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Opening shot – Giles Scott’s unbeaten run continues through Palma and the Europeans

Dear Finn Sailors,
Dear Friends of the International Finn Community,

With the Finn Europeans in La Rochelle and the Finn World Masters in Sopot behind us the second half of the 2014 international Finn sailing season is about to begin. The Juniors are heading to Hoorn in the Netherlands for the Silver Cup whereas the 2014 ISAF Worlds and Finn Gold Cup as the first Olympic qualification regatta is waiting for our sailors in September in Santander, Spain.

The Europeans showed again the strength and depth of the international Finn sailing fleet with 100+ entries and 30+ countries on the starting line. In the fleet we saw some new faces and are glad to see new blood coming to the Finn every year.

The Finn World Masters in Sopot, Poland had 235 entries from 25 countries which is just another example of the continuous growth of our Master fleet. In La Rochelle I had a chance to meet with Andy Denison, the new IFA Masters VP and exchanged plenty of ideas on how to further utilise existing synergies of the Finn senior and master fleets.

We had a fruitful AGM in La Rochelle with a great 2016 Finn Gold Cup venue in Gaeta, Italy selected by an almost unanimous majority of votes.

You will find further details about the AGM in the current edition of Finnfare and through the President’s Report on our activities over the past year.

For our international sailors may I wish you good training and successful preparation for the Worlds in Santander. As regards our national and regional Finn fleets the regatta calendar is going to be packed with Finn events over the coming months, so there is plenty of opportunity to enjoy sailing this wonderful boat.

Dr. Balazs Hajdu
HUN-1
IFA President

President’s Letter
FINNFARE is a non-profit publication that is distributed free of charge to all IFA members and 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.

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All advertisement enquiries should also be addressed to the Editor. A media pack is available on www.finnclass.org

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Cover photo: Andrew Murdoch in La Rochelle (Pic: Robert Deaves)

Insets: Michael Maier wins his sixth World Masters in Sopot (Pic: Piotr Fajfer, www.photoheaven.net); Giles Scott wins his second European title in La Rochelle and is now unbeaten since April 2013.

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Back issues: Back issues are available through the Finnshop on the IFA website from GBP 5 each including postage.

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FINNFARE July 2014

Technical Progress
With the confirmation that the Finn is designated as the Equipment for One-Person Dinghy (Heavyweight) in 2020, we have been given a breathing space to think strategically instead of “Firefighting” against exclusion from the Olympics. In this FinnFare the President’s Report to AGM gives us a direction for using this opportunity: to make sure that our technical and measurement resources are fit for purpose, now and in the future.

We are a standard-bearer for the idea of ‘measurement-controlled classes’, in contrast to the ideas of licensed builders, standard plugs and manufacturer control.

Jüri will tell us that proper measurement depends on (skilled) use of standard measurement tools. Recently we have had the hull lines, coordinates and template shapes audited by a leading Naval Architect. He found excellent correlation between the Lines, Coordinates and Template Design Shapes which were sorted out by Gilbert Lamboley – a tribute to his work over more than 50 years on this. Some minor issues have been identified, but the good news is that they do not affect our boats or the templates produced for several years under Jüri’s direction.

Another piece of strategic thinking is to sort out my replacement. Rory Barnes was suggested by Andy Denison, and AGM has agreed that he should join the Technical Committee and gradually take over my duties. Rory has been a Finn sailor for a number of years, although just now he is concentrating on his son’s Optimist. He is a Sail Measurer authorised by the British Royal Yachting Association, and is a former Honorary (that means unpaid) Secretary of the British Finn Association: his duties included liaison and organisation tasks for the Finn Gold Cup in Falmouth 2012. Hopefully he will be meeting some of you at Santander – please get to know him and help him to get his feet under the table.

Richard Hart
Chairman of the Technical Committee

Ireland news

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**ISAF Sailing World Cup Final**

It was announced in June that Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, will host the inaugural 2014 ISAF Sailing World Cup Final through to 2017.

The Final will bring together the top 20 boats in each Olympic event providing them with an annual challenge to compete against the best of the best for the crown of ISAF Sailing World Cup Champion and the ISAF Sailing World Cup prize purse.

The 2014 ISAF Sailing World Cup Final is scheduled for the last week of November 2014.

Carlo Croce, ISAF President, said, “The United Arab Emirates is rich in maritime history and we are delighted that Abu Dhabi will be hosting the ISAF Sailing World Cup Final from 2014 to 2017.”

“Over recent years Abu Dhabi has established itself a major hub for hosting international sporting and cultural events. We look forward to working closely with the UAE Sailing and Rowing Federation, the Organising Committee for Abu Dhabi Sailing Events, over the next few months and years.”

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**2018 ISAF Sailing World Championships in Aarhus**

The International Sailing Federation has also announced that Aarhus, Denmark has been selected to host the 2018 ISAF Sailing World Championships. Held every four years, the ISAF Worlds is a key event for sailors campaigning for the Olympic Sailing Competition, bringing together past and future World and Olympic Champions across the ten Olympic classes.

The second largest city in Denmark, Aarhus is situated on the eastern side of the peninsula of Jutland. Bid partners, the Danish Sailing Association, Sport Event Denmark, Sport Aarhus Events (City of Aarhus) and Sailing Aarhus bring together proven regatta organisation skills in a venue offering world-class racing conditions.

The competition venue will be established at a new Aarhus International Sailing Centre in Aarhus Yachting Harbour. Easily accessible and within walking distance of downtown Aarhus, the area is a favourite destination for residents and tourists alike who enjoy the restaurants and shops as well as clean bathing waters, fishing and fresh air.

Aarhus has hosted several world class sailing events in recent years including the 2008 ISAF Youth Sailing World Championship, 2010 505 World Championship, 2011 A-Cat World Championship and the 2013 49er and 49erFX European Championships.

As well as Aarhus there were bids from Busan (Korea), Gdynia (Poland) and The Hague (Netherlands).

Jerome Pels, ISAF Chief Executive Officer said, “The bids ISAF received were of exceptional quality and we are grateful for their commitment to the sport. All four venues demonstrated passion and commitment to host the 2018 ISAF Worlds which made ISAF’s decision a difficult one to make.

“In recent years Aarhus has demonstrated its expertise in hosting high calibre sailing events featuring the finest sailors on the planet. We look forward to working closely with the organizing authority to deliver a world class event for sailors, spectators and those watching from home.”
There were just four events for the Finn this time, in Melbourne, Miami, Palma and Hyeres. Palma as usual was the most popular. Björn Allansson won in Melbourne, Giles Scott in Miami and Palma and Pieter-Jan Postma won in Hyeres. A Grand Final is scheduled for November in Abu Dhabi.

### 2014 ISAF SWC Mallorca - Final Results

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### 2014 ISAF SWC Mallorca - Medal Races

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Giles Scott retained the ISAF SWC Mallorca title he won last year after a drama filled medal race, but one that ultimately didn’t change any of the podium positions. Thomas Le Breton was the early leader as the first days were dogged by light winds. When the breeze arrived Scott dominated to win four in a row and go into the medal race with an eight point lead. Friday was lost despite the fleet being afloat all day. While Andrew Mills sailed away to win the medal race, Le Breton almost turned the tables on Scott, but in a very close finish lost a few boats on the final approach to take the silver. Lobert was assure bronze after the only two boats that could pass him were both OCS.
Pieter-Jan Postma had never won a major Finn regatta in nearly 10 years in the class. He chose to finally overcome this at Hyeres this year with a dominant display against the odds to produce the most popular win of the year so far. But it almost went wrong.

After taking the overall lead with a superlative display of speed and skills he only just survived day 4. In race 7 his halyard broke and his sail fell down. He limped back to the finish in 57th place, and with no coach tried to fix the sail by capsizing his boat. Photographer François Richard offered to help and together they pulled the sail back up and attached it at the top, while fighting the chop and increasing wind.

Finally it was fixed just one minute before the 5 minute gun and Postma made the race just in time. Two second places the next day made the medal race a formality, with the only real interest between Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic and Thomas Le Breton, separated by just three points for the silver.

Postma led Jorge Zarif round the top mark but then Zarif moved to the front to take the winner’s gun. Josh Junior moved up from ninth at the first mark to second at the finish, while Kljakovic Gaspic moved up to third on the final downwind. This meant that nothing actually changed in the overall top three. The only significant upward movement was Junior moving up to fourth.
Giles Scott stamped his authority all over the 2014 European and Junior Open European Championships, at La Rochelle, France. Sailed from 2-10 May, it was the Finn class's fourth visit to the French port city in 18 years. The Europeans was last held there in 2004 and of course the World Masters was held there last year. It was a week of generally moderate to strong winds apart from the first day, with Scott winning with a day to spare. He also won the medal race to end up with a final score 50 points better than the next best sailor. His winning margin is the largest of any European title win in the recent history of the class.

