

INTERNATIONAL SAILING FEDERATION RADIO SAILING DIVISION



I S A F
AFFILIATE MEMBER

General Secretary / Treasurer's Report

To General Assembly 2009

Accounts

As can be seen from the balance sheets for the past five years the finances are in a very healthy state. They are yet to be audited; Mike Clifton Chairman elect of the new Permanent Committee will be carrying that out during the week.

The reasons we hold such a high figure in the bank accounts goes back to the days when all communication was by post and I was charged to maintain a level of funds that we could cover a year's business. Now that all communication is carried out electronically mostly via email those costs are now negligible. The other large cost was the annual PC meeting, which depending on the makeup of the committee could be as high as circa £3000.

The organisation does not now need to hold such a large amount; we have at the moment over £10500 in the banks. A figure that I think the DMs could put to far better use within their own organisations. Hence one of the reasons for the motion to the General Assembly to return all funds back to the Division Members.

Membership

With no subscription fees for the past few years we have no figures to judge the level of membership. It is very difficult to get a response back from a number of DMs on anything, but when they had to pay their subscription we then knew who was there. It is much the same story with all organisations, I'm afraid.

Even now with all the supposed shock and horror of the way RSD has been run over the past few years, not one position on the PC is being contested. The only choice people have when voting is to abstain, which does little or nothing, or to vote against the candidate. Even the internet forums have very few people actually participating and as with all forums those few people then think they speak as the majority.

The Way Forward

If you want the hobby to thrive you have to participate. Stand for office, discuss the issues, put your point forward and vote in ballots. You cannot blame the officers when it stagnates; an organisation only thrives on an active membership.

I make no apology for including this email that I circulated to all DMs earlier in the year.

Before criticizing the PC please remember that you elected us to the PC and have had several opportunities to replace us. If there is any blame to be apportioned then it should be spread equally among all DMs and their membership not the PC. I stood down from office in 2003 as Secretary / Treasurer, nobody came forward to take my place and at the GA two officer positions remained unfilled. I reluctantly agreed to be co-opted back onto the PC, the other position remained unfilled.

At the 2003 GA only 5 DMs bothered to return a postal vote and only three attended the GA via representation of PC members already attending.

Because of the pathetic attendance in 2003 it was decided for the 2005 GA to make it an electronic meeting, giving everyone the opportunity to attend and participate. Unfortunately the response was even worse. The officers prepared to stand again received no nominations from any DM other than those DMs

represented by PC members. Again I did not want to stand but there was no one else so I agreed to stand. There were no nominations for Regional Officers for Oceania or Europe. There was subsequent enquiries just before and during the GA after nominations were closed. At the GA we received votes from only 4 DMs. That hardly indicates a thriving active membership with deep interest in their sport / hobby!

When the PC put forward proposals re RSD & ISAF in 2004 again there was very little response, only four DMs and IOMICA.

Why is it only now that any one has seen fit to criticize the inactivity of RSD? Note I said RSD and not PC. Surely if it was that bad and DMs were that interested it would have been brought to order after the 2005 GA, not waiting nearly four years?

I suspect nobody was bothered how the organisation was run because as has been shown nobody was that interested to do something about it. Now some don't like the proposals put forward they choose to attack the authority of the PC as the only way they can hold things up.

The reason you are in this position now is because of your apathy, if you are looking for someone to blame look to yourselves, you let it get that way. If you want to get rid of the present PC please do, but I suggest you make sure you have others to take their place as on past history that may be difficult.

Finally

I have enjoyed most of the time serving on the PC the first 3 years as International Regatta Officer followed by 10 years as Secretary / Treasurer. I wish the organisation every success for the future.

Keith Skipper
Gen Secretary / Treasurer
12th November 2009