



**International Association  
for Disabled Sailing**

# 2012

## Annual Report

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### International Association for Disabled Sailing

IFDS Secretariat c/o ISAF  
Ariadne House, Town Quay  
Southampton  
Hampshire, SO14 2AQ  
GREAT BRITAIN

Tel. +44 2380 635111  
Fax. +44 2380 635789  
Email: [ifds@isaf.co.uk](mailto:ifds@isaf.co.uk)  
Website: [www.sailing.org/disabled](http://www.sailing.org/disabled)

## **IFDS President's Report**

IFDS had a very busy year of competition as athletes completed their final preparations for the Paralympic Games in Weymouth in September. The three Paralympic classes competed in five ISAF World Sailing Cup events; classification and review were provided as a courtesy at these events. There was increased interest in inclusion of the Paralympic classes in the proposed EUROSAF series, and competition continued to grow in the developing Blind Match Racing format as well as in the Fleet Racing format. Countries new to the sport evinced continuing interest in programs and competitive fleet racing. Classification was light at the year's events as qualification for the Paralympics was complete and teams had been chosen by their respective countries.

The year began with an IFDS Combined Worlds in Punta Gorda, Florida, January 7 – 15, 2012. The event was scheduled to allow teams to compete in the Miami OCR, which followed in late January. Although the turnout was light, the 74 sailors in all three classes enjoyed five days of intense competition in a variety of wind conditions. Entries by class were SKUD 18 – 8, 2.4mR – 22 and Sonar – 16. Thanks are extended to Technical Delegate Henry Sleutel and Assistant TD's Paul Callahan and Allen Fiske for their good work in preparing for the event. There was also an international classification seminar which drew eight participants from as far away as China. During the year, the ISAF World Cup events were preceded by informal "coaches' regattas," which were much appreciated by the sailors.

In late January, representatives of IFDS attended the IPSF Classification meeting in Bonn, Germany.

During the year, Technical Delegate Costas Tsantilis and Assistant Technical Delegate Wilfried Klein made several visits to the site of the 2012 Paralympic Games in Weymouth; they reported good progress in plans for suitable accessibility at the venue, including race area as well as housing and venue. Peter Allam and Sandra Robinson, LOCOG, continued the positive relationship begun the previous year.

In March, Dr. Bernard Destrube attended the WADA conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, and has given a positive review of continued good relationships with WADA.

In April Vice President Wilfried Klein attended the EUROSAF Conference in Limasol, CYP. IFDS was encouraged by the positive position of EUROSAF toward the inclusion of Paralympic classes in the proposed EUROSAF circuit planned for the next quadrennium.

Also in April, the Combined Access Class Worlds were held in Sydney, AUS, with 126 competitors from 9 countries competing in the Access 2.3, 303 single and two person, Liberty and SKUD 18 divisions.

Vice Presidents Wilfried Klein and John Twomey attend the ISAF midyear conference in Stressa, ITA, in May with a special interest in the planned reorganization of ISAF World Cup events in the next quadrennium and the inclusion of Paralympic classes in those events.

In June, in Lovere, Italy, Lake Iseo was the site of a successful International Blind Match Racing Championship. For the first time, competitors wore blindfolds in an effort to level the playing field and equalize competition, in keeping with other Paralympic sports for athletes with vision impairments. The event provided an opportunity to test the new ISAF appendix designed for Vision Impaired sailing competition.

The highlight of the year was the Paralympic Competition held in Weymouth, GBR, September 1 – 6, 2012. The event welcomed eighty sailors in 14 Sonars, 16 2.4mR's, and 11 SKUD 18's. Ten races were completed over the days of competition; wind conditions varied as expected from very light to heavy. The organization of the event was excellent, and IFDS thanks LOCOG for their hard work on behalf of IFDS and the sailors.

Future events include IFDS Combined Worlds in Ireland in 2013, in Halifax in 2014, and in Melbourne in 2015. Vision impaired sailors will compete in the IFDS Blind Fleet Racing Worlds in Japan in 2013.

