

IFDS Equipment, Evaluation Commission Report, John Twomey

During the IFDS Combined World Championships which took place in Medemblik, Netherlands; the IFDS Executive Committee held a face to face Meeting and nominated members to the IFDS Equipment Evaluation Commission (ECC). The ECC has been tasked with evaluating equipment for the Two-Person Keelboat for the 2016 and 2020 Paralympic Sailing Competitions.

The members of the Commission are:

- John Twomey (IRL) – Chair IFDS EEC, IFDS Vice-President and Paralympic Sailor;
- Bill Abbott (CAN) - ISAF Technical Expert;
- Vasilis Christoforou (GRE) - Paralympic Sailor;
- Bernard Destrubé (FRA) – IFDS Vice-President, Chair IFDS Medical Committee and Medical Doctor;
- Brian Todd (CAN) - Sailing Coach.

Invitations were sent out for equipment nominations from interested Classes and Boat designers, with a closing date for nomination of Equipment of the 15 January 2011.

Three Boats were nominated by the deadline. They were the existing Paralympic class boat the SKUD18, the Neo 495 from France and the Artemis 20 from Great Brittan.

The EEC held a number of meetings and called on the nominees to present their boats for testing at the 2011 IFDS Combined World Championship held in Weymouth, GBR.

The EEC supplied an appraisal sheet to all who tested the boats in Weymouth and to date over 20 submissions have been received. Emma Little has compiled a spread sheet of the results and this has been circulated to all the EEC members.

The Commission is due to make a recommendation to the IFDS Executive Committee by August 2012 and IFDS Executive Committee will put its recommendation to the RNA's for voting at 2012 AGM in Dublin. As per protocol no public announcement will be made till after 2012 Paralympic sailing competition is completed.