Giles Scott wins European Championship in La Rochelle

It was no ordinary fleet. With 101 boats from 31 countries it was the most competitive fleet so far in this Olympiad with all but a handful of the world's best Finn sailors present. Second placed Vasilij Žbogar was the defending champion, and surprised even himself by his performance. Blisteringly fast downwind, he had untested gear and little confidence, but his conservative style and clever tactical sailing, always got him to the top mark close enough to the front to make his move downwind. Ed Wright picked up the bronze, his fifth major championship medal in the last four years.

Also encouraging was the junior championship sailed within the senior event. Both are open so can be won by anyone, and this year Jake Lilley from Australia was not only the clear winner, but also placed 15th in the seniors, an impressive achievement. Coached by the 1984 silver medalist John Bertrand from the USA, Lilley has a very focused attitude and is one of the fastest ascending stars of the fleet.

Monday
The championship got off to a slow start. After three starts were attempted for the first race, it was eventually abandoned half way up the first leg and cancelled for the day later in the afternoon. Two of the starts were under black flag with 11 boats pulled out including a lot of big players.

Tuesday
The black board list of start line offenders got even longer on Tuesday as more and more boats were added on. Eventually it had taken 11 starts over two days to get race 1 away, with 34 sailors having to sit and wait. Eventually a race got away in 14-15 knots.

Tapio Nirkko made the best of the start at the pin end to lead round the top mark from Zsombor Berecz, Giles Scott and Pieter-Jan Postma. Nirkko held on to his lead downwind and up the second beat, but on the final upwind mark, Scott was up to second and took the lead at the end of the final run to cross the line in first for the gun. With Berecz over at the start, Nirkko took second and Žbogar third.

Though three races were planned, everyone was happy to be sent in after two. The wind had brought with it cloud and rain and everyone had had enough for one day.

In the Junior Championships, Peter McCoy led from Philip Kasueske and Anders Pedersen.

Wednesday
The third race got away cleanly after one general recall under black flag. It was dominated by Kula who started by the pin and played the shifts well on the first upwind to round just ahead of a large pack of boats. After the downwind, Scott trailed Kula round the left hand gate and tried to make inroads up the next beat. However the Pole maintained the lead and then extended on the final downwind to cross in first ahead of Scott and Andrew Mills.

Race 4 started fairly promptly with Oscar flag now raised. Wright was fastest to the top mark, rounding just ahead of Postma. However Scott was not far back and had taken the lead by the downwind gate, to extend
away to win. Wright maintained second place with Josh Junior coming through strong on the final lap to cross in third.

The wind had by now increased to 14-16 knots with Postma leading round the top mark from Wright and Scott. Postma seemed to have it under control but Scott had other ideas and not only passed Postma on the last downwind, but also extended for a huge win of nearly a minute. Likewise Junior, who had rounded the top mark in around 15th, took 12 boats on the first downwind and then also overtook Postma on the final leg to place second. Postma crossed in third.

In the Junior Championship, Jake Lilley had taken the lead in 18th place overall from McCoy and Pedersen. McCoy picked up a useful 13th in race 4, while Lilley had three results in the top quarter of the fleet. Meanwhile Jorge Zaraf, the World and Junior World Champion was fighting back and was just 20 points behind Lilley.

### 2014 European Championship - Final Results

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**Thursday**

Giles Scott produced a perfect performance with two more race wins pushing him into a 36 point lead with just three races left to sail. It was another great day’s sailing with the wind in place from the beginning and peaking at 12-14 knots, with some nice waves and Oscar flag for free pumping flying for most of the day. For many it was moving day. Lots of sailors moved up, some moved own, but Scott moved even further clear at the top of the leader board. The great racing also brought the sun out for a while which made everything seem much better.

Race 6 started in 9-10 knots after four boats were pulled out on a black flag. Mads Bendix, sailing in his first major Finn championship, rounded the top mark ahead of Philip Kasueske and Wright. Bendix managed to build a nice gap downwind and held onto his lead on the second upwind. However on the final run, Wright slowly reeled him in and passed him just before the bottom mark, before turning for the finish. Kasueske held on for an excellent third place.

Scott was back in front in race 7, leading round the top mark from Ioannis Mitakis, Berecz and Postma. Scott extended downwind and everyone thought that was that. However, on the second upwind Mitakis found a shift big enough to pass Scott and lead round the top mark, while Thomas Le Breton moved into third. Inevitably though, Scott found the best route downwind to pass the Greek sailor and take his fifth race win of the week. Mitakis got second and Le Breton third.

In race 8 Postma again led at the top mark from Pablo Guittain Sarria, Alejandro Foglia and Michele Paoletti. Scott rounded in fifth. Postma held his lead downwind with Lilley flying down the run into second and Scott up to third. It all changed on the second upwind with Lilley going further left than the fleet and coming back clear ahead. He rounded the top mark in the lead and pumped hard to create a gap big enough. However it wasn’t enough with first Scott, then Postma and then Žbogar finding a way past. Lilley finished fourth which consolidated his position at the top of the Junior rankings. He was now 40 points clear of second placed Zaraf and 74 points clear of third placed Kasueske.

**Friday**

Though he didn’t have the best of days, Scott did enough to wrap up his second European Finn title, and with a day to spare. But before the racing began, the day started on a note of remembrance. Sailors and organisers gathered on the deck of the Société des Régates Rochelaises (SRR) for a minute silence in memory of Andrew ‘Bart’ Simpson, who was lost exactly a year before. It was an emotional start to the day, matched by the inclement weather. The starting gun marked the beginning and end of a minute silence, with the Finn class flag remaining at half mast in memory of a lost friend.

The forecast was similar to past days, with 10-14 knots expected. However in race 9 the wind barely exceeded 8-10 knots. All eyes were on Scott and while he was on the front row on the middle right, the left side came in so strong that he rounded in the 30s. First round was Jakub Marciniak from Le Breton and Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic. Marciniak held his lead through the gate but on the second beat, with the left again favoured, Kljakovic Gaspic moved ahead and built a sizeable lead to win the race. Marciniak rounded the top in second with Mitakis in third, but it all changed again downwind, with Žbogar slipping through to second. Scott recovered to 15th but it wasn’t enough to secure victory yet.

After a number of recalls, race 10 got under way with Scott starting conservatively and getting buried. He had to bail out and duck a load of transoms before finding clear air. The left again paid with Mills rounding with a nice lead from Fernando Ros Martinez, Postma and Lilley. Scott rounded in 10th and looked pretty safe, with Žbogar not too far away. The wind peaked at 12-13 knots on the first downwind, but soon started to drop as the fleet rounded the gate.

Above: Vasilij Žbogar, Giles Scott, Ed Wright
Below: Jake Lilley, Junior Champion
I

It was a 10

First up was race 11, out on the sea. Bruno featured on the final day in La Rochelle. Strong winds, big waves and lots of rain Saturday 25. Defending champion McCoy was now Zarif, but by a reduced points margin of just 2

In the Junior Championship, Lilley still led the medal race on count-back. four for Murdoch got him the final space in

Mills immediately sailed into a useful lead downwind and left the others to fight for second. Postma was up to second by the gate from Foglia, while Andrew Murdoch sailed the second upwind well to move up to fourth. Scott was tight on Žbogar to make sure of the title and they both lost ground out
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Saturday

Strong winds, big waves and lots of rain featured on the final day in La Rochelle. First up was race 11, out on the sea. Bruno Prada led round the top mark, and then there was a spectacular downwind leg in winds approaching 20 knots, and perfect rolling waves. Mark Andrews rounded second and was soon in the lead to take the win from Josh Junior and Deniss Karpak. It was the perfect prequel to the medal race, held in the harbour with a short, steep chop and winds around 20-25 knots making for some very testing and very close racing.

Scott led round the top mark from Wright, Lober and Le Breton. Wright lost ground on the second upwind and needed to put just one more boat between himself and Žbogar downwind to take the silver. But it was not to be. Le Breton took a wide track to the left and nearly passed Scott, with Lober in third. Žbogar had rounded the gate in second but struggled on the second, extended beat, to cross the finish in ninth. With Wright in sixth, Žbogar had saved silver by one point. It was fantastic close racing in marginal conditions and the whole fleet screamed over the finish line in under a minute.

Scott summed up his week “It has been a great championship, with some enjoyable racing. The first day was a little bit challenging for all of us that managed to survive the black flag but I think in the end everything came good.” Reflecting on his second European title, he said, “I have had a good 24 hours for it to settle in now, but I am very happy with how things are going at the moment and where I am at, and now I’m looking ahead to the bigger events later in the season. We have some training to do in the UK, and trips to Santander and Rio lined up.”

Žbogar was quite elated to take the silver, far above his expectations for the week. “I am really happy with silver, The conditions were not really my favourite, so I am very happy. I have new materials, new sail and mast, so didn’t know exactly how I’d go but everything is working fine and we know what is missing and we need to work on that.” On the medal race itself, “It was a very tight finish. I got lucky there as I lost a few places downwind. I had an eye on Ed

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but he was faster so I tried to keep as few boats between us as possible. In the end I got lucky as Ed lost on the last downwind and that held me keep silver.”

