



International Radio Sailing Association



www.rudiosailing.org

General Assembly 2014 - General Secretary's report

This report mainly covers the period following my co-option as General Secretary and Treasurer in November 2013, as my predecessor Bruce Anderson found it difficult to remain motivated from fairly soon after the 2014 General Assembly.

However, I had been involved with IRSA since the beginning of 2010 in the role of web master, this including looking after the maintenance of the radiosailing.org web domain, setting up and running an internet based mail server, and setting up a number of online forums for use by the Executive Committee and the Members. So, I was already familiar with some of the background to the IRSA secretarial task.

The unique challenge of IRSA as reconstituted in 2009 is that it is very much an internet based organisation. So the Secretary has to be able to communicate effectively via the world wide web, with email currently being a primary means of sending and receiving information, whilst the web site becomes the place where all sorts of information is made available to interested parties through out the world.

When I offered my services in late October 2013, I was very much aware of the need to get more information about the workings of IRSA published to the web site. Extracting and publishing minutes of proceedings for the preceding 18 months was put in hand very quickly.

I was also very much aware that the next General Assembly was only 6 months away. So planning was started regarding how this would be managed. Subsequently, you will be reading this report via download from a web page dedicated entirely to the 2014 GA. Part of the early preparations was the task of making contact with the National Member representatives in order to validate and update the Member information. A lot of the effort involved in this task was in fact carried out by the Chairman, this providing me with the time to develop an online database facility to manage the Member information.

The Executive Committee became aware of the CEEFIE campaign in early December 2013. The campaign initiated by Lester Gilbert and Graham Bantock has created a unique situation where there are now 10 officer elections taking place at the forthcoming GA. This is unheard of in radio sailing administration, as normally it is difficult to get anyone to become involved, never mind to stand in an election. However, the CEEFIE campaign has added a lot of work to the preparations for the GA, and may subsequently be seen as having disrupted the organisation and collection of Executive Committee minutes and associated documentation in this period.

As part of the run in to the GA, I sent out a survey document to all National Members, this requesting information on membership and sailing activity in each member country throughout the world. The survey was sent to some 31 member representatives but as of today I have only received 14 returns. Accordingly, its value may well be diminished by this relatively poor response.

Finally, I would like to say that running this General Assembly entirely on-line is proving to be quite a challenge. I hope that it will go well and that it will set a precedent for future GAs.

Richard Rowan (IRL) General Secretary / Treasurer 21st April 2014

Some statistics:

Number of National Members 34
- in good standing 30
- currently suspended 4

Classification
- Delegated National Member 27
- Member National Authority 7

Regional distribution
- Americas 6
- Europe 23
- Oceania 5

Number of International Class Associations 1