



International Radio Sailing Association



www.rudiosailing.org

To
IRSA Membership

21st February 2014

IRSA EC COMMUNIQUE February 2014

The IRSA Executive Committee would like to advise our Membership that we will not be derailed by CEEFIE, and will continue to concentrate on the remaining all important task in the current 2 year cycle, namely the staging of the 2014 General Assembly. This task will be carried out in accordance with our constitution, and although, on the surface it looks like an easy process, combining the experience gained from the 2012 GA with new ideas means that the organisation of this forthcoming electronic meeting is becoming an interesting challenge.

The current Executive Committee firmly believes that we should continue to take IRSA forward along the current path. This path is an analogy of the ISAF organisational structure, has the blessing of ISAF and many IRSA National Members. Many of our established objectives are in fact similar to what CEEFIE is proposing.

However, we particularly disagree with CEEFIE's desire "to move away from a regional representation system to a class based representation system". We believe in the regional representation model (not dissimilar to ISAF), but would also like to see more International Classes joining IRSA. In this latter respect, IRSA has been providing encouragement to potential classes as and when the opportunity arises.

We agree that it would be beneficial to have specific class association representation for all current and future IRSA Classes but we believe that it is incumbent on the skippers and owners involved with these classes to take the initiative towards achieving that enhanced representation.

Moving on to the forthcoming General Assembly, CEEFIE has made a number of accusations about the process. They continue to believe that we are canvassing against them behind closed doors on some forum set up for this purpose. The simple answer to this is that there is no such forum. The DNM Forum is currently closed and will remain so until just before the General Assembly process starts - as has been stated on a number of occasions. We would emphasize that no interference with the forthcoming election process is taking place.



International Radio Sailing Association



www.rudiosailing.org

In the mid-February CEEFIE Newsletter considerable number of words were written under the heading “By the way...”. One part of this section deals with the IRSA Executive Committee’s handling of Graham Bantock’s nomination as Technical Chairman. In the long second paragraph under that heading, we are accused of “wrongfully interfering with the election process” and “not providing fair access to the GA 2014 forum discussions for external candidates” plus other misdeeds.

Firstly, we stand by our statement concerning Graham Bantock’s potential conflict of commercial interest. At this juncture we will simply leave it to the Membership of IRSA to assess how important and relevant that might be. So when they vote at the GA, they should then decide whether there is any difference between personal involvement and conflict of commercial interest.

The CEEFIE statement uses the words misleading and disingenuous about our statement. The Oxford Dictionary definition of disingenuous is “Insincere, having secret motives, not candid”. Our statement is neither misleading nor disingenuous.

The statement goes on to talk about “In a fair and transparent election, the internal candidates should withdraw from having any control of or input to the election process” and then goes on to suggest that there is conflict of interest on our part by not doing so. The statement goes on to cast aspirations on the “ethical and moral superiority” of the five members of the Executive Committee who have put their names forward for re-election. The only thing we can say in reply to this statement is that the entire Executive Committee is carrying out the tasks required to organise the General Assembly in a fair and transparent manner in terms of the requirements of the IRSA constitution.

We also find the manner in which the incumbent members of the IRSA Executive Committee are referred in this same paragraph as rather derogatory and distasteful. There is no need for this type of personal attack on the incumbent IRSA officers in the run up to the General Assembly.

CEEFIE newsletter refers to our refusal to provide “requested indication to the DNM electors about CEEFIE candidate affiliation”. To help members make an informed decision when voting, IRSA is going to request a personal statement from each nominee. This will ask for information about who the candidate is, what experience they have in radio sailing, more importantly what administrative experience they have and finally what they would hope to achieve if elected. We will not make comment on or suppress any content within these statements, but will expect them to be reasonably concise.



International Radio Sailing Association



www.rudiosailing.org

In summary, we are doing everything in our power to make sure that you the Members are able to make your own decision when electing the Executive Committee for the next term. We only ask that you make an informed decision about the direction you want IRSA to be taken and hence who you vote for. Talk is easy but converting talk to actions in an environment such as IRSA and its widely diverse Membership is a totally different issue.

All the best.

IRSA Executive Committee

Signed By

Des Fairbank

Chairman

Signed By

Richard Rowan

General Secretary

A footnote concerning communications in respect of the General Assembly:

Communications to Members relating to the various stages of the General Assembly are currently being sent out by email to the most recent verified email address that we hold for each Member. We are asking that Members acknowledge receipt of these emails. At the same time, we would ask that Members keep an eye on the GA2014 page on the IRSA web site and make immediate contact if they find that they haven't received a communication.