Finn Gold Cup – Vallensbæk
ISAF Sailing World Cup
World Masters – Maubuisson
IFC AGM
The new 2009 model Devoti Finn is here!!
Contact us for more information
PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR THE 2009 AGM
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION

3 July 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

Dear All,

In my President’s letters published frequently in Finnfare over the year you are regularly updated on the events of the Finn Class and the international Olympic sailing scene. Therefore in the present report I would just summarize my overall thoughts on what we have done in the past year since the 2008 AGM at Scarlino and what is ahead of us in the near future.

1. The Finn Class of today

Previous years have shown that the Finn class is getting stronger than ever in terms of number of sailors as well as represented countries and continents in all age categories.

At our major championships the class today has a very solid international senior fleet of 80-100 entries from around 30 countries per event, an increasing junior fleet (around 50 sailors at the Silver Cup in Balaton) and a formidable Masters fleet comprising almost 270 sailors at this year’s Masters Worlds in France.

In the new Olympic cycle there are many new faces who have joined or re-joined the international Finn scene. The Finn has been a natural pathway for ex Laser sailors and this year also shows how these two Olympic classes complement each other.

Similar developments can be identified at both national and continental levels as well. If you have a look at the country news chapter of the last editions of Finnfare, you find a long list of national Finn events sailed by a large number of sailors in all age categories.

Last but not least, we celebrate this year the 60th anniversary of our beloved class and the celebration will be held in true Finn style by holding a regatta in Uppsala where the Finn was born in 1949.

2. The Finn and the Olympics, Event Selection for London 2012

Competition among classes for Olympic spots is these days as tense as ever. ISAF might be planning a reform of Olympic sailing events by increasing the number of women events and high performance boats while achieving a larger number of participating countries. There is currently an intense debate on the reform of not only the selection of Olympic classes, but also on the reform of ISAF and its decision making processes.

Our main task for the near future is to show ISAF and the wider sailing world that the need for a one-man heavyweight dinghy event is even larger than in the past.

The 2008 ISAF AGM was held last November in Madrid. Thanks to a well run, effective and fair campaign the Finn class has managed to keep the heavyweight men’s single handed event for the 2012 London Olympics. Besides the IFA Executive Committee’s work the presence of active and former Finn sailors has contributed enormously to our success in Madrid.

3. Fides

The Finn International Development Support programme is a project aiming to help young sailors and new countries to join or rejoin the international Finn fleet and overcome the first hurdles by offering free of charge or discounted...
FINNFARE

Circulation
FINNFARE is a non-profit publication that is distributed free of charge to all IFA members and to interested parties connected to the International Finn Class around the world. For extra copies, or if you have addresses of people who you think should be receiving FINNFARE, please contact the IFA Office.

Contributions
Articles, race results, photographs and reports from countries are always welcome. Please include FINNFARE in your National Association for mailing newsletters, bulletins, press releases and race reports.

Advertisements
All advertisement enquiries should also be addressed to the Editor. Technical details and rates are available on request and on the IFA website www.finnclas.org

Email
Please email photos as high resolution jpeg files. High resolution photos for the cover always needed. Most Mac compatible formats accepted.

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Cover photo: Giorgio Poggi sailing at Punta Ala in Italy in 30 knots.
Photo: Tosca Zambra, www.fotozambra.it

Next issue: November 2009

FINNSHOP: Back issues are available through the relaunched Finnshop on the IFA website at GBP 1.50 each including postage. Also available are 2009 IFA ties and copies of the 1986 book FINNLOG.

FINNFARE AUGUST 2009

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Cover photo: Giorgio Poggi sailing at Punta Ala in Italy in 30 knots.
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IFA AGM
The IFA Annual General Meeting was held in Vallensbæk during the Finn Gold Cup. The minutes and abridged reports are included in this issue of FINNFARE, while full reports can be found on the class website.

Change in dates
The dates of the Open Russian Championship have been changed to September, 21-27 in order to make it more convenient for sailors who are taking part in Sail for Gold at Weymouth. It’s a great chance to see Moscow and have some good competition without taking your boat – charter boats will be provided free of charge and there is quite cheap accommodation at Moscow Sailing School (40 Euro per day including meal). Entry now open at www.finnclass.ru.

Finnshop
The Finnshop has reopened for business at www.finnclass.org. Currently you can buy back issues of FINNFARE, FINNLOG from 1986 and the new IFA ties. These quality handmade ties are 100% silk and something that no self-respecting Finn sailor should be without. We also found some old copies of FINNatics but these all sold out within a month. New items will be added to the online shop over the coming months and years including the new 60th anniversary book, which should be hitting the shelves by September. All ordering is done online with Paypal or credit cards.

Finn’s 60th Anniversary book
Work on this book is almost complete and it should be printed by September and it will be worth the wait. Early previews have been very encouraging. The book will not only contain a chronological photographic history of the class, using hundreds of previously unpublished photos, but it also contains the personal memories of 60 Finn sailors (yes, one for each year) from Elvstrøm through to Ainslie. Many national associations have bulk pre-ordered to sell on copies to their members. If yours hasn’t please ask them to do so, or order through the online Finnshop at www.finnclass.org from September. They will sell fast so don’t delay.

ISAF Athletes’ Commission
Dan Slater has been re-elected to the ISAF Athletes’ Commission as the Finn class representative. This commission acts as a link between the Olympic sailors and ISAF.

Trivia
Despite producing more winners than any other nation, Denmark has only hosted the Finn Gold Cup on two occasions. In 1959 Paul Elvstrøm won at Hellerup. In 2009 Jonas Hogh-Christensen won at Vallensbæk, on the other side of Copenhagen. Let’s hope we don’t have to wait another 50 years before we return to Denmark. It was a truly awesome event. Well done Vallensbæk!