The year ended with the Annual General Meeting of IFDS in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, held in November in conjunction with the ISAF annual conference. The Development Committee seminar and forum were presided over by the new Chair Debbie Blachford and were attended by several new countries. IFDS also welcomed the attendance of Dan Jaspers, ISAF Training and Development Manager.

At the annual general meeting, two new vice presidents were elected; they are Betsy Alison, USA, and Brian Todd, CAN. The Executive Committee elected Vice President John Twomey to be President, replacing President Linda Merkle, who stepped down from the Executive Committee. Two honorary members were announced; they are Ian Harrison and Pauline Harrison, both active in IFDS and disabled sailing for many years.

Sailors with disabilities competing internationally have increased by over 15 percent during the past quadrennium; regatta officials have commented positively on the growth of the level of performance among the sailors. IFDS continues to support the growth and expansion of development level events, both closed and open, providing additional opportunities for competition. These include the Clagett Regatta (USA), Mobility Cup (CAN), the Robie Pierce Regatta, German National Championships (GER), Trapseat, Challenger and Access Class events around the world.

As always, IFDS is working to foster and develop our relationship with ISAF; we appreciate their continued support of our mission to promote the inclusion of sailors with disabilities into all levels of the mainstream sport.

The success of IFDS depends on the willingness of its volunteers and sailors to work together toward our common goals.

I want to close with a personal word of thanks to all of those who contribute so much to this effort – Executive Committee and committee members and chairs and the ISAF staff as well as the IFDS Secretariat. It has been a distinct pleasure and privilege for me to have worked with so many of you over the past nineteen years; I value your efforts as well as your friendship, which will remain with me always. Thank you.

**Linda Merkle**  
IFDS Past President



## **IFDS Committees January - November 2012**

### **IFDS Executive Committee**

Linda Merkle (USA) - IFDS President  
Bernard Destrubé (FRA) - IFDS Vice-President  
Wilfried Klein (GER) - IFDS Vice-President  
Teresa Lara (VEN) - ISAF Vice-President  
Henry Sleutel (NED) - IFDS Vice-President  
Costas Tsantilis (GRE) - IFDS Vice-President  
John Twomey (IRL) - IFDS Vice-President

### **IFDS Medical Committee**

Bernard Destrubé (FRA) - Chair, IFDS Medical Committee, IFDS International Classifier  
Jürgen Schwittai (GER) - Head of Classification, IFDS International Classifier  
Stephen Wilson (AUS) - IFDS International Classifier, ISAF Medical Commission  
Jenny Molson (CAN) - IFDS International Classifier  
Itzhak (Tzaki) Siev-Ner (ISR) - IFDS International Classifier

### **IFDS Classification Sub-Committee**

Jürgen Schwittai (GER) - Head of Classification, IFDS International Classifier  
Peter Anastassiadis (AUS) - IFDS International Classifier  
Sue Parry (GBR) - IFDS International Classifier  
Stephen Wilson (AUS) - IFDS International Classifier

Pedro Leite da Cunha (POR) and Benedict Tan Chi' Loong (SIN) and Sarah Ross (AUS) are also IFDS International Classifiers.

### **IFDS Coaches Commission**

Betsy Alison (USA) - Chair  
Mark Rushall (GBR)  
Brian Todd (CAN)  
Akis Tsarouchis (GRE)

### **IFDS Development Committee**

Caterina Gouleliou-Tsantilis (GRE) – Chair  
Debbie Blachford (GBR)  
Brian Campbell McCandless (GBR)  
Pedro Cunha (POR)  
Emma Hallén (SWE) – Acting Chair  
Jackie Kay (AUS)  
Val Millward (GBR)  
Frankie Thanapal Sinniah (SIN)  
Gillian Thomson (CAN)  
Pei Ying Sun (CHN)

### **IFDS Equipment Evaluation Commission**

John Twomey (IRL) - Chair  
Vasilis Christoforou (GRE) - Sailor  
Bernard Destrubé (FRA) - Medical Expert  
Brian Todd (CAN) - Coaching Background  
Reserve/Emergency - Heiko Kroger (GER) - Sailor  
Bill Abbott - ISAF Representative

