

Chairmans report, NFIA annual meeting, Hellerup, July 3, 2025.

As always, I will start my chairman report with the principal objectives of NFIA to set the frame for the work:

§ to further the interest of the Nordic Folkboat in all countries where Folkboats are sailed and to introduce the class to new countries.

§ to be responsible for the administration of the Class Rules and to coordinate proposals for rule amendments, for rule consideration and the final approval by the Scandinavian Yacht Racing Union (SYRU), recently renamed to Nordic Sailing Federation (NoSF)

§ to ensure that the class retains its status by complying with the criteria adopted by the NoSF

§ to coordinate and select venues for international regatta events, like Gold Cup or Sessan Cup

§ to produce regular newsletters containing information about the class and the activities of the NFIA for distribution to all Folkboat sailors worldwide.

Welcome to this year's annual general meeting here in Hellerup.

Since last years Annual General Meeting, the board has met virtually on several occasions, minutes from all meetings can be seen on the NFIA's website together with other news from activities in the Folkboat class.

High on the agenda has been new class rules coming into force January 1, 2025 and the Swedish proposal about weight distribution. Especially the latter has been discussed thoroughly and NFIA has come to a clear position starting with extending measurement at national and international events and concluding by the end of the year when facts are on the table.

We have also met virtually with the national associations. The purpose has been to update the NA's with the work and considerations being done in NFIA, but also to get to know and inspire each other cross border.

NFIA can not and shall not replace local individuals and groups sharing the love for the Folkboat, this is the backbone of all Folkboat activities, but we aim to facilitate international knowledge sharing and strict class rules to secure we continue having a One Design Class in the future.

Last year I asked the rhetoric question about where will the Folkboat class be in 5 years from now. Even though we are in good shape compared to other classes, we need to ask ourselves in the local fleets if they can do something. We have fleets and regions which used to be very active but not anymore. Do we know why, and if so, is there anything some enthusiastic locals can do, perhaps with a bit of support from NA's or NFIA. As mentioned, these people are the backbones in the success.

The venues for the Gold Cup is in place for the next couple of years, in 2026 Travemünde, Germany and in 2027, Hangö, Finland. We will welcome applicants for the 2028 event.

This year, Sessan Cup will take place in Muiden, Holland. The Dutch association has taken the challenge and it is a great opportunity to promote folkboating in The Netherlands. We can tell there is a good interest already based on the registrations for the event in September.

This concludes my final chairman's report. My 3 years term as chairman expires and our vicechair Steffi will replace me.

Thanks to Steffi, Lennart and Simon for a great cooperation and all the time and effort you have put into the Board work. You have made the job as chairman fun and inspiring.

Per Buch,