Talking point
ISAF President Göran Petersson watching the racing with IFA President Balazs Hajdu at the Finn Gold Cup

Congratulations
Congratulations to IFA President Balazs Hajdu and his bride Erika after their wedding on Lake Balaton on June 20 2009. The wedding took place on board Lake Balaton Sherry Cruiser in the middle of Lake Balaton in Hungary. In typical Finn sailor style, Balazs and Erika spent their “honeymoon” at the Finn Gold Cup in Copenhagen. The Finn Class sends Balazs and Erika its heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a happy life together.

President’s Letter (continued)...

4. Marketing
The Finn Class has three main assets in my view: (i) the sailors, (ii) the boat and (iii) the Finn community being a close symbiosis of present and past sailing talent.

Finn sailors are true heroes sailing in one of the most tactical and at the same time athletic sailing boats of the present time. On the other hand there is a huge amount of fraternity, sportsmanship and fun involved in the life of our class. These are all values, which if presented in the right way all contribute to a growing media interest in the Finn Class.

You might have noted that our media releases have more than ever focused on the sailors’ voice because personalities and the stories of great sailors are those things that really appeal to the public. The Finn Channel on YouTube and the 60th Anniversary Photo Book are our two new novelties for 2009.

5. Major Finn Championship venues
In an endeavour based on a fairly direct and understandable request from Finn sailors attending the AGMs at Kalmar 2005 and Split 2006, the IFA Executive decided to become more pro-active in the course of finding suitable sailing venues for forthcoming major Finn championships.

In this manner Copenhagen was proposed and decided for this year and San Francisco for next year’s Gold Cup. Not less importantly we have received valuable bids for the 2012 Gold Cup, 2012 Europeans and 2011 Silver Cup.

Wishing you a great regatta and fair winds.

Dr. Balazs Hajdu
President
International Finn Association
More Finn news

**Masters news from Fons**

As many of you have experienced or heard from others, we had a great Finn World Master Championship in Maubuisson, France, in May.

The 264 competitors were a new record in this growing event. I think many Finn sailors aged late 30s can hardly wait until the year they will become 40 and, almost more important: become a Master!

The weather in Maubuisson was excellent, the winds were shifty, the location was beautiful, the food and wine were excellent and the spirit was OK. Again André Budzien showed his quality and won for the third time.

We had a constructive Annual Masters Meeting with good input from the sailors and some good decisions made, like how to handle no-show entries and forming a group of sailors (led by Richard Hart) who will discuss a format for the races we will all be happy with. They promised to come up with a proposal in the course of September.

The new Finn World Masters Rules were accepted and I thank everybody who helped me to create these. Besides that a Masters Committee was presented and accepted: Mike Till, Rolf Elsaesser, Yves Zoccola and Henk de Jager will back me up in making plans and decisions.

During the meeting two venues for 2011 showed presentations and the meeting voted for Punta Ala (Italy), but Pwllheli in Northern Wales (UK) agreed to remain candidate for 2012. Maybe a good idea for 2012? Sailing three major Championships in the UK: The Olympics, the Gold Cup and the Finn World Masters! But first we will have to vote in 2010 for the location in 2012, of course.

I wish to thank the Cercle de la Voile de Bordeaux (CVB) for their hospitality and expertise and granting the sailor’s wishes. I hope we will return to Maubuisson for another Finn World Masters in future.

On July 14 and 15 I visited the Labud Sailing Club in Split (Croatia) for the preparations of the Finn World Masters Championship in 2010. We sailed our Finn World Masters there already in 2002 and the venue is still beautiful. I presented the latest version of the Guidelines (Rolf Lehnert initiated them and I thoroughly expanded them) and we had agreements on almost all points. What worries me most at this moment is that the Labud Sailing Club still has to do a job around the accommodation of the competitors (both hotels and camper places), but I will keep in close contact about this with them. I pointed out that good accommodation for all Masters is a serious issue for this event and it must be arranged well.

I herewith advise all Finn Masters to regularly visit [www.finnworldmaster.com](http://www.finnworldmaster.com) for the latest news. This website contains a lot of information and news and it will keep you all informed about what happens around the Finn World Masters for the coming years. Don’t miss anything!

Kind regards and good winds for all of you.

Fons van Gent
Vice President Masters Fleet

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The best promotion is the boat

Here is our President Balazs Hajdu’s Finn on display in a shopping centre in central Budapest. Every year for one week, a racing sailboat is exhibited to attract people to sailing. This year it was the Finn’s turn especially because of the 60th anniversary.

And here is the Moscow Finn Association in action at the Moscow International Boat Show. Vasily Kravchenko writes, “The Finn class dominated among other classes through the whole event with a modern Devoti on display. In addition various video clips were shown that have attracted many people. During that event the President of Russian Finn Association awarded Victor Kozlov a medal for his Silver at Finn World Masters in 2008 (Legend). The exposition was a big success. Many visitors were attracted by our booth. Our materials were drawn by several magazines, internet-portals and video-channels. Several sailing goods shops asked us for video materials to show at their shops, so we will have continuous advertising of Finn class through them. We have met many yachtsmen who would like to come back to Finn as well as many new sailors who want to start sailing Finn.”

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Gathering in Poland

Taken at the ISAF Mid-Year Meeting in Poland here are Tomasc Holc (ISAF VP and ex-Finn sailor), Ralph Roberts, ISAF Silver medal award winner C.A. Marchaj and Andy Zawieja. Below, Rafał Szukiel and Corinne McKenzie.
New Finn from HiTechsailing
The new Finn from HiTechsailing is an all new project that moves the class forward. Walter Riosa sailed Finns in the Italian squad for nine years and was Luca Devoti’s tuning partner for a great deal of that time.

Working with Tim Tavinor and Luca, Walter was part of the team responsible for supplying the Finns for the Atlanta Olympic Sailing Event and Italian reserve, when Devoti Sailing was given the contract to supply the equipment by ISAF.