### **IFDS Events & Scheduling Commission**

Peter Wood (CAN) - Chair  
Betsy Alison (USA)  
Micky Ayalon (ISR)  
Giulio Comboni (ITA)  
Bernard Destrubé (FRA)  
Hugh Elliot (USA)  
Caterina Gouleliou-Tsantilis (GRE)  
Walter Mielke (GER)  
David Staley (AUS)  
Hannah Stodel (GBR)

### **IFDS Fundraising Committee**

John Twomey (IRL) - Chair  
Serge Jorgensen (USA)  
Jan Romme (NED)

### **IFDS Governance & Procedures Committee**

David Staley (AUS) - Chair  
Micky Ayalon (ISR)  
Costas Tsantilis (GRE)

### **IFDS Legal Guidance Group**

Lorenz Walch (GER) - Chair  
Balazs Hajdu (HUN)  
Stanislav Kassarov (BUL)  
Peter Hall (CAN)  
Carlo Rolandi (ITA)

### **IFDS Measurement / Classes Sub-Committee**

Gene Hinkel (USA) - Chair  
Marko Dahlberg (FIN) - Vice-Chair

### **International Measurers**

Gene Hinkel (USA)  
Stefan Ryott (SWE)  
Hakan Kellner (SWE)

### **Paralympic Class Representatives**

Marko Dahlberg (FIN) - 2.4mR  
Stefan Ryott (SWE) - 2.4mR  
Hakan Kellner (SWE) - 2.4mR  
Philip Smithies (GBR) - SKUD18  
Scott Whitman (USA) - SKUD18  
Paul Callahan (USA) - Sonar  
Mark Rushall (GBR) - Sonar

### **IFDS Sailors Advisory Council**

Hannah Stodel (GBR) - Chair  
Colin Harrison (AUS)  
Bob Jones (USA)  
Maureen McKinnon-Tucker (USA)  
Zoltan Pegan (HUN)  
Ademir Periera (BRA)  
John Robertson (GBR)  
Masakazu Suto (JPN)  
Gillian Thomson (CAN)

**IFDS Technical Advisors**

Gene Hinkel (USA) - Technical Advisor, Sonar, SKUD18 Classes

Stefan Ryott (SWE) - Technical Advisor, 2.4mR Class

**IFDS Technical Committee**

Hugh Elliot (USA) - Chair

Micky Ayalon (ISR)

Keith Burhans (USA)

John Figgures (GBR)

Gustaf Fresk (SWE)

Gene Hinkel (USA)

Walter Mielke (GER)

Henry Sleutel (NED)

Costas Tsantilis (GRE)

Akis Tsarouchis (GRE)

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## IFDS Sailors Advisory Committee

### Tasks undertaken:

- Run the Sailors Forum at the 2012 IFDS World Championships;
- Create and run a survey for the sailors/coaches to voice their opinions regarding the 2012 IFDS World Championships;
- Act as a general point of contact for opinions;
- Run the IFDS Sailors Council page on Facebook, and the IFDS Sailors Twitter.

### IFDS World Championship Survey:

This year's survey came back pretty positive overall, with a good percentage of sailors/coaches completing it. In fact there were 46 more completions of the survey than last time.

Despite the last minute venue change, Port Charlotte handled the regatta very well, and there were minimal complaints about the venue.

### Positive points:

- The racing was pretty well run;
- There was plenty of wheelchair accessible accommodation nearby.

### Negative points:

- Measurement took too long, and the measurers didn't appear to be following the class rules;
- The racing area was a very long way from the sailing club, quite often over an hour and a half tow for the Sonars, this should be considered when selecting a venue;
- The docking area was too shallow for the SKUD18's to launch and to moor with their keels down, and therefore not appropriate to host the World Championship;
- The adaptation forms took ages to fill in, and then weren't published anywhere.

### Problems for the council:

- Upcoming event schedule

There is no clear schedule at the moment, and we feel that the Executive committee should make it clear to the sailors at this point which regattas they intend to run as the World Cup. This will avoid confusion with the EuroSAF Champions Cup events, and allow teams to plan in advance. Planning in advance might lead to better participation numbers, and will save IFDS the embarrassment of getting low entry numbers at events.

