

Chairman's Report

NFIA Annual General Meeting 2026

Dear delegates, members and friends of the Nordic Folkboat,

As chairman, I would like to begin by reminding ourselves of the principal objectives of NFIA:

- 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 consideration and approval by the Nordic Sailing Federation (NoSF).
- To ensure that the class retains its international status by complying with the criteria adopted by NoSF.
- To coordinate and select venues for international regatta events such as the Gold Cup and Sessan Cup.
- To promote communication and cooperation between national associations and Folkboat sailors worldwide.

Welcome to this year's Annual General Meeting.

The past year has been an active one for NFIA. Following the introduction of the 2025–2028 Class Rules, much of our work has focused on implementation, clarification and ensuring consistent interpretation across all national associations. Several updates and clarifications have been published during the year, and the board has continued to work closely with measurers and national representatives to maintain the integrity of our One Design class.

One of the most discussed topics has continued to be weight distribution and measurement procedures. NFIA has encouraged fact-based discussions and increased cooperation between national associations, measurers and competitors. Our objective

remains unchanged: to protect fair competition while preserving the character and accessibility of the Nordic Folkboat.

The board has held regular virtual meetings throughout the year, and we have continued the practice of international meetings with representatives from the national associations. These meetings have proven valuable for exchanging ideas, discussing challenges and sharing successful initiatives from different countries. I would like to thank all participants for their constructive contributions and commitment to the class.

Looking at our international events, the Folkboat community remains strong and active. The 2025 Gold Cup in Hellerup attracted an excellent fleet and once again demonstrated the high standard of international Folkboat racing. Congratulations to Hellerup Sailing Club, the organising team, volunteers and competitors for a successful championship.

The 2025 Sessan Cup in Muiden, the Netherlands, was another positive example of international cooperation. Hosting major events in different countries helps strengthen local fleets and introduces new sailors to the Nordic Folkboat community.

The future championship calendar is also well established. We look forward to the Gold Cup in Travemünde, Germany, in 2026 and to Hangö, Finland, in 2027. These events provide excellent opportunities to showcase our class and continue building international participation.

While our international events are healthy, we must continue to focus on local fleet development. Across our countries we see examples of active fleets growing through enthusiastic volunteers, good organisation and welcoming environments for new sailors. These local initiatives remain the foundation of our class. NFIA can support and coordinate internationally, but the long-term success of the Nordic Folkboat depends on the commitment of sailors, clubs and national associations at local level.

As I complete my first year as chairman, I would like to thank the entire NFIA board, technical committee, national associations, measurers, organisers and volunteers for their dedication and hard work. The cooperation within the Folkboat community continues to be one of the great strengths of our class.

The Nordic Folkboat remains a unique combination of tradition, competitive racing, seamanship and friendship. Together, we will continue to preserve these values while ensuring that the class remains attractive and relevant for future generations of sailors.

Thank you for your support and commitment to the Nordic Folkboat.

Stefan Westerlund

Chairman, NFIA