

This note asks for your class's support for me, David Sprague, at the Classes Committee election Sunday October 18, 2020 for Chair of the Committee and as the Class Representative on Council.

I would like your vote for these positions as I feel that the next four years will be critical for the survival of World Sailing. There will be many tough fiscal and policy decisions made over the next four years and we, the classes, need someone who is not afraid to inform and advocate strongly to the Council, the Board and Management as they make tough decisions. I will advocate for the Classes and build positive relationships with all the parties at World Sailing to improve sailing world wide.

As you have seen in the Classes Agenda, as the Lightning Vice President for World Sailing, I have put forward a large number of submissions to make World Sailing a better organization. I was able to work with many MNAs and others in WS and author the 6 key submissions for a new Submission Portal, Fiscal Transparency and for general transparency. We had between 8 and 17 co-sponsors for these submissions which took time and effort but got us well thought through motions to improve World Sailing long-term. Additionally, there are 6 other submissions that we wrote or supported that will make World Sailing better.

I have been an advocate for the classes and sailors while on Committees and as a Councillor (2004 – 2010). I have been President of an International Class (Lightnings), as well as President of an MNA (Canada). I have a very broad view of the sailors' needs from many sides and perspectives. Now retired, I have the time and energy to work for all the classes with no distractions.

There are many issues that need fixing at World Sailing and no one person can fix, nor fight all of them but I will work with the class representatives to promote all the classes' interests and matters of importance to each class. All classes must have a say.

I am independent and have shown over the years my dedication and willingness to work as a volunteer for the interests of the sailors and the classes at all levels of the organization. I will continue to raise tough questions on behalf of the classes, as I always have done.

I am an active sailor and have raced sailboats both large and small. I have skippered in approximately 10 World Championships including the World Sailing World Team Race Championships. In addition, I continue to race internationally while still sailing in my clubs' local evening and weekend races.

I am currently an active International Measurer as well as an International Race Officer and have acted as a Race Official at the 2016 Para Olympics, the 2008 Olympics and as Chief Race Officer or Chief Measurer at many different Class World Championships (J22, Laser, Laser 4.7, Lightning, Byte, Shark, Sunfish, Access, 29'r, etc.) as well as numerous Regional Games (Asian Games, Pan Am Games, etc.) as recently as 2019.

THE PROBLEM/CHALLENGE FOR CLASSES AT WORLD SAILING

The Classes are losing ground in World Sailing (WS) and we need to be more proactive and effectively advance the classes' case at World Sailing. Classes pay about the same as the MNAs each year to World Sailing but we do not get anywhere near the value or vote that the MNAs do.

With the financial situation that World Sailing is now in, the pressure to cut costs will have a significant impact on the services that sailors and classes will receive in the future and we will have to advocate for fairness.

Classes contribute in class fees and payments about as much as all the MNAs combined yet we have no vote for the Board or at the AGM and have a very limited voice in the Council. Classes have only one vote on a Council of 42 while MNAs have 38. This is undemocratic and wrong.

- The approximately 115 Classes/Rating Systems pay a fixed fee of approximately 25,000 Pounds per year (210 per class). 74 MNAs pay a total of just under 17,000 Pounds. Each of these 74 MNAs gets a vote at the General Assembly. The Classes (almost 115) get NO vote at the General Assembly. We pay substantial additional fees totalling hundreds of thousands. This needs to change.
- The Classes Committee needs to have a clear, proactive agenda to improve sailing for all classes while cutting the “red tape” and cost of dealing with World Sailing and its myriad regulations.
- World Sailing has lost millions of pounds over the last four years and is in dire financial straights. The Classes will never get value for what we pay to World Sailing unless we strongly advocate for ourselves.

ISSUES DAVID SPRAGUE WOULD ADDRESS IF ELECTED

World Sailing looks at classes as a revenue source not as equal partners. In House Certification was done as a profit center for World Sailing not as a service for sailors.

World Sailing continues to add extra costs to running regattas and classes with new & existing regulations. World Sailing does not seem to look for ways to help Classes cut the cost of these regulations. An example is the high and escalating cost of getting International Race Officials at Class Regattas. World Sailing seems to have a “one size fits all” philosophy and tends to make rules for everyone without understanding the classes’ needs or take them in to account.

World Sailing cares almost exclusively about the Olympic Games. The Olympics obviously is an important event due to its financial contribution and as it is our one big chance every four years to showcase our sport but it seems to overpower the organization most of the time.

World Sailing needs to look carefully at how it is governed and run. It should be a service organization for its members. The most recent top down review of Governance pushed a move to centralize decision making at the Staff and Board/Executive level even more than the ruinous system in place over the last few Quads. The Athletes have a direct pipeline to the Executive Table and we, the classes, can’t even vote. There is something inherently wrong that needs to be analysed and fixed. The classes’ voice needs to be heard better.

The Classes Committee needs to be more proactive in submitting ideas and submissions to help improve our position and to fight ongoing “regulation creep” while making sailing better for all.

Regulation 10 is very clear what the classes must do but there is very little to say what World Sailing will do for the classes.

This year the Lightning Class, led by me, worked hard with a number of countries & classes to make positive and constructive submissions that garnered a large number of co-sponsors for the annual Council Meeting.

This year 18 of the 38 Submissions were made by Classes and the Lightning Class was co-sponsor for 12 of them. I have worked hard and will continue to do so to build a better World Sailing.

Elect David Sprague as Chair of the International Classes Committee and Councillor in October 2020.