- Lack of communication between the Sailors Advisory Council members

Having sent a few emails to other members of the council, I have received no replies. It makes me wonder if people really are interested in their positions, or are they just there to make up the numbers.





- Communication strategy

Other than the bulletin, there is no clear way of getting important information out to the sailors. A lot of the sailors feel that the Executive are unwilling to share information, but in reality, it might be there is no way of communicating it?

- Lack of participation in the fleets (numbers down)

One of the main problems for teams at the moment, especially in the first year of the quad, is that new teams are forming, and there are likely to be classification issues. For the first year at least, making the events open for crew might increase the numbers. Maybe you could limit it to only the crew, not the helm to be disabled?

Another issue in the SKUD18 class is the difficulties in putting teams together. Having not only to find a female and then a 1 or 2 pointer makes this very hard. Have you considered lifting the 1 or 2 point rule to allow different disabilities to pair together? Keeping the seats in place will keep the boat a level playing field, and allow more boats to compete.

### **Moving Forward:**

Issues for the Executive committee to consider:

- ISAF Sailing World Cup / EuroSAF Champions Cup status and getting the message to the sailors. Key events should already be highlighted to allow the sailors to plan calendars;
- Having a clearer strategy for communication with the sailors for getting key messages, such as scheduling, out;
- Opening up the classes for at least the first year to get more boats on the water, and to allow new start-up teams to get going without worrying about classification;
- Sorting out the website, so key information has somewhere to go and doesn't take ages to find!
- Having things like the adaption forms online, would make it easier for the sailors to apply, and would mean that they didn't get lost.

### **Hannah Stodel**

Chairperson



## IFDS Coaches Commission

Akis Tsarouchis GRE and Altman Israel ISR have joined the Coaches Commission. Current members also include, Betsy Alison (Chair) USA, Mark Rushall GBR and Brian Todd CAN (who will resign at the end of this year).

During this past 12 months, the coaches have continued to discuss concerns of athletes and their respective participation at international events where many topics of common concern have been discussed. Much conversation has to do with invitations to Paralympic classes to participate on the restructured ISAF Sailing World Cup circuit (final schedule yet to be posted), the affordability of attendance at multiple events for teams, the availability of and inconsistencies in SKUD18 equipment (particularly sails), and what we can do as coaches to increase and promote more participation.

The continuation of informal “coaches regattas” prior to the ISAF Sailing World Cup events has proved to be highly successful and much appreciated by the sailors. This cooperation by coaches in the various fleets allows the sailors to train more effectively in a race environment prior to the big events. It is anticipated that it will continue at World Cup events during the 2013-16 quadrennium.

Due to the good work of our IFDS Executive Committee and IFDS Committee Chairs at the 2011 AGM, it appears that ISAF has agreed to permit the event organizers of the ISAF Sailing World Cup Events from 2013 to invite the Paralympic Classes at their pleasure. Once ISAF has announced the full schedule of World Cup events, all coaches and athletes will need to be notified of which events will include one or more of the Paralympic boats. The coaches believe that IFDS needs to continue to foster a positive relationship with ISAF and push for inclusion in large international events that already have Olympic classes at them.

Many countries still are faced with limited financial resources and this definitely limits participation at some events. Any country that needs to ship equipment long distances (i.e. cannot drive there) must make choices on which events to attend. Communication needs to continue between coaches and athletes in each of the disciplines to try to coordinate which events sailors should focus on to get the most participation and best sailing. Also, it would be helpful if sailors/coaches from the countries that are holding World Cup events help post and circulate information as to accessible and affordable housing options and the availability of charter boats.



Also concerns have been expressed by coaches of various nations about the inconsistencies in sails that are being produced by a single manufacturer in the SKUD18 class. There have been issues with some sails (tape tensions, seam smoothness, etc) so much so that several SKUD18 spinnakers needed to be recut at the Games. Sailors/coaches that have the ability to go to the manufacturer and look through groups of sails and select the ones they prefer have a decided advantage over countries that have sails pulled from the shelf and sent directly. Additionally, the cost of shipping and hassles with customs pose some other concerns. Perhaps it is time to look at multiple suppliers to reduce the hassles and costs.

