In 2019, the Finn World Masters went to Denmark for the first time ever. The Royal Danish Yacht Club put on a great event for us, despite some local problems early on and I think that everyone enjoyed the event, especially when summer arrived mid-week. In the end we ended up with two start-lines with 125 boats on each, which in hindsight was too many. We are reviewing this for the future.

In September the European Masters in Schwerin attracted 64 boats. It was a very nice event, with some close racing and a deserving winner. However the finances took a hit after many entries did not show up. This left a hole in the club’s budget.

As part of the review of our event manual, we will be reinforcing the rule that all entries must either pay or notify by a certain date. No shows without notification are still required to pay the entry fee. This has been a Masters Rule, and has been correctly observed by the sailors, for many years. But in Schwerin, about 20 boats entered without payment and did not show up.

2020 is the 50th anniversary of the Finn World Masters and we were hoping to have a great celebration at Port Zelande, in Holland. It was all going to plan and then March 23rd came along and the UK was put into lockdown.

To be fair the Dutch had called ‘time’ on the World Masters the previous week, as a result of the Dutch government cancelling all recreational activities and sports event in preparation for their lockdown.

The result is a financial mess with incurred costs by the Dutch masters committee and the International Masters Committee. The sponsors had little choice but to reel in their funding, like all companies, about to enter melt down.

Fortunately, many masters came to the rescue, some forfeiting their entry fee and other gifting their €30 Masters Fee. I’d like to acknowledged and thank all those Masters who donated the €30, and in many cases their whole entry fee, towards covering the cost of the FWM2020 Committee and the FWM Committee.

As a result, our budget forecast for the year has been torn up and we will have to work with the limited funds left.

At the moment we are exploring options for the coming years for when things return to normal. There may be more changes to come. We are in discussions with the Dutch and Puntala 2021, but everything is pretty much up in the air at the moment.

We remain optimistic. Stay safe.

Andy Denison
Vice-President Masters