glasgow and I was on the wire all the way around and we came in first by miles. Over the years I have sailed and raced in many types of dinghies and have cruised in yachts around Scotland, Scandinavia and the Mediterranean. I joined the Pentland Firth Yacht Club (PFYC) with my wife Barbara must be nearly 30 years ago. Initially we sailed toppers and lasers but a mate talked us into buying a heavy old fibreglass Fireball and we were smitten. I was self-taught but Barbara did the formal RYA dinghy training. Eventually we came across a cracked (too much rig tension) all wood Fireball that was much lighter. I repaired this and we raced it locally and around North Scotland. Eventually it was vandalised on the public beach at in Abersoch North Wales. Someone had shoved it out to sea still strapped to its trolley. The local lifeboat did recover it 10 days later but it was badly damaged. So, we bought a used Winder - which has scored second in the worlds I think but was never to get that high again with us sailing. It has given us sterling service for getting on for two decades - although repaired a few times. Our first Fireball International was Shetland where we took across a junior Fireball Team from the PFYC. We were smitten and have sailed in most Europeans, Nationals and Worlds ever since. In between all this we built a 45-foot ferro-cement yacht on a local farm and sailed that extensively around North Scotland, Orkney and Norway. We don't have the yacht anymore but are looking at a smaller yacht for our retirement. We are both senior dinghy instructors with the RYA and have International Certificates of Competency for larger yachts. Barbara has been secretary for the PFYC for nearly 20 years, retired this year but now treasurer and I was their second longest serving Commodore, also retired this year and am still the Vice Commodore and Club Principle.

Guy

Kind regards
Christina