He has also been heavily involved with the successful 2008 British and Dutch Olympic Yngling squads, having been a key member of the building team of both boats.

In 2001 Walter left Devoti Sailing and concentrated setting up his own business producing high quality carbon tiller extensions and the revolutionary hiking simulator. Then in 2008 HiTechsailing started work on an ‘all new’ Olympic Finn. The aim was to produce a very high quality, highly competitive boat using Walter’s 15 years of experience both sailing and building boats.

The result is a Finn that incorporates all the latest fast thinking, but with some new details unique to this model. The first boat successfully passed measurement, and the order book is starting to fill up.

Walter said, “Following exhaustive design and development over the last nine months, I’m really pleased that HiTechsailing has produced this all new Olympic Finn. The new boat, which is built in the UK, has a hull shape that follows a similar route to the most competitive boats currently on the market. It incorporates a number of design features not seen previously in other builder’s boats. These features make the best out of the class rules, and optimise the ergonomics for maximum efficiency and comfort. Great attention has also been given to produce a styling that is both unique and modern. The boats are built from the highest quality materials, and thanks to top suppliers support it all looks fantastic.”

For more details and information, contact HiTechsailing on info@hitechsailing.com or call +44 (0)7866 687705

Technical Committee Chairman’s Report for July 2009 (main points)

- Measurement and Equipment Inspection at the Olympic Regatta and at recent regattas have shown no special problems apart from difficulties caused by a shortage of normal measurers in some countries. We have tried to address this issue.
- What is noteworthy is the huge effort that the class as a whole has made to deal with the weight reduction and re-swinging process. Well done everybody!
- After a long process Jüri Saraskin has had new Templates and Swing Hooks made.

2008 - 2009 Rule changes
- Last year AGM approved and directed a raft of changes, the most significant of which related to the permitted use of digital compasses and a simultaneous weight reduction.
- The Class Rules Sub Committee were concerned about whether we could muster the measurement resources to re-swing the boats. A rule has been included to allow some boats to update without re-swinging. This is only likely to be suitable for some older boats.
- Our submission that, where an MNA will not appoint or recognise measurers for our class, then IFA may do so was rejected. No alternative solution has been offered.
- The submission to replace the “Q” (with race committee options) with “O” as the pumping flag led to three rewrites.
- The need for a mandatory paddle has been deleted with a new paragraph inserted making it optional.
- The hand bailer or bucket is still required on hulls not fitted with a double bottom (i.e. pre-1974), and is optional for the rest of us.
- On 15 May (2009) I received approval, and finalised the new versions of our Rules, Measurement Form and Certificate.
- Several measurers requested and helped to develop a standard “reweighing” attachment for the Certificate. It’s on the ISAF website.

Changes for 2009 – 2010
- Some minor editorial tidying is needed.
- Discussion with TC whether we should tighten the hull specification regarding “additional stiffening” which “may be of any material”.
- As ever, we need to keep the costs of our equipment under review.

The Committee
As usual, I have received valuable support, input and commentary from the members of TC, and from manufacturers. Some do not reply to messages often, but their membership is valuable because they may give valuable input when they have special knowledge.

I should like to propose the TC as last year – with the welcome addition of Alain Bujeaud – Robert Carlen, Rodney Cobb, John Driscoll, Guillaume Florent, Jan van der Horst, David Howlett, Gilbert Lamboley, Lawrence Lemieux, Walter Mai, August Miller, Miklós Németh, Jüri Saraskin, Tim Tavinor, Clifton Webb.

Richard Hart, Chairman, IFATC
Finn Gold Cup 2009 - Vallensbæk, Denmark

After a week of drama at Vallensbæk in Denmark, Jonas Høgh-Christensen walked away with his second Finn Gold Cup after first winning the title in 2006. What is remarkable about this win was the fact that he hadn’t sailed on more than a handful of occasions since the Olympics last August. In a relaxed, almost party mood, he had a shaky start but got better and better as the week progressed and finally clinched the title on the final race, with one vital boat between himself and Zach Railey, who had led going into the medal race. Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic took the bronze and was the first Croatian to ever stand on a Finn Gold Cup podium. A fabulously organised regatta and an incredibly tough week’s sailing finished with a thrilling medal race that had the locals whooping for joy. Denmark had another world champion.

FINN GOLD CUP 2009 - FINAL RESULTS

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The form book was wide open going into the Finn Gold Cup at Vallensbæk, near Copenhagen in Denmark. With a different winner at each major European event so far this year, picking favourites was easy, but picking a winner was a hard call.

The racing reflected this prediction with a different leader after each day’s racing and the points really close until the final few races. In the end 87 sailors from 31 countries made it to the start line, with just two previous winners Rafael Trujillo and Jonas Høgh Christensen. Høgh Christensen was the dark horse of the fleet, having not sailed since the Olympics, but was fast in training and very relaxed about the racing.

Two testing raced were sailed on Monday in 6-8 knots in very shifty winds with virtually all the favourites picking up a discard. Race wins went to Bryan Boyd and Dan Slater, though Rafal Szukiel was the most consistent and led overnight.

Boyd led race one from start to finish, to win by over a minute. Slater won the second race after a race long battle with Daniel Birgmark.

Another two tricky two races were sailed in a moderate southerly on Tuesday. Giles Scott led from start in finish in race three while, in a stronger breeze, race four was won by Jonas Høgh Christensen in the closing stages, as the very tight leading group surfed to the finished line.

After day three there was another leader with Dan Slater sharing the top of the leader board with Railey. In race five Boyd again lead at the top mark with 2007 European Champion Eduard Skornyakov was not far behind. The Russian took the lead on the first downwind and held to the finish.

Michael Maier was the early leader in race six, but Marin Misura took the lead on the first downwind and held to the finish in the changeable and increasing wind. After day three Ed Wright had moved up to third overall having discarded his 46th from race one.