Wright explained his strategy, “Today I was probably more sailing for the security of the bronze. I didn’t want to snap a mast out there in the river we sailed in. I didn’t want to push it. I am happy to come away with the bronze, but actually looking back it’s so close, just one point would have made the difference, so I could have pushed a bit harder. Going round the top mark I was in second.”

The Junior European title, which is also sailed as an open event, went to Jake Lilley after a great week. “It’s really cool to finally get a win. It was pretty frustrating that we finished second three times last year; that hurt. We worked really hard over the summer, we went to Miami and put heaps of work in so to come here and win the junior open title is really good for us. I’m really happy with that.”

As with the Finn Masters in La Rochelle in 2013, the event week was hampered to a certain degree by unseasonal bad weather, but what was not in doubt was the quality of the racing and the great sailing conditions out on the sea off La Rochelle. Giles Scott has now won every event since returning to the class last year and seems to be improving event by event. Winning a major championship by 50 points in a 100 boat fleet is nothing short of phenomenal. With Scott saying there are still improvements to be made, he has set the standard everyone else needs to match.
Hans Fogh passed away peacefully from Creutzfeld Jakob Disease on March 14, 2014 in Toronto. He was 76 years of age.

Born on March 8, 1938 in Copenhagen, Hans has had one of the most exemplary competitive sailing careers ever, winning numerous Worlds, European and National titles in several classes including the Soling, Finn, Flying Dutchman, Star and Etchells.

Hans came to Canada with the encouragement and support of long-time friend, Paul Henderson, who managed to lever Hans’ former career as a gardener to become a sailmaker. Hans went on to build one of the most successful sail lofts in the world under the Elvstrom, Fogh and North banners. His involvement in the development of the original Laser sail and the subsequent Laser Radial sail are only the beginning of his many well-known accomplishments in the sport.

Hans’ competitive sailing career was influenced by his close friend and mentor, Paul Elvstrom. His career spanned seven decades from his first in the late fifties, to his last race earlier this year with his bronze medal crew John Kerr and his godson Johnnie Kerr. Hans enjoyed sharing his sailing with his family. He was able to coach his sons as they entered the sport, then shared the 1984 Olympics with his oldest son Morten and was able to compete in 2 Olympic trials with his youngest son Thomas.

A six-time Olympian, he won his first Olympic Silver Medal (Flying Dutchman) with Ole Erik Gunnar Peterson in Rome in 1960 for his native Denmark. In 1984, 24 years later, he won a Bronze Medal (Soling) in Los Angeles, representing Canada with crew John Kerr and Steve Calder. Hans was extremely proud that he won a medal for his home and adopted countries. Hans also won a Pan Am Games Silver medal in 1987.

Throughout his career, Hans enjoyed giving back to the sport he loved: coaching, mentoring, training and developing sailors at every opportunity. This was definitely evidenced by the many lives he touched and the countless letters of remembrances from sailors and friends that have given the family so much strength.

Hans Fogh has been inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, Canadian Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame and the National Marine Manufacturer’s Association Canada Hall of Fame.

Excerpts from Paul Henderson’s eulogy.

Hans’, brother, much bigger than Hans which was not saying much, accosted me by saying, “Are you the guy who brought Hans to Canada?” Not sure how he was going to act I responded sheepishly. “I think so.” He stuck out his big hand and said, “Thank you very much.”

This made me reflect on how this all happened and how Kirsten and Hans adopted Canada and we were so proud to adopt them. How did Canada absorb with this unique person who has won more titles than any other Canadian sailor and won Olympic Medals first for Denmark in 1960 and 24 years later an Olympic Medal for Canada.

I first met Hans at the 1962 FD Worlds in St. Petersburg Fla. This rather fresh faced kid had Paul Elvstrom as crew. I went by their grey FD in the boat park in St. Pete’s and noticed all the scrapes on the topsides Elvstrom explained that the ice was still in the Copenhagen Fjord when they were testing sails.

In St Petes we had totally demolished the new FD Paul Phelan had given us so we went out to watch the last race where Hans had to beat the Aussie Rollie Tasker or drive him back worse than eighth. Fogh/Elvstrom got the start and lacked on the poor Aussie Tasker 30 times up the first leg when they got a knot in the jib sheet and Tasker passed them. But by this time they were two legs behind. Hans won that FD Worlds.

Elvstrom at that time produced the #1 racing sails in the world He had taken Hans in when he was 21 to apprentice as a sailmaker. Hans was so talented he quickly became the production manager of the very large Danish sail loft.

In the late 50s and early 60s sailing was just getting into high-performance Dacron sails from the old cotton. We had to smuggling into Canada all our sails from the USA or Europe so as not to pay the oppressive import duties. When the RCMP showed up to fine us or maybe jail for smuggling, Roger Green, Doug Keary and myself decided we needed a top sailmaker here and zeroed in on Hans Fogh.

After the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 we really started to put the pressure on Hans and Kirsten to come to Toronto. In 1968 we were sailing in Kiel, Germany and Roger Green and I really put the pressure on Team Fogh and they agreed to come after ‘68 Mexico Olympics in Acapulco. Before they arrived we organised the loft on Pelham Ave and got enough orders to keep Hans busy. 24 hrs after he got off the plane in February 1969 with a blond kid named Morten in tow Hans was making sails and never looked back.

Hans’ interview with the immigration officer was a classic. Hans, Kirsten and I walked in and the man asked, “Mr. Fogh what are you going to do to earn a living in Canada?” In Danelish since Hans spoke no known language, which never improved, Hans said “Sailmaker.” The official looked up “Salemaker.” “Canada has no need for those.” I said “No, it is sailmaker”.

“Ah Mr Fogh, Canada has no category for that either.” Thinking quickly I said he apprenticed as a gardener.” “Gardener. Oh Canada needs those.” So Hans Fogh came to Canada as a gardener.

By 1974 Hans and Kirsten were well on their way to building the Fogh empire of over 60 employees the largest sail loft in North America. Hans moved the loft from Pelham Ave to Swansea as he wanted to own his own property and later to Lakeshore Ave where he also bought the loft and a wonderful house on the lake. Hans and Kirsten were a solid business team.

Last Fall Hans and Kirsten went to Denmark and met, as they always did, with Paul Elvstrom who clearly stated: “Denmark’s loss was Canada’s gain.” In the hospital last week Hans opened his eye and the last thing he said to me was, “I will never give up!”

What a team Hans and Kirsten Fogh have been with their now expanding family. He always referred to himself, in Danelish, as an “immigrant” after living here for just over 45 years. If Canada ever gives a Gold Medal for ‘immigrants’ it will be to the Family Fogh. Sail on old friend.
The 2014 EUROSAF Champions Cup was a fairly low key series this year after a full on early season which effectively ended with the European Championships in May. Most sailors took a competition break after La Rochelle with Kiel Week marking the beginning of activity leading up to the Santander worlds.

The series began in Medemblik with generally light winds allowing the German team to show off their speed and skill. Philip Kasueske led at the end of every day but one, and then wrapped up an amazing week with a medal race win.

Sail for Gold at the 2012 Olympic venue in Weymouth only attracted the British team. As expected Giles Scott dominated. Mark Andrews was in second place for most of the week, but lost it on the medal race to Andrew Mills, who retired from his Finn campaign after this event.

The 36 boats in Kiel were treated to strong winds and then no wind and only five races were sailed before the medal race. Tomas Vika, Giorgio Poggi and Bjorn Allansson all had turns leading, but a win for Deniss Karpak in the medal race gave him the win on equal points with Allansson.

With the low attendance, anyone who did more than one regatta scored high in the overall series, with the win going to Philip Kasueske, from Giles Scott and Deniss Karpak.

### 1. Delta Lloyd Regatta, Medemblik, Netherlands

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### 2. Sail for Gold, Weymouth, UK

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<td>1. GBR 41 Giles Scott</td>
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### 3. Kiel Week, Germany

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<td>9. NOR 1 Anders Pedersen</td>
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<td>10. EST 11 Lauri Väinsalu</td>
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11 GER 259 Philip Kasuseske 33 20 GAR 595 Simon Gorgels 73.5
12 CZE 1 Michael Maier 34 19 NORG 1 Lars Johan Brodtkorb 81
13 CZE 5 ondrej Teply 39 22 DEN 23 Martin Boidin 82
14 ITA 66 Enrico Voltolini 41 23 POL 52 Jeremi Zimny 87
15 AUS 41 Jake Lilley 49.5 24 GER 203 Hartmut Duisberg 89
16 TUR 211 Alikan Basegmez 62 25 Gero 501 Fabian Lemmel 91
17 DEN 31 Stig Steinfurth 65 26 GER 81 Jan-Dietmar Della 93
18 RUS 1 Alexey Seliavanov 66 27 NZL 15 Peter Scheuerl 105
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The 2014 Finn World Masters was a week of all or nothing. At the start there was not enough wind and then towards the end, almost too much wind. However the weather was fantastic from start to end with high temperatures throughout. The same faces were pushing the front of the fleet though with Michael Maier collecting a record sixth World Masters title. For runner-up Andre Budzien, it was his tenth time on the podium, an equally impressive record. The bronze for Aleksandr Kuliukin perhaps signals a new force in the Finn Masters with three Russian sailors making the medal race, the first time any of them have done so.