One past concern that has been resolved is the collection of information by the classifiers of existing adaptive equipment that is being used by the sailors. I believe that this information once compiled will be posted on-line and updated periodically. Many thanks to the IFDS Classifiers!

Concerns continue with regard to the interpretation of Class rules and violations of the same. There were too many issues at the Paralympic Games that arose from inconsistent interpretations or non-action at prior events. These concerns need to be further evaluated and reviewed and a consistent policy established to prevent further issues as this new quad begins.

To address the concern of how to get more information by IFDS directly to coaches, as opposed to RNA officials, a spread sheet with contact information for many international coaches has been compiled. Hopefully this will help solve the lack of communication or filter down of information by RNA representatives to the coaches and athletes. It is our hope that this list can somehow be posted on-line and that coaches can somehow input updated contact information into the list.

The Commission continues to sit at the pleasure of the IFDS Executive Committee and is happy to address any concerns or issues presented.

**Betsy Alison**  
Chairperson





## IFDS Development Committee

I was lucky with several of the committee members because we implemented very useful tasks. I was also fortunate with the help of Wilfred Klein, Executive Committee Vice President, responsible for the Development Committee, and I thank him for being always so kind and helpful. The additions submitted to the IFDS Executive Committee Action Plan for 2012 were approved.

Focus has been on the development and training of the following Regions:

### Arab Region

We planned a Seminar and started discussions with Qatar, in order to organise a Seminar for the whole Region and also proposed that they play a leading role among the Arab Gulf States. They seemed to be very much interested in Disabled Sailing. They consulted us concerning new boats and started looking for the most convenient dates for the Seminar.

Wilfred Klein and John Twomey, Executive Committee Vice-Presidents, were invited to visit Qatar during the "Sail Qatar Regatta". We made plans for the seminar but then the President informed me that it was too early for them and they will come back to us when they have the equipment and infrastructure in place. And finalised his letter as follows: "We will for sure come be back to you for this wonderful offer and seminar, clinics and courses will be requested".

Recent information is that Qatar is planning to start his programme from 1-6 October 2013.

### Central and South America

Discussions with Brazil started in Port Charlotte by Linda Merkle and Costas Tsantilis. Discussions will be continued in Ireland during the IFDS AGM.

### Asia-Pacific Region.

China has offered the Qingdao as a venue for a Seminar. Our plan is to organise a Seminar in Qingdao, where we need to include representatives from the ISAF Group J and K (possibly Group H), willing to further develop sailing for the disabled youth of their countries. Less than half of the countries are members of IFDS. This could be combined with the ISAF World Cup Series in 2013.

**Bulgaria and Romania** have been contacted and they are planning to work for IFDS. Further **Turkey** has been contacted and is planning to be reactivated.



### **Questionnaire**

A short questionnaire was created and sent to all RNA's and/or MNA's in order to have a fast feedback and a clearer view of what is happening today, to know what works best in each country, so that we can advocate best practice when we offer help to nations new to our sport. Few countries have returned their feedback.

We believe that developing a database of disabled sailing characteristics within our member nations can only improve the quality of the support we provide, both to established member nations and to newcomers to the IFDS community. I must thank very much our members Brian McCandless for this excellent job with Debbie's Blachford contribution.

### **Development Network**

We are trying to create a world network with persons willing to help in developing disabled sailing in their countries and/or regions. Persons who have been contacted already and accepted to help are very deeply involved in sailing, at a national and international level, they are good managers, creative and can be a very good link for IFDS and the Development Committee. I recently had some positive contacts in Weymouth and India.

I also want to thank very much Emma Little for her valuable presence and support.

### **Caterina Gouleliou-Tsantilis**

Chairperson



## IFDS Medical Committee

The past 12 months have been a busy time for the Medical Committee, with numerous classification sessions in the build up to the 2012 Paralympic Sailing Competition, training seminars, further work on Anti-Doping management and revision of the Functional Classification System in view of the next quadrennium.

Classification sessions were organized at four ISAF Sailing World Cup Events (Melbourne, AUS; Palma, ESP; Hyeres, FRA and Weymouth, GBR), the IFDS Combined World Championships in Port Charlotte and the 2012 Paralympic Sailing Competition, Weymouth, GBR.