The breeze arrived for day four with two testing races with in from 15 to 25 knots.
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**Top to bottom: Zach Railey, Marin Misura, Jonathan Lobert, Giles Scott, Top three juniors:**
(1: Jorge Zarif, 2: Tomas Vika, 3: Filippo Baldassarri)

Photos: Tosca Zambra and IFA
The new patented PowerPad system from Zhik has reinvented hiking forever. Stick inPlace, Strong Durable and Comfortable, No more tight and clunky hikers.

"POWERPADS HAVE ALREADY WON 6 ISAF GRADE 1 EVENTS IN 2008"

INCLUDING FINN HOLLAND REGATTA CHAMPION RAFAEL TRUJILLO

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE

DOYLE RAUDASCHL
SAILMAKER
Ried 155
5360 St. Wolfgang
AUSTRIA
florian.raudaschl@raudaschl.co.at
Wright finally found his pace to lead from start to finish in race seven, while Høgh Christensen won race eight. Boyd again rounded the top mark in the lead but the Dane soon pulled through for his second win and moved up to fifth behind Wright, Scott, Kljakovic Gaspic and Railey.

The final qualification day brought extreme conditions and drama in equal measures. Wright was black flagged on race nine, which effectively removed any chances of his first world title, as he now had to count the 46th from race one.

Meanwhile Railey led from start to finish and followed that up with a seventh in race ten to go into the medal race with a three point margin over Høgh Christensen. Scott dropped one place to third despite winning race ten; he was also the only other sailor than Høgh Christensen to win more than one race. The fourth sailor still with a chance at the title going into the final day was Kljakovic Gaspic. Most sailors though had a dismal time with 25-30 winds and cold, driving rain through most of the day.

For Jonas Høgh Christensen it was a fairy tale ending. To win the Finn Gold Cup he had to finish with at least one boat between himself and Railey. And this is exactly what happened. The medal race was sailed in probably the best conditions of the week – a 12-14 wind with free pumping, Railey led round the top mark from Høgh Christensen, with a lot of boats close behind. The first downwind was to prove crucial. The Dane found better pressure and moved ahead while Railey dropped a few places. Andrew Mills moved up to second and stayed there on the second upwind to be the all-important cushion that Høgh Christensen needed over Railey.

Railey recovered to third on the final downwind to take the silver medal, while Høgh Christensen extended to win the race and the Gold Cup in the best possible way. Winning a world title on home ground is always something special. Kljakovic Gaspic crossed in fifth to take the bronze, while Scott faded away to eighth to end up fourth overall.

On winning his second Finn Gold Cup in his own country, Høgh Christensen said, “It’s amazing, it’s an absolutely amazing feeling. I’m lost for words. To be honest I didn’t think it could happen. I wanted to compete here because it was in my home country, but I hadn’t really trained for it all. I have been on the water about six times since the Games. I started out badly and thought I had lost it. Then the weather got a bit easier and suddenly the results started coming in and I just moved up and up and by today I was suddenly in second. Today was just a case of go out and fight for it.”

Railey said, “This is the first worlds I have actually finished in the top 28. I haven’t had very good luck at the Gold Cups before, so my strategy was to come here and try to finish consistently in the races and give myself the best shot at the medal race. I can’t complain about second pace at the world championship for sure, but it definitely hurts a bit not being on top of the podium.”

Third place Kljakovic Gaspic was elated with his third place finish. He said, “This is the first ever medal for any Croatian sailor in Finn Gold Cup history so this is very special for me. Everybody wants to win it but there are only three places on the podium and to get there at all is really special.”

There was also a great battle among the juniors with Jorge Zarif narrowly beating Tomas Vika in the final race with Filippo Baldassari in third.

The host club put on an amazing show and should be justly proud of what they achieved. The welcome and the hospitality were extraordinary, and all the competitors and supporters enjoyed a great week in Vallensbaek.

Media

The media coverage for the 2009 FGC probably exceeded that of any other dinghy world championship ever. In addition to worldwide daily coverage on sailing news websites, there was:

- Online tracking thanks to TracTrac at (these will remain accessible online indefinitely)
  www.tractrac.com/fgc

- Blog and on-the-water Twitter feed at
  http://finnclass.blogspot.com

- Event website with multimedia at
  www.fgc-2009.com
In March the Italian Finn fleet met in Punta Ala, Tuscany for the opening event of its Coppa Italia 2009 series. However on the Saturday, racing was abandoned because the northerly wind was too strong at 30-35 knots. But that’s just perfect for Finn sailing so some of the younger sailors went out for a blast. Pictured here are Italy’s 2008 Olympic representative Giorgio Poggi, along with Marko Kolic, Riccardo Cordovani and Filippo Baldassari, sailing the Finn the way it was meant to be sailed. These excellent photos were taken by Tosca Zambra (www.fotozambra.it).
The Finn World Masters keeps getting bigger and better. This year the biggest Finn event of all time was held at Maubuisson in the south-west of France and attracted 261 Finns. If you placed them all end to end the line would stretch for nearly 1.2 km.

Defending champion André Budzien got off to a bumpy start, while Laurent Hay could do no wrong. Jürgen Eiermann led into the final day, but Budzien got the upper hand to seal his third Masters title in a row.

Defending Champion André Budzien picked up a black flag on day two to open matters up slightly, while the consistent Jürgen Eiermann only once placed outside the top four. Meanwhile 2006 champion Michael Maier, second after three races started having problems and slipped back. In the last two qualification races, Budzien hit back with two bullets to go into the final day one point behind Eiermann and one ahead of Hay.

In the final race, split onto gold and silver flights, Allen Burrell rounded the first mark with a clear 100 metre lead from Budzien, who took the lead on the first reach. Maier caught up the leaders on the second beat to take the lead in the stiff breeze and on the final beat put a tight cover on Budzien as the breeze started to drop. But Budzien wasn’t worried about that. He had his main competition behind him, and that is where they stayed.

