



Chairman's Report of the Year 2012/2013

What do the Nordic Folkboats have to do with Great Britain? First of all there is a large fleet of Folkboats in the UK – not only Nordic. Secondary in accordance with our Articles major Rule changes are only to be made every 4 years after the Olympic Summer games, which took place last year in London. Over this 4 years we always make useful or needed changes to our Class Rules to make our Folkboat a bit “more modern”, but for sure it will never become an Olympic Class.

Not to anticipate our Technical Chairman only some brief keywords about the changes agreed: bigger windows in Sails, GPS and handhelds.

The Goldcup in Sandhamn/Stockholm had 35 participants, brilliant weather, except to the last day best sailing conditions, a very friendly “social part” of the event and a winner. The Cup was won again by Kerteminde Sailing Club by Per Buch and his Crew – Congratulations. During the Goldcup in Sandhamn we held our AGM 2012 with good participations from our member, this time including Finland. The Fins seems to be very happy having the Goldcup a bit closer to their home country and started with tree boats. Another surprise came up, the Fins applied for hosting the Goldcup on 2016 in Helsinki. This caused and still causes a lot of discussions in our member countries as well as in the board itself. On one hand Helsinki is quite far from Germany and Denmark. On the other hand it would strengthen the friendship of Sailor as it was the main intention of donating the Goldcup. Later in 2012 additionally we received an apply for 2016 by Aarhus in Denmark.

Even though we still have to decide where the Goldcup will take place in 2016, we are very happy to receive so many applications for hosting the Cup. This year it will be in Niendorf, Lübeck Bay, Germany, having currently 56 entries. Next year in 2014 it will be in the former heart of the Folkboats, Kerteminde Denmark. 2015 it will be in Warnemünde, Germany, hosted by the Spandauer Yacht Club, winner of the Cup in 2011. In 2017 – to the 75th anniversary of the Folkboat – it will be back in Kerteminde.

A few years ago we decided to charge a fee from each member nation, but we are still saving money as good as we could. Our major cost are caused by traveling expenses to participate at the board- and technical meetings. By having these meetings in Lübeck and once in Copenhagen it was possible to drop down the costs enormously, so that we will not charge the member fee in 2014.

Currently the NFIA Board having no personal changes, only change was to the Technical Committee, where Per Jörgensen quit his job. His part will now be done by Heines Nielsen Denmark. We welcome Heines very much, knowing him as a brilliant Folkboat sailor and appreciate his knowledge in technical questions.

So what are the next steps in NFIA and Folkboat development? Last meeting we did some brainstorming about making the boat better and even more attractive to younger sailors. These are for example: Kicking strap, Carriages in the Mainsail (Aluminium Mast), covering the ballast

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keel, Gennacker, Spinnakers, new Materials for equipment and sails, etc. etc. – new ideas are always welcome.

We will give these ideas into the National Associations for discussion hand hoping for a lot of response.

Currently the NFIA has 9 member Nations, which are the Folkboat Associations in Great Britain, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the USA and Canada as personal Sailor Membership.

During the last year we even had new contact with Folkboat Sailors in Hungary and we ask them in applying for membership. Maybe we can welcome them soon as the 10th member country.

Last but not least, I like to thank all Board members, Technical Committee, Measurers, National Associations and all Folkboat Sailors for supporting our Class and activities.

I wish you all the best, good luck and health in 2013.

Yours sincerely

Stefan Rosehr
Chairman NFIA
July 2013