Sunday and Monday
The 235 entries were split into Yellow and Blue groups, sailing inner and outer trapezoid courses. The groups were reassigned each day based on the overall positions. After a good breeze for the final practice day on Saturday, Sunday dawned windless and didn’t improve through the day. The practice race was eventually cancelled just after 15.00. Then on Monday, the sailors were on the water for nearly six hours with nothing to show for their day, but sun scorched faces and empty water bottles. The only race that got off the start line lasted about a hour before the wind failed.

Tuesday
Tuesday showed an improvement with each group sailing two races despite another dismal wind forecast for the morning. A light breeze arrived around 12.00 and the fleet set out for another long day afloat, finally coming ashore around 18.00. The wind filled in from the north and built to around 8-10 knots before easing down and settling at 5-7 knots for most of the afternoon. A tricky current also played havoc with the starts with a number of general recalls and black flagged competitors.

Yellow fleet got race 1 under way after around 15 sailors were pulled out under the black flag. Marc Allain des Beauvais led at the top, but Andre Budzien was not far behind and he gradually reeled in the Frenchman and took the lead as the wind all but died on the second upwind. Stefan Fagerlund worked his way into second while Allain des Beauvais finished third. In Blue fleet it was a familiar story with Michael Maier leading round the course to win from Marco Buglielli and Thomas Schmid. The wind came back in enough to let the fleet finish and then dropped to 3-4 knots for a while.

It took an age to get Yellow fleet off for their second race with initially the wind dropping, and then multiple recalls as the wind and current conspired to make the pin end favoured. Uli Breuer led at the top but again Budzien came though and had a small lead downwind to win his second race of the day from Aleksandr Kuliukin and Panagiotis Davourlis. Blue fleet’s second race was led from start to finish by Uwe Barthel. favouring the right side he found a gift of a shift to hold a sizable lead at the top mark, which he never looked like relinquishing. Buglielli again came through to second, while Allen Burrell crossed in third.

Andre Budzien led overnight from Marco Buglielli and defending champion Michael Maier.

Wednesday
The vagaries of the fickle wind added a new dimension to the mix on Wednesday as only half a full race was managed. After a series of recalls and postponements Yellow fleet finally got race 3 under way with Fagerlund emerging from the middle to lead round from Burrell. Burrell briefly took the lead on the tortuous downwind leg however Fagerlund found the best pressure on the second upwind and passed both of them and then led down to the reach and final short beat to the finish line. Felix Denikaev got past Burrell on the final upwind to snatch second. By the time Yellow fleet finished, Blue fleet were still trying to start, but the wind was becoming more and more unstable and 30 minutes later they were sent back to shore with no races sailed.

Thursday
Thursday was the day the breeze arrived, and lots of it, and it was also catch up day. Strong, gusty winds replaced the light, fickle winds and it was a hard call to run all the races today with the Masters having a wind limit of 20 knots.

Blue fleet got the day under way as they had three races to sail to catch up with the lost race from Wednesday. Maier took the first race, but in the second had problems with his centreboard, which allowed Ray Hall into the lead which he kept to the finish. Maier ended the day with another race win. Kuliukin and Igor Frolov both had good days with top places to move into fourth and fifth overall.

In Yellow fleet Budzien was made to work for his two race wins. He was in trouble after both starts and had to work his way through on the beats, but his downwind speed saved him. Conversely, Burrell should have done better today based on his...
2014 Finn World Masters - Final Results

1 GM CZE 1 Michael Maier (1) 1 (10) 2 1 8 13
2 GM GER 711 Andre Budzien (2) 1 (7) 1 1 14 18
3 M RUS 161 Alexandr Kuliukin (1) (21) 2 4 3 5 6 20
4 M ITA 55 Walter Riosa (2) (17) 4 8 5 4 4 25
5 GM FRA 99 Marc Allain Des Beauvais (3) 3 15 (bfd) 10 4 2 34
6 GM GBR 2 Allen Burrell (11) 3 3 2 5 22 35
7 GM GER 193 Thomas Schmid 3 (44) 10 10 3 10 36
8 M SUI 86 Piet Eckert () 14 5 (27) 12 2 60
9 M RUS 31 Igor Frolov 4 (82) 2 9 2 20 37
10 M SUI 5 Christen Christoph 7 (11) 3 6 10 18 44
11 M RUS 161 Aleksey Marchevskiy (35) 7 13 6 6 16 48
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49 M SUI 86 Piet Eckert () 14 5 (27) 12 2 60
50 M SUI 86 Piet Eckert () 14 5 (27) 12 2 60

upwind performance, but he lost places on the downwinds. However it was enough to move up to third.

Budzien maintained his overall lead into the medal race, though Maier was just one point behind. Burrell had climbed to third, nine points behind Budzien and with a pack of sailors close behind him.

The event ended with another day of strong winds, with the final fleet races followed by the medal race for the top 12. Both were very shifty races again, in winds around 15-20 knots with big changes through the fleet as large black clouds moved down the race course. Uli Breuer eventually took the lead in Yellow fleet for a big win, while Tauras Rymonis won the Blue fleet. Fittingly they ended up 13th and 14th overall.

Then the medal race was held just off the beach near the club. After a scoring correction Thursday evening, the number of sailors in the medal race was increased to 12, with three boats on equal points to tenth place. Allain des Beauvais sailed an almost flawless race to lead round every mark to take the win. A lot of boats behind him were in trouble with Maier dropping to fourth on the second beat. Budzien struggled upwind in the 20 knot breeze, while Burrell had a shocker to drop from third to sixth overall. Walter Riosa crossed in second to take the silver medal in the Masters category, while a third place from Kuliukin was enough to take the overall bronze as well as first in the Masters category. He won the President's Cup, the first time this new cup has been presented.

But fourth was enough for Maier to clinch his sixth Finn World Masters, Budzien ended up with the silver and Kuliukin took the bronze.

(c) Piotr Fajfer / www.photoheaven.net
Grand Masters

The top Grand Masters were all in the medal race with Michael Maier taking the title for the first time from last year’s winner Andre Budzien. His win in the medal race was enough for Marc Allain Des Beauvais to move up from 10th to sixth, to claim the bronze medal.

Grand Grand Masters

Henry Sprague dominated the Grand Grand Masters all week, and an impressive fourth place on Friday moved him up to 15th overall. Former winner Rob Coutts was the next best in 34th, after some good results in the windy races made up for some high scores earlier in the week. Jan Zetzema took the bronze after a consistent week of good sailing, ending up on equal points with last year’s winner Henk de Jager.

Legends

The Legends category was extremely competitive this year with three former champions in the running to the end. Howard Sellars started the final day with a narrow lead over Richard Hart. However, in a bizarre twist, both sailors, who are clearly old enough to know better, were black flagged out of the start in Yellow fleet. Hart’s determination to complete Thursday’s three gruelling races then paid dividends as he then counted a top 50 while Sellars dropped to fourth Legend after his retirement on Thursday. Defending Legend champion Friedrich Muller took the silver while Rodrick Casander took the bronze. All Legends were honoured at the prizegiving with a special memento. An emotional Hart received the loudest ovation from the massive crowd. It was without doubt the most popular win of the event.

Sportsmanship

A special prize was also awarded to Santiago Reyero who abandoned his race on Thursday after finding an upturned hull with no sign of the sailor or support boats, and swam over to it to check to see if the missing sailor was trapped inside. Thankfully, the sailor turned up unharmed, but Reyero’s boat was damaged in the process and while the Jury gave him redress, his selfless act to make sure his fellow sailor was OK, regardless of his own race, epitomises good sportsmanship, and won him the loud applause and appreciation of the more than 300 sailors and families present. The Finn World Masters is a unique event in the sailing world. It is a fascinating mix of experienced sailors and interesting characters, some of whom have been sailing Finns most of their lives. In addition, some of those in Sopot were sailing their first major Finn event, but all would agree that Finn sailing is a lifestyle choice that is second to none in terms of the atmosphere it generates on and off the water.

Fun is a crucial element, with many sailors attending these events as much to catch up with old friends as to enjoy close racing against them. At the closing ceremony, Masters President Andy Dension commented on the outstanding organisation by the Sopot Sailing Club. “You have exceeded our expectations. You embraced the spirit of the Finn Masters and created a championship regatta in which the community of the Finn Masters can flourish.” That pretty much nails it on the head.

The closing ceremony and prizegiving was charged with energy and emotion as the class celebrated its heroes, old and new. Most of those who didn’t make the podiums were as pleased for those who did as if they were there themselves. The fighting spirit still lives on in this bunch of oldies, but through their experience, they are also more secure in the knowledge that the journey is the reward, not the medal.