Budzien spoke about the week. “I had to grow into the races. It’s hard as you cannot always compete against your direct competitors. But the last race was really nerve-racking with the points so close. This was certainly my toughest Masters so far. I tried to keep my composure, but actually it was very nerve racking.”

Forty years ago at the Finn Gold Cup in 1969, held in the rather exotic location of Bermuda, the suggestion was first put forward to hold a Veteran Finn Gold Cup for sailors over 40 and the first event was held in Switzerland in 1970. That concept – which has developed into the Finn World Masters – has now come of age itself. The 40th Finn World Masters is already history, and sailors are already looking forward to next year, with a welcome return to Split in Croatia.

Above: Top 10 • Below (left to right) - Ladies (Ane Zelinkski, Brigitte Devillers, Bozena Smidova), Grand Masters (Eckhard Drehpal, Francesco Cinque, Michael Staal), Great Grand Masters (Mikael Brandt, Jørgen Lindhardtsen, Luksa Cicareli), Legends (Richard Hart, Walter Mai, Henri Roumaillac)
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**FINNFARE AUGUST 2009**

15
The British team displayed their full potential in Palma. Apart from a mishap in the first race, Giles Scott never placed less than fourth in the opening series and then another fourth place in the medal race was comfortably good enough to take the regatta win by three points from Ed Wright. Wright didn’t win a race until the medal race, when he overhauled Andrew Mills to snatch silver with Mills having to settle for bronze.

1  GBR 41  Giles Scott  26
2  GBR 111  Edward Wright  29
3  GBR 634  Andrew Mills  32
4  FIN 218  Tapio Nirkko  46
5  ESP 100  Rafael Trujillo Villar  48
6  SLO 5  Gasper Vincic  55
7  GBR 88  Mark Andrews  61
8  CRO 25  Marin Misura  63
9  CRO 524  Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic  72
10  FRA 69  Jonathan Lobert  75
11  USA 1140  Bryan Boyd  68
12  CZE 1  Michael Maier  69
13  EST 2  Deniss Karpak  72
14  AUT 3  Florian Raudaschl  73
15  POL 7  Rafal; Szuikiel  77
16  POL 17  Piotr Kula  84
17  RUS 9  Skoronyakov  92
18  SWE 6  Bjorn Allansson  93
19  FRA 115  Le Breton Thomas  108
20  ESP 7  Álex Muscat  110
21  CZE 52  Tomas Vika  113
22  ITA 101  Riccardo Cordovani  120
23  ITA 1  Giorgio Poggi  128
24  GRE 8  Dragoutsis Alexandros  128
25  GER 771  Jan Kurfeld  130
26  POR 5  Frederico Melo  136
27  ESP 161  Miguel Fernández Vasco  157
28  EST 11  Lauri Väinsalu  168
29  ESP 981  Jono Toro Prieto-Puga  169
30  GBR 99  Henry Bagnall  172
31  GER 21  Schreiber Anian  174
32  GBR 711  Andrés Budiwen  175
33  GBR 717  Sebastian Kaule  182
34  GRE 71  Panagiotis Davourlis  194
35  ESP 10  Eros Pons Penin  202
36  RUS 57  Terpigorev Egor  202
37  GER 712  Froh Christoph  209
38  ESP 836  Jaime Navarro Delmas  212
39  EST 3  Heiko Eesalu  218
40  CZE 21  Jan Cajcik  218
41  CZE 11  Patrik Deutscher  220
42  GER 262  Uwe Barthel  231
43  RUS 91  Sivenkov Vyacheslav  232
44  ITA 13  Cisbani Paolo  248
45  POR 310  Rodrigo Quina  266
46  GBR 99  Henry Bagnall  272
47  ESP 115  Le Breton Thomas  114
48  SLO 99  Moze Tine  116
49  NED 16  Postma Pieter Jan  123
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56  RUS 707  Larionov Egor  154
57  GBR 634  Mills Andrew  154
58  CRO 25  Vinaus Marri  154
59  RUS 9  Skornyakov Eduard  156
60  SUI 1140  Boyd Bryan  168
61  HUN 7  Douglas Graham  171
62  FRA 115  Le Breton Thomas  114
63  SLO 99  Moze Tine  116
64  NED 16  Postma Pieter Jan  123
65  POL 17  Kurfeld Jan  125
66  GRE 8  Dragoutsis Alexandros  130
67  FRA 99  Lobert Jonathan  131
68  ECO 25  Vika Tomas  144
69  SWE 6  Allansson Bjorn  149
70  RUS 707  Larionov Egor  154
71  GBR 634  Mills Andrew  154
72  CRO 25  Vinaus Marri  154
73  RUS 9  Skornyakov Eduard  156
74  SUI 1140  Boyd Bryan  168
75  HUN 7  Douglas Graham  171
**Delta Lloyd Regatta – Medemblik**

27-31 May

Scott opened with a 1-3-2-3 and looked to be heading for a second regatta win. He went into the medal race with a three point margin over Wright, who had closed up in the second half of the regatta after an inconsistent start. The medal race win went to Rafael Trujillo with Wright in second. For Scott it all went wrong and he ended up ninth in the race to lose the regatta win to Wright. 

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<th>Name</th>
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**Kiel Week**

20-29 June

Just before the Gold Cup started in Denmark, Kieler Woche was the penultimate leg of the Sailing World Cup. After Rafal Szukiel won the opening race the following two days were windless and three races were sailed on day four. Newcomer Deniss Karpak had been the most consistent and led into the medal race. However Szukiel won the race to take the week from Kljakovic Gaspic who finished fourth. With no discard several sailors suffered with high scores from day one, including Wright who also had a 2-2-1 and Trujillo who had to count a 35th.

