

IFDS Committee Reports
IFDS Events & Scheduling Commission – Peter Wood

2014 was both a positive year and a challenging year. From the positive perspective we have just held a very successful IFDS Disabled Sailing Combined World Championships for the One-Person, Two-Person and Three-Person Keelboat at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron in Halifax Canada. The event attracted a large number of entries with a total of twenty five countries being represented. The host club rolled out the red carpet for all the visiting competitors and officials. The winds did challenge both the competitors and the race management team but in the end seven or more races were run for each of the three classes.

The second positive development has been the inclusion of sailing for the first time in the Asia Para Games in Korea. With a One-Person event in the 2.4mR and a Two-Person event in the Hansa dinghies (formally Access) this event should increase the awareness of the opportunities for disabled sailing athletes in regional and the Paralympic Games. Hopefully in the future other Regional Para games will include sailing events.

The third positive development has been the inclusion of the Paralympic Classes in some of the ISAF Sailing World Cup events.

Sail Sheboyan in Wisconsin, USA hosted the IFDS Blind Match Racing World Championship after the original host organization committee had to withdraw. As the event is taking place while this is been written I cannot advise you about the outcome however I can state that one of the legacies for this event will be the availability in America of the Homerus audio mark system equipment developed in Italy.

For 2015 the IFDS Combined World Championships will be hosted by the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia in late November 2015. As this will be the second and final qualifying event for countries wishing to qualify athletes to the 2016 Paralympic Sailing Competition, IFDS is anticipating a large number of entries.

At this time we are still looking for a host and venue for the 2015 IFDS Blind Fleet Racing World Championship. This event which was successfully held in Japan in 2013 should be returning to Europe for 2015.

In 2017 the IFDS Combined World Championships will be hosted by the Royal Norwegian Yacht Club in Oslo, Norway, dates to be confirmed.

For 2018 IFDS has received two serious expressions of interest to host the Combined World Championships. In order to evaluate the bids the IFDS Executive Committee has requested that the Events & Scheduling Commission develop a set of criteria and a points system to help select the best bid.

In closing I would like to thank the President and the IFDS Executive Committee for their continued support and Emma Hickman for her day to day support at the ISAF office.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Wood
Chairman, IFDS Events & Scheduling Commission