A classifier was present as an observer at the IFDS International Blind Match Racing Event in Lake Iseo, Italy, to further study the different formats of racing for the vision impaired in view of inclusion of this discipline in future Paralympic events.

Training sessions included:

- an international classification seminar during the IFDS Worlds, with participants from Canada, China, Singapore and USA;
- a three-day introductory course to classification and disabled sailing in Busan, Korea;
- an introductory course to classification for two members of the Italian Sailing Federation.

The IFDS Medical Committee successfully supported an application by a Chinese National Classifier Dr. Xinzhu Gu to attend the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) vision impairment classification seminar in Germany.

Medical Committee members were also present at the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Seminar held in Bonn, GER in January 2012, as well as the annual World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) conference in Lausanne, SUI, which focused on efficient approach to doping control.

The Committee also studied the different risks of doping amongst Paralympic sailors and submitted a paper to ISAF on Doping Risk Assessment. This paper is to be forwarded to WADA, and if accepted would enable IFDS handle the Registered Testing Pool obligation in a more efficient manner.

In cooperation with members of the Equipment Evaluation Committee, adaptive devices used on the Sonar have been documented and will be published on the IFDS website in the near future.





Finally, the Committee has been working on a revision of the Functional Classification System (FCS) in view of the 2013-2016 edition. Content changes are relatively minor, but include an integrated evaluation method enabling us to classify Vision Impaired sailors who also have a physical impairment, this type of classification not being possible at present. As IFDS aims for inclusion of an event for athletes presenting Vision Impairment in the 2020 Paralympic Sailing Competition, we expect to encounter more athletes with a combined disability.

Challenges for the coming year will include adapting classification schedules to the new ISAF Sailing World Cup and EUROSARF calendars, continuing to train new classifiers in countries that have none, continue collaboration with ISAF on management of Anti-Doping measures and improving our knowledge and application of the new IBSA Vision Impairment Classification methodology. We will pursue research aimed at analysing the validity of our present Classification system.

As Chair of the Medical Committee, I would like to thank each member of the committee for their commitment and time. Fulfilling classification obligations was not always easy, with last-minute changes imposed by health, personal, or professional issues.

I would also like to say a word of thanks to Helen Fry (ISAF) for her cooperation and support in Anti-Doping management, and of course to Emma Little (ISAF/IFDS) for all the work achieved, often on short notice.

**Dr Bernard Destrubé**

Chairperson



## **IFDS Events & Scheduling Commission**

2012 has been a generally quiet year for the Events & Scheduling Commission. The event bid process approved in 2011 has been implemented and is being sent to organizations wishing to host IFDS events.

### **2015 IFDS Combined World Championship**

The Events & Scheduling Commission recommended that the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia be awarded the 2015 IFDS Combined World Championship. The proposed dates are 20-29 November 2015. This was approved by the IFDS Executive Committee in February 2012.

There has been some concern that the 2015 IFDS World Championship should have been awarded to Rio de Janeiro site of the 2016 Paralympic Sailing Competition. The decision to host the 2015 IFDS Combined World Championship in Australia is consistent with the motion passed at the 2010 IFDS Annual General Meeting that IFDS give priority to hosting a World Championship in the Asia-Pacific Region. IFDS will be exploring the possibility of sanctioning an IFDS International Championships at the Paralympic Sailing Competition venue in 2015 if such a request is received.

### **Future IFDS Combined World Championships**

The Events & Scheduling Committee has received two expressions of interest to host future IFDS Combined World Championships. One request was received from the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club. It is anticipated that they will be seeking to host the 2016 IFDS Combined World Championship. They have been sent a bid questionnaire which is expected to be received by IFDS at the end of September 2012.

A second expression of interest has been received from the Korean Sailing Association. They have also been sent a questionnaire. At this point it is not clear exactly when they would like to host an IFDS Combined World Championships. David Staley, Chair, IFDS Governance & Procedures Committee, whilst in Korea met with an official from the Korean Yachting Association.

