

# IFDS Presidents Report

November, 2014



The IFDS year began with the reelection of Henry Sleutel (Netherlands) and John Twomey (Ireland) to the IFDS Executive Committee at the IFDS AGM in Oman. John Twomey (Ireland), Paralympic sailor and outgoing IFDS President, was reelected as President of IFDS.

The 2013 AGM unanimously passed the Executive Committee motion to merge IFDS with the International Sailing Federation (ISAF). The ISAF Council meeting also unanimously passed the ISAF Executive Committee motion to merge ISAF with IFDS. A working group consisting of Vice Presidents; Betsy Alison, Bernard Destrubé, Brian Todd and President John Twomey were setup to complete the necessary structure with ISAF to complete the merger. The constitutional changes to conclude the merger will be voted upon at the 2014 AGM to be held in Palma Majorca Spain on the first week of November.

The sailing year kicked off in December with the Americas regatta hosted by St Petersburg Yacht Club (Florida) with four nations in attendance and ISAF Sailing World Cup Melbourne (AUS).

During the 2014 calendar year, the Paralympic classes competed in four ISAF World Cup events. These were often preceded by race training through informal “coaches’ regattas” led by several coaches from different nations. All of these “regattas” were highly anticipated and much appreciated by the sailors. IFDS Sailors also took part in the in the European Champions Cup series, organized by EUROSAF.

The IFDS Combined Worlds for the 3 Paralympic classes were held at the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron in Halifax Canada, with 131 sailors representing 25 Nations taking part in this event. Organization was superb and racing excellent. IFDS sincerely thanks Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron for the excellence of their work in organizing the championship regatta.

The IFDS Blind Match Racing Worlds, were held in Sheboygan USA. The organizing authority was Sail Sheboygan in conjunction with IFDS. 18 Sailors representing 5 Nations took part in this event. IFDS sincerely thanks Sail Sheboygan for hosting the championship regatta.

An International Classification Seminar was run at the 2014 Combined World Championship event in Halifax. Classification of athletes was held at ISAF Sailing World Cup events in Melbourne, Miami, Palma and Hyeres; IFDS Combined Worlds in Halifax, Canada; IFDS Blind Match Racing Worlds, Sheboygan USA; Asian Para Games 2014, Incheon Korea; and the 2.4mtR European Championships, Valencia Spain. To date, over 250 sailors have been classified in this quadernium.

Host venues for future IFDS Combined World championships have been determined: Melbourne, Australia 2015; and Oslo, Norway 2017.

The IFDS Executive Committee is currently in negotiation with Confederação Brasileira de Vela Adaptada (CBVA) with regard to hosting the 2016 IFDS Combined Worlds at the Rio Paralympic venue in the spring of 2016.

Paralympic sailing was included in the 2014 Asian Para Games which were held in Incheon, South Korea. 24 Sailors representing

5 Asian Nations competed in this event. This was a first for para sailing in the regional games and we hope it will be repeated in the other regions of the world.

IFDS are currently working with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) on the inclusion of sailing in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games program. Sailing is among the 8 sports vying for 7 places in Tokyo 2020 Paralympics following a compressive review of all Paralympic sports by IPC.

IFDS extends its sincere thanks to ISAF, its professional staff, committees and officials for their assistance and support during 2014.

**John Twomey**  
IFDS President