

# **Constitution - The British Finn Association**

## **1. Organisation**

The full title of the Association shall be The British Finn Association (abbr. BFA)

## **2. Objects**

The objects of the Association shall be the administration of the Finn Class in Great Britain, to promote Finn sailing in Great Britain, and to serve the interest of the owners in the class by co-ordinating the activities of the Finn. The Association is a member of the International Finn Association (IFA) and shall work in co-operation with the IFA and the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). The Association shall support the work of the IFA in promoting effective Measurement and Equipment Control for the Class.

## **3. Membership**

Finn owners shall be eligible for full membership. All others shall be eligible for associate membership.

## **4. Officers and Committee**

The Office Bearers of the Association shall be the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, who shall be elected every year at the Annual General Meeting. Retiring officers may be re-elected. The AGM shall also elect up to six fully paid-up members to form a Committee, with the Office Bearers, to assist in the duties of running the Association. The Office Bearers also have the power to co-opt additional members to the Committee during the year. There may also be area representatives whose duties will be to assist with Finn enquiries and development of the Finn fleet in their region.

## **5. Voting**

Full members shall have two votes each and associate members shall have one vote. The President shall have the casting vote.

## **6. Registration and Measurement**

The Association shall act as the Certifying Authority for International Finn Dinghies within the UK, and shall liaise with IFA and the RYA over the appointment of Official Measurers. The Association shall provide IFA with information such as members' names and certification information, as needed for administrative purposes.

## **7. Subscription**

The annual subscription will be decided by the Annual General Meeting, is payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January each year and must be paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> March of the current year. If not paid in time the privileges and benefits of membership may be lost. All members will be notified of the current rates of subscription each year.

## **8. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers and Committee of the British Finn Association**

**8.1 President** – The President should act as a figurehead of the Association, chair the AGM, co-ordinate the activities and direction of BFA, liaise with IFA and RYA at official level.

**8.2 Class Secretary** - The Secretary should act as the first point of contact for incoming prospective members and look after the day to day running of the Association. The duties will also look after the sailing side of the class to help co-ordinate the Nationals and open meetings with duties including producing sailing instructions, notices of race and trophy control.

**8.3 Treasurer** –The Treasurer should keep accounts, produce accounts for the AGM, arrange trophy insurance, pay IFA dues, pay RYA membership, provide cheques and pay authorised expenses. All payment of expenses must be authorised by the President or the Secretary.

#### **8.4 Membership Secretary**

The Membership Secretary shall perform duties and maintain records as the Certifying Authority for the Finn Class in the UK, and also maintain membership records and collect annual subscription fees. He shall provide IFA with administrative information as described in Paragraph 6.

### **9. Committee**

The Committee shall comprise the Office Bearers and up to six representatives as outlined in Paragraph 4. They shall be elected every year at the AGM and will hold office until the conclusion of the appropriate AGM. The retiring officers and representatives shall be eligible for re-election.

### **10. Committee Duties**

The Committee shall undertake the various tasks and jobs of the association distributed by the President and Officer Bearers; these duties include the website, dinghy exhibition, training/liasing with RYA and PUMP magazine.

### **11. Committee Meetings**

The Committee shall undertake to meet three times a year. The meetings shall enable the group to discuss actions and monitor progress to date and to consider future developments. Two-thirds of the Committee members must be present in order for the meeting to take place. All the meetings must be minuted and accessible to interested parties. Every attempt shall be made to hold the AGM during the UK Nationals, however the venue and time can be changed by the President or members entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote the President or appointed deputy shall make the final decision.

### **12. Finance**

Any monies acquired by the British Finn Association, including donations, contributions and bequeaths, shall be paid into an account operated by the Treasurer in the name of the British Finn Association. Any income/expenditure shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer who will be accountable to ensure that funds are utilised effectively and that the BFA stay within budget. Official accounts shall be maintained and will be examined annually by an independent accountant. The annual report shall be presented to the AGM.

### **13. Alteration of the Constitution**

Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a majority vote at a special general meeting. Amendments to this constitution or dissolution of the Association must be conveyed to the Secretary in writing; the Secretary and other officers shall then decide on the date of a special general meeting to discuss proposals, giving members at least four week's notice.

**14. Dissolution**

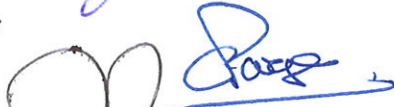
The BFA may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members by a two-thirds majority vote at a special meeting. Any assets or remaining funds after debts have been paid shall be returned to their providers or transferred to sailing charities or similar groups at the discretion of the Committee.

This constitution was adopted at an AGM held at Christchurch Sailing Club on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Signed President



Signed Treasurer



Signed Secretary



Signed Member



Signed Member



Signed Member