While the wind conditions were challenging and changeable, one element that stayed constant was the fabulous hospitality from the club and the camaraderie between the sailors. The only regret felt by the sailors was having to leave, as that meant it was all over for another year. Sopot Sailing Club and the city of Sopot had put on a show to be proud of and have created a legacy for Finn Masters sailing in Poland that will last for a considerable period of time.

Good things must come to an end and the Sopot Finn World Masters 2014 is now over. All that is left is warm and happy memories of friendships made and renewed, both within the fleet and with our Polish hosts, and some intensely competitive, but ultimately fun and good-natured, racing. What immediately follows is the urgent and overpowering need to go and do it all over again. Preparations have already started for 2015 and in 11 months, the Finn World Masters fleet will gather once again, this time in Kavala, Greece.
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FINNFARE JULY 2014

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One of the big stories of the Delta Lloyd Regatta was the performance of the young German Finn sailors. Between them Phillip Kasueske and Eike Martens won the first three races and ended the second day, ranked first and second overall and ahead of the pre-event favourites. They were in Medemblik with their coach Per Baagøe.

Phillip, 19, and Eike, 22, only started in the Finn last October after being given the opportunity to borrow some boats and equipment from the Finn Team Germany, a privately funded group of sailors who find and support potential young sailors and help them on the first step of the international ladder. It was founded by Andre Budzien, a leading German Finn sailor.

Martens said, “We are now five members in the Finn Team Germany and we are quite good in Germany but not yet internationally so we have to improve. This shows us that something is working.” Is there much competition between the team members, “Actually there isn’t. Because we are all on one level, it’s more like a friendship."

“We are using the Europeans and Kiel week to find who goes to Santander. We have three places there. At the other events we took three or four sailors. One of us may get to participate in the Olympics in 2016, but I think it’s a high level and we may have to look forward to 2020."

Baagøe said, “It's a long term project. It's not 100 per cent certain for 2016 because I'm not sure we will qualify the country this time, so it's long term. But they will be fine if they continue to improve. I think we will be in the top 20 pretty soon if they carry on like this."

Kasueske added, “The Finn Team Germany is a nice support to have and they are a pretty nice group. We work a lot together and that helps to improve us, because when you are alone, you have to work much longer and harder to improve. We push each other and it works well."

Baagøe said of their performance, “I’m not actually surprised, but more like happy surprised at how well they are doing. We have been doing a lot of training. Of course we try to improve all the time. We have a good set-up now with new boats and new sails. We only started in October in Kiel, and they borrowed boats from the Finn Team Germany to see if they fit in the boat, if they liked it, before buying boats and equipment for themselves. And it's a young team."

Martens said, “Per works a little bit different from the other coaches in Germany. We have had a lot of fun with him and have improved a lot. I think he’s really relaxed and for us this is good as it let’s us do our own thing, to improve in our way, and not in a strict way. That’s why it’s working."

Kasueske agrees with this, “He has a lot of experience. In the Finn there are others who have more specialised knowledge but in general he’s a really good coach. He tells us to keep sailing how we think best. He doesn’t tell us where to go or what to do but gives us the basic information. In the end we all have to decide what we will do and where we will go on the water.” He concludes, “We are improving every time we are sailing.”
Valentin Mankin Tribute

The sailing world lost two of its greatest sailors in the first half of 2014. Hans Fogh and Valentin Mankin both had an inestimable impact of the development of sailing and both had success in the Finn. Here are some tributes to Mankin from his friends in the class.

Gus Miller wrote: I first met Valentin Mankin through Andrey Balashov in 1976 at the Kingston, Ontario Olympic regatta where he was racing a Tempest. On shore, Dennis Connor had gotten nose to nose with Mankin and told Valentin, “I am going to beat you.” The next time I saw Dennis he was racing in Valentin’s bad air and sitting on the Tempest’s side tank while Mankin was fully hiked as if he were in a Finn. I’d never have allowed Mankin to see me behind, sitting on the side tank. Mankin took Silver to Dennis’ Bronze.

Valentin loved sailing and teaching others about sailing. He once had a room near mine at the Sport Hotel in Tallinn. On his desk was a stack of notebooks which contained years of magazine articles on racing sailboats. Most interesting was the way he thought. He was mainly an intuitive racer but organised things like the racing rules as geometric patterns in his mind.

How tough minded and strong was he? He once told me a story about sailing his Finn on a lake outside Moscow just after the winter’s ice had broken up. He capsized going downwind, quickly got the boat upright but couldn’t get the rudder shipped so without control, the Finn capsized. He soon realised that if he stayed with the boat he was going to die of cold so he swam 200 meters to shore, found a lakeside dacha, broke in and built himself a fire to get warm and dried out. After that he was always very conservative downwind.

Then there is the story of his throwing his KGB minder in the water in Bermuda when the minder wanted him to leave a late night party and go to sleep. The minder got out of the water and stormed off. Valentin told those around him, “I’ll hear about this in the morning.”

Mankin won his Finn Gold in Mexico by knowing exactly how to modify the top of his issued Finn mast. He asked Andy Zawieja to help him do it but after his was finished, he didn’t help Andy do his the same way. By the time the rest of the fleet had figured out what he had done, the racing was about over and he was too far ahead to catch.

I started training as a swimmer in the Dnieper River at Kiev in Ukraine when I was seven years old. At 15 I was training for swimming in the river and in an open pool for water polo. I was goalkeeper. One day we lost a game 14-1. I was very unhappy and walking back I saw a group of people working on a boat, all black, burning wood. I asked them, “Can I stay with you?” They gave me some tools and I helped them prepare the boat. That was on 7 March 1954. In the picture I am at the back on the left. The wooden clubhouse is behind and inside on one of the walls there was a picture of Paul Elvstrøm.

In 1956 I went to Tallinn and saw the open Baltic Sea for the first time. It was for the Finn Russian Championship, my first regatta in a Finn. I was 19 years old. I spent all 1957 training. Then in 1958, I won bronze in the CCCP regatta and in 1959, I was Russian champion: it was my selection for the Olympic Games in Rome. A few days after I sent my boat to Rome, I was told by the Government that I had no visa to go. Someone had reported me saying in a restaurant at the club, “If I don’t win a medal in Rome, I’m not coming back.” I had no visa for many years, so I finished university in 1962 and got married to Rita and we had a daughter, Erina. Then they gave me back my visa.

I went to Medemblik in 1963 for my first Finn Gold Cup and finished fourth. From then until 1967 I finished top 10 at all the Finn Gold Cups I went to. But this was not the important thing for us. What mattered was to go to the Olympic Games. In 1967 I stopped working as an engineer to prepare for the Games in Acapulco. I won those Olympic Games in the Finn at 30 years old.

I moved to Italy in 1990. From 1992 I worked in the ‘Beppe Croce’ Olympic Sailing Centre in Livorno. I had a lot of pleasure coaching Luca Devoti, Francesco Bruni, Flavio Flavini and then Massimo Gherarducci. They all moved onto the America’s Cup. I am really happy to teach the young guys and see them grow in their career. The Finn is the best class of my life. I started at a low level and dreamed a lot.

In 2009 Valentin Mankin wrote the following for the Finn 60th anniversary book, Photo FINNish, about how he started sailing.

Paul Henderson wrote: I raced against Mankin in the Finn at the pre-Olympics in Acapulco in 1967. Elvstrøm won. Valentin was racing for the USSR as he was from Kiev in the Ukraine which was part of the USSR then.

It was very hot and he was sitting on the wall waiting for the bus with his gold tooth shining and I sat beside him. The conversation went like this: “Henderson the good thing about the USSR is I sail 11 months a year and work one. In Canada you work 11 months a year and sail one. Bad thing about the USSR is no Coca-Cola.”

Mankin moved to Italy for several reasons and after he did we had many talks in the boat park and he said the major motivation was that his daughter had got leukemia from the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster and he could get proper treatment for her in Italy.

He was a great Finn sailor and good friend.
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The Highveld is a large, high altitude plateau in the interior of South Africa where the days are sunny and warm all year round, and the wind is predominantly light to moderate. In the long summer months these benign conditions are sometimes interrupted by late afternoon thunderstorms, and the short winters are occasionally punctuated by blustery cold fronts. There are numerous sailing clubs in the area, including several that are home to Finn fleets. The largest fleet is based at Rietvlei, a fresh-water lake located in a picturesque nature reserve a few kilometres south of Pretoria. The reserve is home to many species of animals and birds, some of which (including rhino, hippos, buck, ostriches and fish eagles) are frequently observed from the sailing area. Pretoria Sailing Club has been based at Rietvlei since the early 1960s, and over the years sailors from the club have competed with distinction at local and international championships. Tim Addison writes

Finn sailing at Rietvlei on the Highveld

Finn sailors at Rietvlei are Masters, some of whom have been sailing Finns for over 30 years. However there is a small but growing number of younger sailors who are enthusiastically tutored by the veterans. Close racing occurs at all levels of skill, and individual exploits are discussed vociferously after every race. Groups of Finn sailors can always be found in conversation on the slipway, on the lawns in front of the clubhouse and in the comfortable lounge/bar area.