The top ten looks like this:

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<th>Points</th>
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<td>GBR</td>
<td>Edward Wright</td>
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<td>Christoph Froh</td>
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So after six events, Ed Wright has already secured the first ever ISAF Sailing World Cup title even before the final event in Weymouth.

Detailed reports of all these regattas can be found at www.finnclass.org
John Shallvey writes: The Australian fleet continues to grow in numbers and enthusiasm with more interest than there are boats available. The class this year decided to host its own ‘mid winter championship’ on Sydney Harbour at Woollahra SC. Out thanks to Rob McMillan (below in 1994) for being the driver here and getting it all to happen. It proved to be an ideal regatta on many fronts with good racing and a perfect platform for the newer guys to learn.

The new summer looks great with bigger fleets and top regattas planned in every month of the summer season. Either side of the Sail Down Under circuit there will be great chances to test yourself. This summer our Nationals will be at Sorrento Sailing Club [recently hosted 29er and 49er Worlds] but we have looked to have the 470 fleets join us so the week will be Finns 470s and Flying Dutchmen. It was planned that the event finishes on Jan 10 so sailors can get over to Miami if needed.

Certainly via this mag and the other media you will all be invited to come down and train and have what the worlds sailors know can be a great few weeks of sun, wind, waves [and beers]. I ask you all to talk to your federations about getting those Finns and 470s into containers and joining us. We might even want to buy your boat and gear at the end of it given the local demand.

On behalf of the Australian Fleet can we wish the Finn Class worldwide a Happy 60th Birthday and be assured there is a special celebration planned for Australia.

Sail Melbourne

Yachting Victoria is proud to announce that Melbourne will host the ISAF Sailing World Cup – Sail Melbourne for the next three years, thanks to a $550,000 commitment from the Victorian State Government. Last year’s Sail Melbourne event was represented by around 20 countries. It is hoped sailors from more than 40 nations will compete this year. Sail Melbourne will once again provide container storage close to the venue for any teams that may require it. More info at: www.sailmelbourne.com.au.

Italian Championship 2009

Marco Buglielli writes, The 2009 Italian Championship was held in Cesenatico on Adriatic Sea at the beginning of June. Unfortunately the date clashed with the Finn World Masters, which caused some difficult decisions and a number of defections. Nonetheless there were 29 participants.

While in Maubuisson the weather was sunny and warm, in Cesenatico it was unexpectedly cold and rainy. Bad weather caused the loss of two racing days, but six races were however completed in medium winds.

From the first race the fight for the Italian title was restricted to Riccardo Cordovani and Filippo Baldassari, a Junior who switched from the Laser a few months before and has greatly improved in long training sessions in Croatia.

Anyway Riccardo dominated the championship with four bullets and two second places and only six points on the scoreboard. Filippo was deservedly second with one bullet, two second and two third places.

Marko Kolic was third overall like in 2006 and 2008, with Carlo Recchi in fourth and Marco Buglielli in fifth.

Italian Championship 2009

1. ITA 101 Riccardo Cordovani 6
2. ITA 123 Filippo Baldassari 10
3. ITA 40 Marko Kolic 19
4. ITA 97 Carlo Recchi 20
5. ITA 2 Marco Buglielli 26
6. ITA 19 Simone Mancini 28
7. ITA 37 Paolo Visona’ 31
8. ITA 134 Vittorio d’Albertas 45
9. ITA 92 Marco Minghetti 60
10. ITA 869 Enrico Voltolini 61

The first race was held in March in Punta Ala, where the 2011 Finn World Masters will be sailed and then the fleet went to Cervia, Cervia, Cervia, Cervia, Cervia and Porto San Giorgio.

Riccardo Cordovani is leading the provisional scoreboard with a narrow margin over Filippo Baldassari. The supporting sponsors of Coppa Italia are: North Sails Italia, HiTech Sailing, Bertacca Sail Equipment, Grappa Bertagnoli, Devoti Sailing, Essemarine, Harken, Lizard Footwear, Nordstudio and Residence Ca’ del Lago.

All photos: Tosca Zambra, www.fotozambra.it

Coppa Italia

There have been 26 races over seven weekends between March and June, with 87 Italian helmsman participating and still two weekends left: Scarlino in September and the Malcesine Finn Cup in October.

Such are the numbers of the Coppa Italia Finn, which has reached its tenth edition in 2009, with growing success.
Easter regatta 2009
Paul Kamphorst writes, 51 competitors arrived at Loosdrecht for the three day Easter Regatta. Some of us had been to Switzerland for new Wilke masts and this first event this season we would find out if the training this winter was worthwhile.

The wind was disappointing on Saturday. After a postponement a long start was set. The committee believed the wind would pick up but it dropped when heading for the second mark. However the committee kept the sailors out in the sun with no wind left coming from all directions. Six boats reached the finish within 20 minutes, while the rest ran out of time. Wietze Zetzema won.

On Monday just one race was sailed. Ewout Majer won, but Nanno had done enough to win the regatta.

The final start was a perfect start for me. Being in front of the pack is really cool. Getting downwind is something to work on as some guys really move on through the field. Nanno Schuttrups won his second race of the day.

The second race went about the same as the first, although Paul, Casander and I went on a tack to port and overstood the first mark completely. So we were the last to round it, and with the wind slowly increasing to 23 knots, some left.

The final start was hard for some of us, but sailors don’t wait. Timo got in first, with Karel and Wietze behind. Despite the late arrival of Kok got in fourth. The second race Wietze and Dennis. I came fourth finally.

Gert, Timo and Dennis de Ruiter were in the lead and ended the day well. Among the masters Jan Willem, Cees and Paul sailed consistent races. Paul had new gear and new morale and speed.