The Events & Scheduling Commission is looking for venues for the 2014 IFDS Blind Sailing World Match Racing Championship and the 2015 IFDS Blind Sailing World Fleet Racing Championship. There has been some interest expressed by Piers Park Sailing Centre in Boston, USA but to date they have not formally requested a bid package.





### **Blind Sailing Events**

The 2012 World Blind Sailing Match Racing Championships were originally planned to be held at the Royal and Northern Clyde Yacht Club in Scotland in September 2012. The club and its co-sponsor Blind Sailing UK had to withdraw their offer to host at short notice. The Homerus Association took on the regatta and ran the regatta successfully from 11-17 June on Lake Iseo, Italy.

The 2013 Blind Sailing Fleet Racing World Championship will be held from 24 May – 1 June at Kanagawa, Japan.

### **2014 Asian Para Games**

Although there was some initial interest in including sailing in the 2014 Asian Para Games in Korea, recent inquiries to the Secretary General of the Games have gone unanswered.

### **2015 Para Pan Am Games**

At this point sailing is not included in the schedule of events for the 2015 Para Pan American Games at Toronto. In conjunction with the Canadian Yachting Association, IFDS will be communicating with the Games organizers with an attempt to include the 2.4mR One-Person Keelboat in the event.

### **Commission membership**

Two members of the Events & Scheduling Commission will be stepping down effective after the Annual General Meeting. Hugh Elliot after many years of service to the IFDS has retired from all committees of IFDS including the Technical Committee that he chaired. Caterina Gouleliou-Tsantilis who chairs the IFDS Development Committee has also advised that she will be stepping down at the November 2012 AGM. I would like to thank her for her contributions.

The Events & Scheduling Commission will be seeking two new members in early 2013 to replace those stepping down. Please forward any interested candidates to Emma Little at the ISAF UK.

### **Peter Wood**

Chairperson



## Equipment Evaluation Commission

The Recommendation of the IFDS Equipment Evaluation Commission to the IFDS Executive Committee for 2 person keelboat for 2016 / 2020 Paralympics was that the SKUD 18 be retained as the equipment to be used.

The commission also recommended that a new contract be negotiated and signed to the satisfaction of IFDS. This new contract was agreed and signed by the relevant parties in December 2012.

The commission recommended that IFDS review the current in-line seat rule so as to allow the forward crew to sit out on deck of SKUD. This review was commissioned by the 2012 AGM in Dublin and the process was on going at the year end, with a completion date of the review expected before the end of March 2013.

The commission would like to thank the manufacturers who put forward boats for evaluation.

I would like to thank my fellow commissioners Bill Abbott, Brian Todd, Bernard Destrubé and Vasilis Christoforou for their hard work and commitment on behalf of IFDS.

**John C Twomey**  
Chairperson



## IFDS Technical Committee

The Technical Committee continues to review and revise the IFDS Race Management Manual (RMM) to simplify and clarify the documents. Two notable achievements were the development of the IFDS Technical Delegate Guidelines, lead by Henry Sleutel, and now incorporated in the RMM as Part 3 as well as the on-going development, by a working group (David Staley, Bernard Destrube, Roberto Armellin and Henry Sleutel) to update the Appendix for Blind & Vision Impaired Sailing.

Other significant issues included the question of enhanced methods of communication between skipper and crew in the Two-Person Keelboat (SKUD18). The committee recommend that any such systems be either wired or, if wireless, using Bluetooth or similar very short range technology. The use of marine VHF was categorically not recommended.

In addition, given the level of physical ability required to manage three sails and all but one of the control lines in the boat, the strength and mobility of a crew in the Two-Person Keelboat (SKUD18) must be significant and places such persons on the more able part of the disability spectrum. The committee has recommended to the Class Association that it review the current restrictions on movement in the boat as well as the requirement for restricting the crew (TPB) to a centreline seat.

The Technical Committee would like to note that it has had a productive relationship with the Chair of the Measurement/Classes Committee (Gene Hinkel) with respect to many of these issues.

All of the current members of the committee have agreed to continue to serve except for Keith Burhans and myself who are resigning. Unfortunately, this leaves the committee with no members who are eligible to compete in IFDS events. It is a matter of urgency that IFDS management make every effort to recruit eligible sailors to lead and manage our corner of the sport.

