2019 was a sad year for the Technical Committee with the loss of Juri Saraskin. He was our IFA Chief Measurer for many years and an integral part of our TC. He and Richard Hart continually reworked the class rules to form the excellent structure we have today.

Juri passed away at the age of 80 and to say he led an interesting life is an understatement. He lived under the Soviet regime and as then proudly as part of his independent Estonia. As a businessman he had many hats in his successful family business and as a sportsman he was a Finn sailor, coach and then measurer. Of course while we waited for the wind to come his stories helped pass the time.

We are all grateful for the time, friendship and expertise he brought to our class all. I miss him and I know many of you feel the same…

It is a tribute to Juri and Richard that there was no need to address any major technical issues or propose any rule changes in 2019.

I’m also pleased to say that the hand over to our new Chief Measurer Andre Blasse was seamless. Andre worked with Juri for many years and has a wealth of class knowledge and a modern approach. His team is equally well prepared for the future.

The class is in good hands!

Paul Mckenzie
Chairman of the IFA Technical Committee