



International Radio Sailing Association



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General Assembly 2014

Chairman's report

Please excuse me if I repeat some of the content from my report tabled at the 2013 Executive Meeting but felt this report should cover the full two year period from the 2012 GA till the 2014 GA.

After a full house of nominations for the 2009 General Assembly we ended up having to go through the co option process after the conclusion of the 2012 General Assembly to fill many of the positions including that of Chairman. After many failed attempts to co opt a Chairman the executive voted that I should step up from Vice-Chairman to Chairman. Eventually to enable IRSA to go forward I agreed and the two years have provided some major challenges and unfortunate distractions. As a result of these several of the items ear marked for attention after the General Assembly were not able to be brought to fruition.

After initially co opting a Regional Officer Americas after the 2012 General Assembly the person resigned shortly after co option and this position was only filled during the latter part of 2013 by Jim Atkinson.

There were many issues raised in the 2012 GA with regard to the then new IRSA Constitution which was adopted with the proviso that these issues be addressed. This work took longer than expected and the revisions will be put to the 2014 General Assembly. In working with ISAF on these changes we were able to incorporate some subtle changes which will strengthen our position within the ISAF organisation as the Affiliated Member responsible for all aspects of radio sailing. These changes should also help in bringing new classes on board.

We welcomed Chile, Israel and Turkey as new members and Barbados cleared their arrears and have had their status confirmed. Applications are being processed for Malaysia and Monaco. This renewed interest in IRSA is a result of the work being done and the direction in which IRSA is developing.

The Finances continued to be an area of concern with Bruce (Secretary/Treasurer) in the USA and the account set up in the UK. Fortunately in David, Robert and Mike Clifton we had the necessary signatories in the UK to enable us to soldier on. Unfortunately fairly soon after the 2012 General Assembly Bruce started finding it more and more difficult to keep motivated providing a further challenge. This situation remained for some time until towards the end of 2013 when Richard Rowan who was handling our



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website and IT issues came forward and offered his services. Bruce subsequently resigned and Richard was duly co opted following the co option process. Having Richard on board has been a revelation and it is just unfortunate that there has not been enough time for us to make up for the lost ground.

The relationship between IOMICA and IRSA proved to be very challenging but both organisations are now working together and this can only bode well for Radio Sailing in the future. Hopefully other classes will see the benefit and join the ranks of IRSA. In this regard the Radio Controlled Lasers are close to applying to IRSA for IRSA Class Status.

On the event scene a Marblehead Worlds was held in Ploërmel, France during October 2012 and IOMICA held a European Championship during November 2012 in Cres, Croatia as well as a World Championship during October 2013 at Sdot-Yam, Israel. Congratulations to Brad on his double of winning both the 2012 Marblehead worlds and 2012 IOM European Championship and to Rob Walsh for winning the 2013 IOM World Championship.

The Racing Committee under the Chair of Roy Granich has done sterling work and has covered a huge amount of ground. I am sure Roy will fill us in on the various projects undertaken in his officer's report.

Val Provoost experienced numerous health and other personal problems which impacted rather severely on the activities of the Technical Committee but I am sure she will expand on what her committee handled.

Robert Hobbs has been driving our publicity portfolio and has at times become frustrated but until we have our finances properly under control it is difficult to allocate funds for his various projects. An IRSA flag was flown for the first time at the 2013 IOM World Championship event and this will be extended to other promotional items in the future. He has produced numerous Press Releases which have been circulated and published in various Radio Sailing publications and websites. I am sure Robert will expand on his activities in his officer's report.

It would have been great to have been able to report that we have crossed everything off the to-do list but the circumstances have been difficult and in some cases items have had to wait until the constitution is finalised. I can say that there is now a good foundation on which IRSA can build into the future.



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For the first time in the history of the organisation under the various names (IMYRU, ISAF-RSD and IRSA) we will be seeing a vote taking place for the majority of positions on the Executive Committee. This should make for a very interesting General Assembly and Richard and I have spent much time planning and preparing to ensure the General Assembly goes ahead in as fair a manner as possible with the minimum of problems.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their support and input over the last two years.

D.J.Fairbank
Chairman IRSA