A current Finn class project at the club involves the acquisition and refurbishment of old boats that have not been sailed recently and are showing signs of neglect. In the past couple of years, several of these boats have been restored to basic racing condition and sold to new class members. Some of these new members have quickly upgraded to more competitive boats, and the older boats have been passed on to the next group of entry-level sailors.

At the other end of the scale, new Finns and a full range of locally made equipment can be obtained from Pata Finns Africa in Cape Town. New sails are available from a number of sail lofts around the country.

Finns have been an integral part of Pretoria Sailing Club since its inception, and in 2014 Finn sailing remains alive and well at Rietvlei.

For many years the multi-class ‘Charity Regatta’ has been the premier event of the season at Pretoria Sailing Club. The purpose of the regatta is to raise money and support for the National Sea Rescue Institute, which has branches all over South Africa, including South Africa.

In line with the rest of the world, many of the Finn sailors at Rietvlei are Masters, some of whom have been sailing Finns for over 30 years. However there is a small but growing number of younger sailors who are enthusiastically tutored by the veterans. Close racing occurs at all levels of skill, and individual exploits are discussed vociferously after every race. Groups of Finn sailors can always be found in conversation on the slipway, on the lawns in front of the clubhouse and in the comfortable lounge/bar area.

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Christian Qvist writes: The 2014 season began with the legendary Dragør Cup on the 26 April.

The local fleet in Dragør has a reputation for making super simple and fun regattas. Short lines, short courses and just the right amount of wind and warm sun set the scene for a good kick off. Dragør has the honour of reviving Danish Finn sailing about 15 years ago. They now have the largest Finn fleet with 25 boats lined up.

On this particular race day 16 Finns enjoyed a day fine day of racing. In the light winds local Michael Nielsen (DEN 220) took the overall win, followed by Kenneth Bøggild (DEN 231) and Michael Bæk (DEN 140).

Next on the agenda was the Polyester Cup in Kastrup on 10-11 May.

This two-day race shared the race course with OKs and Wayfarers. Kastrup Sejlklub hosted a nice event with 22 Finn entries and a total of seven races over two days. In a quite strong cross current, and to begin with, wind in the light end of the spectrum, Jørgen Svendsen (DEN 3) looked invincible. With three wins and a second on the first day, Jørgen completed the second day with 2, 5 and 6, giving him a net score of 12 point, closely followed by two young guns Stig Steinfurth (age 21) and Jacob Stachelhaus (age 18) with net scores of 14 and 18 points. These are good signs for the next generation of Danish Finn sailors.

As something new the Finns were invited to the Danish TORM Grand Prix series. First races in the series was hosted by KDY in Rungsted 16-18 May. 12 Finns, 12 races and Olympic silver medallist Jonas Hogh-Christensen made this a super regatta. Besides the Finns almost 100 other dinghy sailors were gathered.

The race committee was spot on, so was the weather up until the last race where the wind died completely only to be exchanged for 3 hours of heavy rain. Of course it rained all the time the boats had to be packed and through the prizegiving ceremony. This was quite funny: Jonas who saw the wind dying and the rain coming abandoned the last race as he was sure he had two discards, and would win the regatta. However, this was not the case as there was only 1 discard. The look of disbelief on his face, as well as the regatta winner, was priceless.... the satisfied and surprised look on Martin Boidin’s face was even better.

Next on the agenda the second series of TORM Grand Prix, this time in Vallensbæk (host of the 2009 Gold Cup) on 31 May and 1 June.

Once again the Finns took part in a youth grand prix. Although some of us are getting old and wrinkly it is such a joy to compete with the next generation of sailors and see how dedicated and professional these young boys and girls are on the water. It is also a great opportunity to bridge to the coming generation of Finnsters. In Denmark this point is high on the agenda. Maybe even too high, since the first three places were taken by young sailors with only one or two seasons in the Finn. All jokes aside, it is great to see that the Finn is still an attractive piece of kit.

The last regatta before the deadline was Helly Hansen Cup in Rungsted on 14-15 June.

This regatta was held with Lasers, 505s and the Trapez-dinghy designed by Paul Elvström. The number of participants was generally quite low with only nine Finns on the line. This meant that the number of officials was cut respectively, and to solve the lack of hands, the race committee decided we should sail the good old Olympic triangular course. This worked out quite well, with a minimum of interference between the starts and very little waiting time on the water. Saturday began quite a strong wind and heavy seas, whereas Sunday was the completely opposite. Once again Jørgen Svendsen showed that he is unstoppable in most conditions as he won the regatta five bullets and a discard from his third place.

GoPro Sponsorship

The Danish Finn Association and the American camera producer GoPro has made an agreement where GoPro sponsors DFA with 4 cameras. The idea behind the sponsorship is not to make more action films, but to aid the helmsmen to learn from best and being able to see one’s own mistakes in boat handling situations, starts, pumping and hiking.

The collaboration with GoPro also allows DFA to share the joy of Finn sailing with others, sailors and non-sailors alike.

Next up is the Danish Championships in Kerteminde on 7-9 August. Please see www.finnjolle.dk for further details. Please don’t hesitate to register for one of the best nationals in Europe.
Race two got under way in a dying breeze that had shifted slightly to the east; again Julian Smith was fast out the blocks closely followed by Neil Robinson, John Greenwood and Simon Percival into the top mark. The downwind leg was tough as the breeze began to die, at one stage the race officer set a triangle sausage course for the first time on the basis the breeze was building. The fleet were once again clear underway in 8 – 10 knots. By now it was clear Neil Robinson had some pace on the fleet and was part of a bunch of boats including Allen Burrell, Simon Hawkes and Fred Arkel to the top mark, downwind with slightly more pressure and a steadier wave pattern almost had boats surfing at times. Neil Robinson led until the final metres of the race where Allen Burrell managed to pip him into second to take his first win of the series, Simon Hawkes held onto third.

So to the fourth race, the fleet got away first time, with Will Pattern leading to the top mark, close behind however were Neil Robinson, Simon Hawkes, and Allen Burrell, with an increase in pressure the Oscar flag was raised for the final downwind leg and various downwind techniques were employed by the sailors to work their boats to the finish, Andy Denison in particular made some good gains. Neil Robinson was again victorious with Allen Burrell making up ground to take second place from Will Patten. This second race win along with his others results was enough to earn Neil Robinson the UK Masters title, and with this he sailed home for an early cuppa.

For the final race of the weekend the race officer set a triangle sausage course for the first time on the basis the breeze was building. The fleet were once again clear away, with Allen Burrell winning the pin end closely followed by John Heyes, these two led to the top mark followed by local helm Ray New. Alan and John remained in the same order for the whole of the race closely followed by John Greenwood in third and Julian Smith finding his speed once again to come in fourth.

Back on dry land Neil Robinson shared the views of the other competitors by commenting that “It was a really challenging sailing, working hard all the time to keep the boat working upwind and even harder maintaining clean air downwind.” Summing up the weekend when collecting the UK Masters trophy he commented that Christchurch was a beautiful place to sail and thanked the race team for all their efforts and in particular the assistance given by trolley dollies.

Other trophies were awarded to; First Junior – Jack Arnell, First Master – Will Patten, First Grand Master – Neil Robinson, First Great Grand Master – Ray New, First Legend – Howard Sellars.
Marco Buglielli writes: Coppa Italia Finn 2014 is now well under way, although this year weather conditions didn’t always cooperate.

The first event was in Livorno, where the wind was very light on the first day with only one race completed and too strong on the second day, with 30 knots of Libeccio with stronger gusts. The winner of the only race was Walter Riosa, with Giacomo Giovanelli in second and the Junior Matteo Savio in third.

The second event in Anzio was instead sailed in perfect conditions. 34 Finns sailed two fantastic days with nice winds and weather and free pumping conditions on the second day. After five hard fought races it was Giacomo Giovanelli who managed to win with two bullets which allowed him to break the points tie with Emanuele Vaccari. Just one point behind was Marco Buglielli.

The weather didn’t cooperate again in Caldaro, where the first event of the Alpen Cup attracted 60 sailors from Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. A cold front brought a lot of rain but little wind, with only one race sailed. It was the strong Austrian Michael Gubi who took the line honours in front of Matteo Savio and Peter Stuffer.

In June the fourth event was fantastic. It was sailed in Porto San Giorgio and the wind gods were on our side. Southerly winds from 9 to 14 knots, sun, warm weather and a nice sea allowed five beautiful races. Enrico Passoni loved these conditions and dominated the event with four straight race wins. Only the Junior Matteo Savio could resist Enrico and took a well deserved second place, with Giacomo Giovanelli in third. Franco Martinelli was fourth with a nice win in the last race.