On a personal note, I have resigned as Chair and from the Committee. I have been involved with the management of sailing for person with disabilities, with US SAILING and IFDS, since 1996 and my best ideas are in the past. It is time for new blood.

I have enjoyed my service on the Technical Committee and I wish all who are involved with IFDS Executive Committee Members, Committee Members, sailors, coaches, classifiers, measurers etc. – the very best for the future and I look forward to reading about IFDS's on-going success.

**Hugh Elliot**  
Chairperson





## **IFDS Classes and Measurement Committee**

All three Paralympic Classes made progress this year in becoming stronger world-wide despite the loss of the North American Builder of the Sonar. Sonar International is looking at several possible builders and will most likely decide on one this winter. All moulds are intact and stored in Rochester, New York, USA.

The 2012 IFDS Worlds were held in Punta Gorda, Florida, USA in January in a venue that was supported by many small local businesses with no major sponsor thus opening the door for other venues in the future without large supporters. The City of Punta Gorda, the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club, working with the local Charlotte Harbor Regatta Committee put it all together. The most impressive part was the building of floating docks which were then donated to several local sailing venues including the public Marina, Laishley Park, where the boats were berthed. Also novel was free storage for containers and boats through to the next event in Miami. The event went off well and the sailing was top notch on three courses.

The SKUD18 builder has made a move to a new sailmaker due to disappointing quality control of current maker. At the Paralympics the first real certificates were presented to the sailors.

2.4mR Class is making slow but steady movement toward the One Design as the Norlin templates have shown almost all recent boats to be One Design. North America has a new builder in the North American Sailing Center who built 13 of the 16 Stars in the Olympics, so needless to report the quality is tops. Two issues were resolved during measurement to follow future One Design.

At the Paralympics Leo Sanchez was the International Measurer for SKUD18's, Stefan Ryott for 2.4mR's, and myself as Chief Measurer for Sonar's. None of us had any measurement issues that could not be resolved or in some cases replacements approved in equipment.

All Sonar sailors should be made aware of the Sonar Worlds to be held in Rochester New York, USA, 21-25 August, the same venue as the great 2007 IFDS Worlds.

I am waiting for official word that the 2013 2.4mR Worlds will be held in Poole, Great Britain with dates to be confirmed.

Sailors should check the relevant class websites.

**Gene Hinkel**  
Chairperson



## IFDS Governance & Procedures Committee

2012 has been a relatively straightforward year involving:

- A review and update of the IFDS Strategic Plan;
- Preparation of the 2011 IFDS Annual Report in cooperation with the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs;
- Advice to the Executive Committee as required regarding the IFDS Rules of Incorporation and procedures at general meetings

Sincere thanks to all who have assisted throughout the year.

**David Staley**  
Chairperson



## IFDS Financial Reports

### Balance Sheet

Accrual Basis as of 31 December 2012

ASSETS	€ (EUR)
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash at bank and in hand	
ING	2.753,34
ING Savings	56.969,26
Total Cash at bank and in hand	59.722,60
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>59.722,60</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>59.722,60</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>59.722,60</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>59.722,60</b>
Capital and Reserves	
Share Capital Account	12.222,80
Unrestricted Net Assets	47.499,80
Shareholder funds	59.722,60

### Profit & Loss

Accrual Basis January through December 2012

Ordinary Income/Expense	€ (EUR)
<b>Income</b>	
Boat Fees	4.538,49
Classification Fees	2.349,89
Grants IPC	10.120,00
Membership Fees	25.285,59
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>42.293,97</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>42.293,97</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Annual General meeting	7.495,02
Bank charges	482,14
Dues and Subscriptions	1.537,34
Event expenses	7.828,83
Insurance Expense	956,19
Legal fees	1.664,17
Miscellaneous Expense	369,13
Other meetings	1.043,76
PR	2.204,50
Secretariat	668,76
Travel and Accommodation	12.311,01
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>36.560,90</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>5.733,07</b>
<b>Profit for the Year</b>	<b>5.733,07</b>