



International Radio Sailing Association



www.rudiosailing.org

January 2014 IRSA Press Release

This PR will be my last before the 2014 General Assembly Meeting and is a useful opportunity for me to put the situation into perspective without trading on the vogue and vague terms “transparency” and “secrecy”.

In the last four years IRSA has been far from inactive, with many of the accomplishments appearing as one-line statements of action. This is far from true.

Maintaining contact with the DNM's has been high priority, involving sending many emails and hours of work. I am pleased to say that this is now bearing fruit.

The development of two versions of our Constitution (the first agreed at the 2012 GA and the second about to be put in front of the 2014 GA) has similarly involved enormous hours of work and interaction with ISAF. The 2014 version of the constitution will cement our position with ISAF and will provide a solid base for taking the current IRSA and ISAF approved organisation model forward, enabling IRSA to get on with the job of looking after the interests of all radio sailors in an increasing number of countries throughout the world.

Sixteen Press Releases were placed on the website for everyone to read as well as being distributed to all DNM's as well as IOMICA. The PR's appeared regularly in the MYA Acquaint, Model Boats and International Marine Modelling magazines, providing world wide announcements of IRSA activities; certainly not the actions of a secret society. Furthermore each year an IRSA Annual Report has been submitted to ISAF for circulation at the ISAF GA meeting and is included in the ISAF annual report, which incidentally is also circulated worldwide.

Some other poorly kept secrets have been - IRSA membership has increased with the addition of Israel, Turkey and Chile, with other countries and associations in the pipeline.

The Racing Rules Committee have updated and produced numerous documents to standardise the sailing standards at all recognised events, whilst working with two International Umpires/Judges and more recently with IOMICA to improve and standardise the Umpiring situation at our Championships. The RRC also actively contributed to Radio Sailing knowhow and experience incorporated in the Appendix E of the 2013 – 2016 RRS.

The Technical Committee have dealt with numerous Class Rule Interpretations and assisted on other technical issues all of which have been circulated. However, there are still issues that remain outstanding and which we are making our best efforts to resolve.



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Some approaches that we have made to organisations that might usefully become members of IRSA have resulted in disappointing outcomes so far. This situation probably arising from misunderstood communications from IRSA and also from within the organisations themselves.

The establishment of a DNM forum open to all our Members has not prompted many comments, good or bad, during the last year. This suggests that all is well received.

The IRSA Executive Committee members are volunteers and contribute hours of work that is unseen and mostly unappreciated by the radio sailing fraternity at large. IRSA is essentially a organisation with some 30 to 35 members and it is the Executive Committee's primary responsibility to communicate with these members. We have been doing that, but perhaps our national members have not always been passing this information on. Like many other voluntary organisations, the IRSA EC can sometimes forget that it is worthwhile letting the entire radio sailing community know about the work we are doing.

Similarly like other voluntary organisations, members of the radio sailing community offer their services in the administration of the sport with some enthusiasm and duly become involved. When they get down to the nitty gritty of the job possibly they find the work "*that must be done now*" is far more than expected and is difficult to fit in with their personal commitments; or their personal situation changes. The result is a waning in their enthusiasm, which then creates additional difficulty and work load for the remaining committee members.

Fellow skippers and DNM's please remember that we are now in the final approach to the 2014 GA. Various milestones involving submitting motions and nominating your candidates for the next Executive Committee are coming up fast and may be past by the time you read this PR document. However, you can keep in touch with what is happening before, during and after the GA on the following page on our web site [General Assembly 2014](#). Please talk to your colleagues, spread the word and thereby help to develop IRSA in a way that reflect the wishes of our Members.

However, I would like to finish this PR on an optimistic note - I and the other members of the current Executive Committee think the future for IRSA is bright, yes more could have been achieved, but much has been accomplished especially in creating the solid foundation that is required to achieve an association fit for its purpose and more importantly fit for its membership.

Good sailing for 2014 and tight sheets and full sails to you all.

Robert Hobbs
Publicity Officer of a not so secret after all IRSA.
21st January 2014

Note - the full address of the General Assembly 2014 page is
<http://www.radiosailing.org/main/administration/general-assembly/GA-2014-main.htm>