Giorgio

It is with great sadness that the Italian Finn Class announces that Giorgio Sannino passed away at the beginning of this year.

Giorgio worked for 40 years at the Circolo Vela Roma in Anzio and was very popular in the Finn Class since the 70s, having helped to launch and retrieve their boats for generations of Finn sailors.

He was well known also internationally, with the Finn Gold Cups in 1972 and 1984 in Anzio, the Europeans in 1991 and several editions of the Rome Sail Week, which was then the most important international event opening the European season.

Giorgio has also followed Emanuele Vaccari in his Finn career, taking care of his boats and driving him abroad till the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

He will be missed by all his friends and by the Finn community.

The final Coppa Italia event will be the International Finn Cup in Malcesine in the first weekend of October. The top three in the provisional results are within three points, so a hard fight will take place in Malcesine.

Coppa Italia is supported by a pool of sponsors which offer their products for the final prizegiving: KevLove Bags, Grappa Bertagnoli, Quantum Sail Design Group, 3FL SailDesign, HitechSailing.com, Gill-Tomasoni Fittings, Bertacca Sail Equipment, Essemarine, Residence Ca’del Lago, Azienda agricola Valpanera, Hotel Piccolo Malcesine.

Italian Master Championship

Terrific sailing conditions in Castiglione della Pescaia, Tuscany, for the 2014 Italian Master Championship.

41 helmsmen from Italy, Russia and Austria entered the event, organised by Club Velico Castiglione della Pescaia in the blue waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The fleet sailed the full programme, with seven races. On Friday a dying south-westerly left a confused sea and a light breeze from 3-5 knots. A race was abandoned when the first boat failed to reach the upwind mark in the 30 minutes scheduled time. The first race was shortened after the first lap, with Vladimir Butenko taking the first bullet from Klaus Heufler with Francesco Cinque, the defending champion, in third. Raca 2 went to light air specialist Franco Dazzi from Butenko with the other hero of the day, Klaus Heufler, in third. On Friday Night a nice buffet-dinner was offered to the sailors in Skipper Bar on the Castiglione della Pescaia’s beach.

On Saturday Castiglione showed its famous sea breeze with stunning blue skies and a lot of excitement in the fleet. A building westerly from 10 to 16 knots gave the chance to sail three races, with free pumping in the last two. Garda Sailor Nicola Menoni won
Ronald Ruiter writes: After a warm and pleasant winter, the season in Holland started in Nijkerk, our largest fleet in the winter. With more than 20 Finns on the spot and each Sunday at least 10 boats on the water, this is the place to be between November and March. We started with training, joined by 15 boats. And the weekend after that we sailed the winter weekend series. 25 boats and 17 starts in two days with races of 10 minutes was a new experience for everyone, but we are sure this is going to be a traditional start of our season from now on. Nanno Schutrups won, from Tobias Kirschbaum and Bas de Waal.

The fleet could stay in Loosdrecht (although most of the competitors stay there the whole year) for the Easter regatta. This long existing regatta, organised by the famous Royal Dutch Sailing Club Loosdrecht (creative translation) had some new features for the sailors. Extreme periods of on water preparations were offered by the committee. So we had more than enough time to practice. But that was not enough in Loosdrecht. Extreme shifts, light winds on Saturday and Monday, made it a very difficult race. Only Sunday offered normal wind. But despite all the circumstances, the best sailor always wins. And that was Karel van Hellemond before Tobias and Nanno.

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Then it was time for the Finnale. One of the best hosted events of the year, with a superb committee, free beers and great hospitality, we had a great weekend. Saturday was tough, but we had three great races. On Sunday the committee was so wise not to start. Sailing was possible, but racing was not. It would have been surviving instead of competing. So we had our prizegiving ceremony on Sunday morning. Wietze Zetzema won, before Hein van Egmond and Luuk Kuiper.
The second regatta of the year was at the lake where it all begun – Ekoln in Uppsala. Due to the fact that the Masters in Sopot was just right before with a big Swedish team at sight, the class attracted fewer participants than normal to the regatta. You may think that a lake can’t give you tough conditions but the first day was actually cancelled for all racing due to too much wind (22-30 knots). For those of you who showed up at the Open Swedish Finn Championship in 2009 and sailed the last day, think of this day as that and more…

You can never be satisfied enough and the second day was just the right opposite from the first, almost no wind at all but the regatta committee actually managed to accomplish three races. Henrik Rydell had the best patience this day and managed to be on the right place at the right time with very tricky shifts on Lake Ekoln.

All Swedish Finn Sailors would like to welcome sailors from all over the world to participate at the Open Swedish Finn Championship in Lerkil, 22 – 24th of August. Lerkil is located on the Swedish West Coast, south of Gothenburg.

Register at: www.lerkil.net or http://www.lerkil.net/index.php?lang=eng or please contact the Swedish Finn Association: davidberg81@live.se

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**Finn Class Bookshelf**

- **FINNastic Games**
  - Finnastics Games is the story of the class at the 2012 Olympic Games based on the series of press releases issued by the class, together with many great photos from before and during the event.
  - The 64 page book is available through Amazon, com and the European Amazon sites (UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy). RRP is £11.99, EUR 14.99 or US$17.99, though some regions offer discounts on these prices. It is also available on Kindle stores worldwide. Current price is around EUR 1.

- **FINNatics**
  - FINNatics was first published in 1999, and has been reissued on Amazon. While the content is the same as the original edition, all photos in the new edition are black and white only. It is perfect bound and printed on US trade paper. 
  - RRP is £14.95, EUR 18.95 or US$ 19.95, but some regions are discounting.

- **Photo FINNish**
  - Published in 2009 to celebrate the classes 60th anniversary, Photo FINNish contains more than 1,000 photos and 60 first hand accounts from Finn legends past and present. Available in softback (£25 plus p&p) and limited edition hardback (£60 plus p&p) in the Finnshop and on Amazon.co.uk.

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**FINNLog**

- The original Finn book by Peter Mohilla dating from 1986. There is only one box left of these books, so if you don’t have a copy yet, get one soon before stocks run out.
- Only available through the Finnshop for GBP 10.

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**FINNFare July 2014**

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**SWITZERLAND**

Annual meeting of Lake Thun Finn sailors

Franz Bürgi writes: Home of the biggest Finn fleet in Switzerland, Lake Thun also guarantees full house at the annual meeting of the local Finn gang. After a short debate with some important decisions around the bar (purchase of a new trailer) full attention was given to the traditional ‘Fondue’.

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**Capman Cup, April 12–13, 2014**

12 Finns met for the first regatta of the year on Lake Thun. Despite everybody’s wish to start the new sailing season, the wind didn’t show up on Saturday. In some patches of wind, coach Christoph Burger laid out a starting line in order to get some starting practice. Sunday turned out to be much better and three races could be sailed in light winds in rather difficult conditions. Franz Buergi showed a promising early form and was the clear winner followed by Peter Kilchenmann and Andreas Friderich.

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**Punktemeisterschaft Mammern, April 26–27**

No wind on Saturday for the 10 participants at the first national regatta of the year at Mammern, Lake Constance. It looked a little bit better on Sunday with two races in light winds. Peter Kilchenmann scored two bullets to win the series followed by Beat Steffen and Thomas Gautschi.

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**From left : Peter Kilchenmann, Jiri Huracek, Franz Buergi, Andreas Friderich, Peter Roesti, Christoph Burger (coach)**

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**FINNFLog**

- www.finnclass.org/shop

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**From left : Peter Kilchenmann, Jiri Huracek, Franz Buergi, Andreas Friderich, Peter Roesti, Christoph Burger (coach)**

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Punktemeisterschaft Hallwil
May 17-18, 2014
A new record was set with 15 boats at the national regatta at Lake Hallwil. In shifting, light to medium winds, four races were sailed. Beat Aebischer (3) and Boris Kulpe (1) were the race winners of the first day. After a nice evening with lots of stories and trimming discussions the sailors had to be ready again on Sunday morning at 09:00. Only around noon a 5th race could be started. The winner was Hans Fatzer. It was a good weekend with a clear overall winner.

Wilke Cup 2013
The Wilke Cup, sponsored by Wilke Swiss Marine Composites, rewards the winner with a half price Wilke mast. All national regattas and the Swiss Championship are taken into account. The winner of the 2013 edition was Thomas Gautschi. In Sopot, there was finally a chance to take the official lifetime membership to the class.

USA
Peter Conally writes: The 2014 Finn US National Championship attracted 22 competitors to Fairhope, AL on April 11-13. Hosted by Fairhope Yacht Club, the eight race series was held under beautiful sunny skies, warm temperatures and mostly medium breezes, with the last day seeing gusts to 20 knots. The conditions were a little of everything and the hospitality couldn't have been better.