Getting up Sunday was hard with slight muscle pain. Despite the rain falling in the night the wind hadn’t, so another day of hiking. Wietze and Karel continued in first and second. Thierry and Dennis had good speed with a 4th, with Arwin and Cees nearby.

The second race went about the same as the first, although Paul, Casander and I went on a tack to port and overstood the first mark completely. We were the last to round it, and with the wind slowly increasing to 23 knots, some left.

Gert won the last race closely followed by Wietze and Dennis. I came fourth finally getting the right tacks. Arwin and Bas had OCS so left after rounding the downwind mark.

Ceex won the Masters fleet very well, with Arwin second. Thanks to the committee and Jury, with perfect sailing conditions. This event deserves more competitors.

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Getting up Sunday was hard with slight muscle pain. Despite the rain falling in the night the wind hadn’t, so another day of hiking. Wietze and Karel continued in first and second. Thierry and Dennis had good speed with a 4th, with Arwin and Cees nearby.

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Paul Kamphorst writes, 51 competitors arrived at Loosdrecht for the three day Easter Regatta. Some of us had been to Switzerland for new Wilke masts and this first event this season we would find out if the training this winter was worthwhile.

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Mike Woodhead writes, 33 Finns entered for the two day regatta at New Orleans Yacht Club. Saturday dawned with a moderate wind from the north east and unseasonably dull weather. A windward leeward course was set for the first race which was won by Bryan Boyd from Andy Casey, Darrell Peck and Forrest Gay. Casey took the second race from Steve Landeau and Boyd. The wind continued to build for the next three races with an ever increasing steep swell. The third race was won by Darrell Peck and Forrest Gay. Casey took the second race from Andy Casey, Darrell Peck and Forrest Gay. Mason match racing for second place, which eventually went to Louie after a tense battle.

No racing could take place on the Sunday due to 40 knot winds from the north. With temperatures plunging to 35°F despite glorious sunshine, the fleet packed up boats with many heading to Alabama for the NA Masters.

Two races were held on the Friday and again Darrell Peck winning all three races. Thursday brought a three race day with two being won by Darrell Peck from Michael Mark and Scott Mason. The breeze on the final day gusted to 18 knots in bright sunshine and warm temperatures. This gave superb sailing conditions on Mobile Bay. Darrell Peck again was the victor from Michael Mark and Scott Mason match racing for second place, which eventually went to Louie after a tense battle.

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Annual General Meeting of the International Finn Association
Vallensbæk, 3 July 2009

The 2009 International Finn Association AGM was held at Vallensbæk Sailing Club, Denmark on Friday 3 July. The President opened the meeting at 18.00

1. National Class Associations
22 countries were voting; representing a total of 30 votes (including the executive members), out of a possible 49.

2. Minutes from the last meeting
The minutes of the 2008 AGM were approved.

3. Accounts
Treasurer’s report was presented to the meeting. The Treasurer proposed a EUR 4 increase to EUR 24. The meeting proposed to increase subscriptions to EUR 25. The 2008 Accounts and Budget to 2012 were approved. The motion to increase subs to EUR 25 was approved.

5. EC reports
The Executive Committee presented their reports. (See www.finnclass.org for full reports)

(i) President (see page 3)
(ii) Vice-President Sailing
(iii) Vice President Development
(iv) Vice President Masters

In addition, it was noted that Dan Slater had been re-appointed as the Finn Class Representative on the ISAF Athlete’s Commission. He mentioned the topics currently under discussion and requested that all comments should be directed through him.

Henk de Jaeger, representing the Vice-President – Masters Fons vans Gent, reported on the overwhelming success of the 2009 Masters which attracted 264 entries as well as how the Dutch Masters have been encouraging Junior development in Holland.

4. Election of Members
All members of the Executive, Marketing and Technical Committee were re-elected with the addition of Alain Bugeaud to the Technical committee.

6. IFA Championships
6a Presentations were received from Falmouth, UK, Scarlino, Italy and Moscow Sailing School, Russia.

2011 Finn Silver Cup will be in Moscow, Russia in August
2012 Finn Gold Cup will be in Falmouth UK in early May
2012 Finn Europeans will be in Scarlino, Italy. Proposed dates were 16-24 March, though the EC will look into holding it after Falmouth to give time to get boats back from the 2011 FGC in Perth Australia

6b Zach Railey updated the meeting on the 2010 Finn Gold Cup in San Francisco, USA
The event will be at the St Francis YC and sailing in the ‘Triangle’ (Alcatraz, Bay Bridge and Treasure Island). Assistance will be available in shipping boats either after Kiel or to the Miami OCR. It was recommended to ship boats to the East Coast and send by SR. The Silver Cup will precede the FGC and about 25 boats are hoped to be arranged for use by Junior in the FGC and by Juniors and developing nations in the FGC. Proposed start dates are 18 August for FSC and 29 August for FGC.

6c It was proposed to add EUR 50 to the entry fee for FGC to be used for TV coverage of the event. The meeting was not in favour of this proposal and asked EC to find future venues which provide free media coverage or other ways to generate revenues to cover TV coverage expenses.

7a FIDeS
This year had been quiet for FIDes programme though a request was made for old gear to be donated by sailors to be given to developing nations, many of who still use Vanguards and metal masts.

7b Soup to Nuts – No report had been received from Gus Miller. However the VP Development will brief the EC after getting in touch with Gus Miller.

8. Technical Committee
8a Richard Hart presented his report (see page 7)
8b No changes were proposed, though some cleaning up of words may be required over the next year
8c The submission regarding equipment building development control was widely discussed. The meeting agreed with the wording of the proposal but requested the EC to come back with a more detailed proposal by the 2010 AGM regarding guidelines according to which the commission will take its decisions. The Chairman of the Technical committee, presented views from some members of the TC who had reservations about the proposal including any effective way to control it. The meeting then voted in favour (29 for, 4 abstentions) to establish an Olympic Gear Commission. Sailors were encouraged to provide input into this over the coming year.

