

NORDIC FOLKBOAT INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report of the year 2011

Good luck, the winter is over now, our folkboats are back in water and the first races have taken place. The Goldpokal last year took place in Skælskør Denmark. This very nice, neat place and Club had the best preconditions for a great Event. Unfortunately only 36 Sailors participated. So of course we have to ask all member nations what they think is the reason for it. Was it the date ? The location ? Please let us know. If possible, the NFIA will do everything possible to support the Goldpokal in future. It will always be our most important Event.

Currently the Rules for the Goldpokal are in the hands of the Kerterminde Sailing Club (KSC), but only very few Sailors are participating to races from Kerterminde. So we have been told by Ole Gorm Larsen, NFIA's leaving Vice Chairman, that the interests in the Nordic Folkboat are no longer alive. This situation seems to be perfect in taking over the Rules of Goldpokal to NFIA. Unfortunately KSC declined to hand over the Statutes to NFIA. We will try to find out the reason for this and maybe we will have another go later.

Ole Gorm Larsen from Denmark – well known by many folkboat sailors – retired from his job as Vice Chairman last year in November. Designated follower is Per Damm – even a well known Sailor from Denmark. Our Treasurer and Secretary Bernard Turner will have completed four years this year and asked to retire. Harald Koglin from Germany is willing and able to follow him up. Per and Harald already joined our last meetings and both are well prepared to be officially elected at the AGM in Travemünde.

The new Folkboat Centralen in Hamburg is now about one year old and in the market. New boats have been built, measured and sold. In total FBC is satisfied with the business and will provide us with spare-parts and – of course – complete Folkboats in future. Due to some delays caused by FBC's component suppliers – e.g. Anderson winches, which have been overtaken by Ronstan - , it was not always possible to deliver special spare-parts in time, but FBC will do everything they can to deliver within a few days. Very interesting information from FBC is that they produced complete 3D Drawings from the GRP Folkboat. These drawings will open up new capabilities in future and are very welcome by our Technical Committee.

The only income of NFIA, is from the red Sailbuttons and from the Licenses for Boats and Aluminum Masts. Unfortunately not many boats have been sold during recent years. The income from the Sails are quite stable, but in average not enough for our yearly expenses. Even though, we tried to reduce our costs as good as we can – it is not possible to drop them completely. We are an International Organization and our Board members come from Sweden, Denmark the UK and Germany.

From the middle of this year, we will have some smaller costs after Bernard Turner – living on the Isle of Wight – hands over his Job to Harald. But nevertheless we need some money in stock and we will even continue to support the Goldpokal. The NFIA Articles say that we can charge an annual fee to all member countries. The amount has to be confirmed by the AGM. So we are proposing to setup a fee of one Euro (1,00 €) per boat registered in each national association. This fee will only be charged, if NFIA Stock drops below 5.000 € - which covers about the expenses of one year. In accordance with § 19 of our Articles we will setup an independent audit to prove our expenses. Every nation can assign an Auditor, but to avoid even more costs by the Auditors we propose to hold the audit by "online-meetings" or directly in Berlin/Germany.

This year's Goldpokal will take place in Travemünde during the Travemünder-Week. Heino Haase is our major organizer and is currently very busy doing this job. Not only the wind, racing courses, race manager, especially the so called "social part(y)" of the event is in his

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focus - he tries to make everything perfect. You will find any information about the Races and the Program on this website: <http://www.folkeboot-luebeck.de> Please note that the entry fee of 270€ already includes daily "after race" beer, Snacks and the Champions dinner (meal only, no drinks, no girls) on July 29.

And Goldpokal again – we had very long discussions within the NFIA and even in some National Associations about the Goldpokal 2012. After Denmark in 2010 and Germany this year, it should go to Sweden again. So the Swedish Association came up with the Proposal to organise the Goldpokal 2012 in Sandhamn near Stockholm.

Of course everyone knowing the Swedish islands near Stockholm must say, it as one the most beautiful areas for sailing. On the other hand, there are "some" logistic Problems to solve – and that is not only the distance from Denmark or Germany to go there. The Swedish Association now setup an organizing committee to take care of: accommodation, transportation, racing, social-part, champions dinner etc. For Sweden this will become a big challenge and even a big publicity for our Class. A request to the German Association brought out, that 10 Sailors ad-hoc said that they would participate and I'm sure, they are not the only ones. So please circle this information to your members and advertise for this Event at every possibility. And for the long-term planning of the Goldpokal – in 2013 it will be in Niendorf (same Club as 2004) at Lübeck Bay/Germany.

From the technical point of view there are some changes and amendments to our Class Rules in preparation. Most of them have to be decided latest at the AGM 2012 to become valid from January 2013 – remember: Rules Changes shall only be done every 4 years. One point of the changes will be the GPS-Issue. Most Member Countries now voted for the GPS – but it shall not be connected to speed in the water or wind measurement equipment. The final wording of the proposal will be decided next year. Our Technical Chairman Hans Torlén will point out the other proposed changes in his report.

Special thanks to the leaving Board members Ole and Bernard for all they have done for our Class and a heartily welcome to the new members Per and Harald. Thanks to all Board members, Technical Committee, Measurers, National Associations and all supporters of the Nordic Folkboat.

I wish you a great sailing season 2011, good luck and health!

Yours sincerely

Stefan Rosehr
Chairman NFIA
June, 2011