

Dear Fellow FD Sailors

I'm truly honoured & privileged to have been elected as the new President of the International FD class and I thank all the members that supported my nomination & voted in my favour.

I also extend a warm welcome to Peter Van Koppen our new Treasurer & Marc Strittmacher as VP. Communications, both of whom along with myself were elected onto the General Committee at the Competitors Forum in Sydney.

In welcoming the new Officers it would be very remiss of me not to mention those who preceded us and who have given so much to the Class during their term/s in Office. Alberto who has been the Class's President for the last 15 years and prior to that he served as Mediterranean Commodore for 2 years, Fred Schaaf was appointed as Treasurer in 2005, and so has been on the General Committee for 9 years and Ronald Stalman who completed a 3 year term as VP. Communications. On behalf of the General Committee & all the FD sailors around the world I would like to say a very big thank you to all three of them for everything they did for the class. The new 'intake' has a lot to live up to!!

There are many challenges ahead but I see our three main priorities being....

- to develop a sustainable long term a plan that will attract younger teams into the class.
- to work on finding a big name sponsor for the Class
- to encourage & support both the established & developing National fleets worldwide to ensure the legacy of the FD lives on and is not confined to the history books.

For the 2015 season we have a six event Euro-Cup series planned followed in September with the 2015 European Championships in Umag, Croatia, where we are hoping to get over 70 boats. Then looking forward to 2016, the World Championships will be held in Germany on the Steinhuder Meer where we are expecting well over 100 boats.

Whilst it's essential that we have good numbers at our major Class Championships it's equally important that there are strong well supported National programmes, so I urge you all to spread the word far & wide to try and encourage greater participation at these events especially each countries National Championships as in many cases it is this event alone that the NMA looks at the gauge the strength of a class.

I'm going to try myself to attend as many events as time will allow this year though alas they will all be in Europe but even so, I hope to meet up with as many of you as possible during the season.

Here's wishing you all a successful season

Tony

President IFDCO