8d. An additional item to the agenda was proposed by Gasper Vincec who requested changes to the free pumping rule to make judging more consistent. He proposed to reduce the wind limit to 8/10 knots and perhaps remove the elastic JC strap or limit sail trimming through the floor block before free pumping is allowed. The meeting agreed to experiments at regattas and for further thought during the coming year. The wind limit reduction for free pumping could be tested as early as the 209 Europeans in Varna.

9. Olympic selection campaign
The Executive Director updated the meeting on last year’s successful meetings in Madrid where the Finn was selected for the 2012 OG in Weymouth and stressed that the challenges ahead were likely to be the toughest yet. The ED encouraged all sailors to maintain contact with their Council reps and promote the Finn.

The meeting closed at 21.50

Full Executive Committee reports and account can be found at www.finnclass.org

Report - VP Sailing (main points)
Daniel Birgmark

Championships and format of racing
At the 2008 AGM in Scarlino, the courses and number of races sailed on the IFA Championships were on the agenda. The meeting decided to have 2 races each day except on the last racing day when one race is sailed. This new format of racing will be used at the 2009 FGC.

The number of Finn sailors under the age of 22 is increasing and the IFA Silver Cup has become a success. The recommendation of the juniors is that the Silver Cup is held every year. This would help to make the Class even more attractive for juniors.
AGM Reports (continued)

During the ISAF meeting in Madrid John Craig, competition manager at St. Francis Yacht Club, informed the IFA about the venue for the 2010 FGC. It promises to be a great event. IFA will follow up the preparations and post the details on the website. Dates for the Championship were proposed to be in late August with the Silver Cup prior to the Gold Cup.

Judi

Interpretations of the RRS 42 are often discussed among sailors. During the past year the Class has had a number of meetings between sailors and International Judges where the RRS 42 has been discussed and explained. This has been very valuable to get fair and good competition at our Championships. Furthermore it’s important that the Class continues to work with the best Int. judges on our Championships to secure the high level of judging and fair racing.

Championship Manual

An extended Championship Manual has been composed by our President, the 2008 edition Championship Manual. This will help organizers in the future to improve the level of race management even further.

VP Development Report (main points)
Zach Railey

This has been a very busy year with a lot of different ideas being implemented with the Finn Class Development program. One of the largest positives is the number of Junior sailors who are starting in the class with a good number of them becoming very competitive in short time.

At the beginning of the year there were a few major areas that the Development Program wanted to focus on:

GPS and Video Tracking System
• After a lot of work and consideration a full “class” tracking system was just not cost effective.
• Given the fact that all the SWC events were having GPS tracking we felt that we should focus our attention on the on-board camera footage and are going to look at options this coming year for each medal race of SWC events in 2010.
• The biggest step forward in this was the start of the YouTube Finn Channel which has been very successful. Michele was a huge help in getting this started and ISAF recently contacted the Finn Class for help starting its own YouTube Channel for the SWC Events. This was a huge step in showing that the Finn Class is forward thinking in getting sailing out to the larger audiences around the World.
• Stats for the Channel so far are: In six months we had 20,000 hits, 98 subscribers and 78 videos loaded, from National Championships, to masters, to World Cup and Olympic Regattas.

Fides
• We have many sailors in the class that are looking for equipment to use that can be donated to the class to distribute. We will be working this coming year in making contacts in the Master Fleet to help us find more equipment for sailors to use.
• For the 2010 Worlds we are working with the large masters fleet in the USA to have available boats for sailors interested in sailing the Silver Cup in 2010 or the FGC 2010. Our goal is to have 25 boats available for sailors to use for free or a very low charter fee.
• The junior fleet is expanding at a very fast rate and we are looking to get a system developed for them to register with the International Class and let us know of their desire to compete on the circuit. We will then be able to coordinate with other sailors that could offer a boat for use at events.

Soup to Nuts
Expecting update from Gus Miller

Cost of Class and Gear Development
There is a submission being put forward that details an Olympic Gear Commission. This is aimed at keeping development cost within reason so that all sailors have access to the ability of purchasing the best gear at a fair price. We find it very important, on the development side, that the costs remain affordable to any sailor and that the emphasis is on the sport and not solely on the technological challenge.

Pilot Program in the USA
This year (2009) the USA Finn Class headed a program to get more junior sailors involved in the Finn Class. At the USA AGM, the class voted to allocate $5,000 USD to buy a boat to be class owned. We then put out a set application deadline for anyone under the age of 21 to apply to use the boat.

The goal of the program was to increase the number of Junior sailors in the class, by giving them a cheap entry level into the Finn Class. We selected Caleb Paine, from San Diego, California as the sailor for 2009. Caleb was given the Fins we purchased with USA Class money and he has now competed in many of the national regattas. He has also been at Kiel with a top 20 finish and is currently here racing at the FGC.

The goal of the Developmental committee is to seek 5 additional nations to introduce the same program in 2010 for their home countries. If other nations are interested please contact us directly, but we do want to make sure that the resources are available and that there is a committed person to help run the program in the country. All the details and information from our Pilot Year in the USA will be used to help facilitate a smooth transition. Now all we need is volunteers to help!

Major Finn regattas 2009-12

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<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>30/7-6/8/2009</td>
<td>FINN SILVER CUP - JUNIOR WORLDS</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.finnclass.org">www.finnclass.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>20-23/8/2009</td>
<td>North American Championship</td>
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<td>17-22/12/2009</td>
<td>Christmas Race</td>
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SWC = ISAF Sailing World Cup event
Pata B4 Finns, Pata Finn Wing mast

André Budzien...
Michael Maier...
Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic...
Rafael Trujillo...
Emilios Papathanasiou...

...they choose our quality and performance...
maybe the next name is yours!

Pata Boats
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Pata Brazil
Coming Soon!!!