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Chairman's Report for y/e 31/12/99

Firstly, I would like to welcome our new members to the Permanent Committee of RSD. Ron Watts from Canada, Bernard Merlaud from France, and Zoran Grubisa from Croatia. also Larry Robinson from the USA, who joins us as Publicity Officer and cannot be with us today. He paid a visit to the UK in the summer and has already managed to get Radio Sailing on the front page of ISAF's website with news on the 10r World Championship in Singapore.

We have held two World Championships in 1999, the other being the International One Metre event in Malta earlier in the year. Our Technical Committee Chairman Graham Bantock won both of these. Well done Graham!

Now that our members have seen fit to increase our numbers, it seems highly likely that we shall incur a loss in the current year. A one off loss is something that we can live with, but if the rise in the cost meetings continues, we shall have to either raise the Division Members fees substantially or find a way to have these PC meetings held in a cheaper way. Video Conferencing is in its infancy for those of us with PCs at home or office, but by next year or the year after, I would hope that we will be able to sit at home, with a screen in front of us and see each other speaking on the matters in hand. All this could be controlled from one PC, which might be anywhere in the world; and could well be achieved for the price of a local call, which in some cases may even be free.

A decision was taken earlier in the year to limit the draught of the Marblehead and 10r Classes to 700mm and amendments to these classes rules will be discussed this weekend. I am personally very pleased about this, as I have long feared that a boat with a huge draught would come to one of our events and find that it could not float.

Our General Secretary has constructed a completely new website and I am sure that everyone who has viewed it has been impressed. It must have taken Keith a long time to do this and we owe him a big thank you. Keith and I communicate on what seems to be a near daily basis and would personally like to thank him for keeping me up to the mark on occasions.

Our three committees appear to have had a relatively quiet year; the Technical Committee has postponed the introduction of the new International One Metre until it can coincide with the new 2001 Racing Rules of Sailing; Nick Weall, Chairman of the Racing Rules Committee, has fought to have the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions in our approved format, and the Organisation and Policy Committee chaired by David Coode, has produced new Terms of reference and updated R.R.A.C.R.C.

We welcome new Division Members, Samoa and Poland, and are in discussions with Greece, China and Chile, where they have at least 24 IOMs. This augurs well for the continued expansion of our sport. At any time of the year, there always seem to be a few problems on the horizon and would thank all PC members for their continuous assistance in solving them.

We are always in need of Division Members to host our regattas, so may I ask the larger DMs, who have not done so recently, to consider holding an event, and thank the two relatively smaller DMs that hosted this years event.

Finally, I would like to thank Division Members for their support, newsletters, and cards and wish you all:

Great Radio Sailing in the Third Millennium.

(If it has started or when it starts!!)

John Cleave