After a string of three wins in seabreeze winds on the first day, Gordon Lamphere looked strong although John Dane finished close behind in those races. The second day brought offshore shifty conditions, with local stalwart Michael Mark posting the low score of 1, 2, 4 to solidify himself in third place. Going into Sunday’s remaining two races, Lamphere held a one point lead over Dane who held a five point lead over Mark. On the last day there were offshore winds ranging from 10-20 knots. Dane won the first race tying the series and setting the stage for a great finale. However, Lamphere proved too strong and motored into first place early in the last race and held on to win his first Finn National title.

2014 USA Nationals - Final Results

1 USA 21 Gordon Lamphere 1 1 1 6 1 4 1 1 10
2 USA 69 John Dane 2 2 2 1 ocs 2 2 2 13
3 USA 117 Michael Mark 3 4 5 4 2 1 6 dnf 25
4 RUS 21 Vladimir Butenko 4 5 8 9 5 9 4 6 41
5 USA 5 Steve Landeau 12 6 dnf 2 7 12 3 3 45
6 USA 11b Scott Griffiths 16 7 7 5 10 7 7 4 47
7 USA 1227 Mike Beyers 17 12 4 10 9 6 5 51
8 USA 40 Chuck Rudinsky 10 10 6 8 8 8 9 7 56
9 USA 1142 Frissell 14 16 13 7 4 3 12 8 61
10 USA 174 Henry Sprague 6 3 3 3 ocs dnc dnc 66
11 USA 33 Marshall 72
12 USA 1214 Peter Connally 76
13 USA 23 Jim Hunter 78
14 USA 167 Chris Jackson 97
15 USA 303 Ch suburg 98
16 USA 401 Johnson 101
17 CAN 3 Ian Bostock 113
18 USA 150 Louie Nady 123
19 USA 1 Kemnade 135
20 USA 11 Wayne Myers 147
21 USA 1150 David Jackson 149
22 USA 22 Terry Greenfield 161

2014 North American Championships
Alamitos Bay YC hosted the North American Championships from May 16-18. Caleb Paine prevailed over Greg Douglas in what boiled down to a last day intense match racing display between them. The Long Beach conditions were moderate throughout the regatta with many changes at the finish line. Event chair Glenn Selvin made certain there were great dinners hosted for everyone.

2014 North American Championship - Final Results

1 USA 6 Caleb Paine 1 2 3 2 1 3 (14) 4 16
2 CAN 5 Greg Douglas 9 1 1 2 2 (13) 7 23
3 USA 74 Henry Sprague 3 9 (11) 4 3 5 1 26
4 USA 505 Erik Lidicic (13) 8 2 3 6 1 5 2 27
5 USA 75 Philip Toth 5 3 5 5 6 3 (10) 32
6 CAN 69 Rob Hemming 6 5 (7) 6 4 4 3 32
7 USA 741 Andy Kern 2 7 4 (dsq) 7 8 6 9 43
8 USA 40 Chuck Rudinsky 7 4 6 9 10 7 7 (11) 50
9 USA 59 Mike Dorgan 4 (14) 9 7 12 9 8 51
10 USA 132 Jim Hecht 10 (11) 10 8 11 8 5 62
11 USA 1214 Peter Connally 65
12 USA 23 Jim Hunter 74
13 USA 100 Santiago Reyero 89
14 USA 1066 Glenn Selvin 92
15 USA 303 Joe Chinburg 97
16 USA 333 David Wilson 116
17 USA 66 Rich Wright 126
18 USA 401 Craig Johnson 127
19 USA 1213 Andras Nady 140
20 USA 401 Johnson 101
21 USA 1150 David Jackson 149
22 USA 22 Terry Greenfield 161

USA...
Dear Members of the International Finn Association, Dear Finn Sailors,

On the occasion of the 2014 IFA AGM let me reflect on some of our recent achievements and forthcoming challenges in the Finn Class.

The 2013 ISAF November conference secured the status of the one person dinghy heavy event and the Finn as equipment on the 2020 Olympic program and potentially also for the 2024 Olympics.

There was a strong notion from the IOC and the ISAF Executive that the events and equipment in Olympic sailing should not be changed as often as it was the case in the past which leaves also the Finn Class with more time and energy to focus on class development in the next years instead of constant Olympic lobbying.

Struggling to stay Olympic especially in the 1990s, the Finn today is the longest standing and technically one of the most developed Olympic sailing classes with large national and international fleets across three different age groups. So, our background is strong and our future looks bright.

There are some issues however we will need to tackle in the course of the coming year.

First, we need to make sure that our class rules, measurement policies and related human resources remain at the forefront of Olympic classes. To achieve this objective we will invest into measurement tools, training international measurers as well as with Richard’s and Juri’s direction and coordination a healthy succession pathway in our technical department.

Secondly, we will need to stay concentrated on our junior fleet as well as continental spread. The Dinghy Academy in Valencia is a great tool to give young sailors and developing countries a chance to train with the best and learn Finn technics from experienced coaches at affordable cost levels.

In the framework of Fides IFA will continue to support such initiatives in future years.

Thirdly, we shall continue the development of our media activities as they have already proved to be extremely successful over the past and kept us highly visible in the competitive scene of international sailing classes.

Finally, with organising high level Finn events we will try to live up to the expectations of Finn sailors as to the quality of our major Finn events and hope that ISAF’s new Sailing World Cup plans will be realised in a way that both elite and developing sailors will benefit.

On behalf of the IFA Executive I thank you for the support and may wish you all the best for the sailing season and wish you fair winds.
The season 2014 is early and the highlights with Europeans in La Rochelle and Santander ISAF Worlds are still to come but we have already finished the 2014 World Cup. ISAF sailing world cup is still finding its form and ways to engage the sailors to it strongly than it is now. There are plans to put another shift on next year but this year still e.g. Melbourne saw only barely over 10 Finns on starting line. In Miami the situation was better but not spectacular. Palma again was a great success in a number of boats (92), nationalities and new faces taking part. In Hyères there were nearly 60 boats lining up even though part of the fleet was focusing already for the Europeans. This is a thing to consider when deciding the dates for the class events.

In Palma, Finn class tried for the first time a system called Sailors’ representative that is known and used in match racing for some time. The idea behind this is to create better and easier communication channel between sailors, jury members and the race committee. Communication goes two ways. Sailors can give feedback to jury and RC via Sailors’ rep anonymously without the fear that feedback effects how RC and jury act concerning this specific sailor. And it’s easier for RC/jury that sailors’ rep sums up the feedback and have a brief meeting the RC and jury representative daily. RC and Jury again can communicate through sailors’ rep to sailors some more unofficial matters that cannot be found from official notice board. We had some positive experiences with this in Palma and Hyères but some challenges to solve as well.

Country qualifications for the Rio 2016 will kick start in Santander in September when it’s 12 country spots available. In total Finn will have 23 boats competing in Rio which is one less than in London. The new continental quota system to ensure spot for every continent to take part of the Games is also a game changer.

Olympic sailing in Rio have been in news in negative way also. The waters of Rio bay are not apparently in a very attractive form according to the teams that have been training there. One thing is the waste getting stuck with the foils but another thing is the health issue. Organizers of Olympics are aware of the situation but actions are required rapidly. ISAF and IOC can and should put pressure on Organizers to solve the problem in a sustainable way in long-term perspective how the city waste would not get flushed into the ocean.

The Finn class is a fleet in full expansion. The number of Juniors on the circuit is stable. We see an increase in number of countries. The proof was this year in Palma where the Finn was one of the biggest fleet or the entry at the Europeans last year and this year.

The Dinghy Academy, supported by the FiDeS programme is a great opportunity for all the new guys in the fleet. They can have access to equipment and can train with sailors of all levels.

For the international representation of the class there are some new nations like Tunisia on the circuit. The Finn is now present on every continent with less activity in Asia and Africa.

We have to try to get these parts of the world more involved to keep on growing. I suggest to get in touch with coaches who are working with these countries to help us plan for the future.

For the youth, I think the new age limit for the Silver Cup is a good thing because I will help increase the numbers of sailors. However entry numbers are still lower than expected. The question to maintain Junior events has to be considered.

Treasurer’s Report (Tim Carver)

Key messages
Financially the class is showing good control of its expenses and is increasing its revenue. We made a profit of €10,500 in 2013 while supporting sailors from Argentina, Uruguay, South Africa and Tunisia in attending the Dinghy Academy in Valencia.

Capital Reserves have increased to €122,549. We should look to continue to increase our spending on Measurement and Equipment Control, Publicity and Development over the next few years rather than to increase our Capital Reserves further. The budget for the next few years has been updated to reflect these changes.

We are looking at safe investment options for our capital reserves that will return us 3 or 4 percent a year.

Income
Income for 2013 exceeded the budgeted amount by €5,862. Revenue from Memberships increased considerably in 2013 as sailors begin a new four year Olympic cycle. Income from equipment remained stable and we also received far more than expected from Advertising. The fact that total income of €102,962 is slightly less than last year reflects the anticipated decrease in revenue from PhotoFINNhish sales.

Expenses
Expenses overall were in line with expectations and we under spent the budgeted amount by €1,075.

• The Office Expenses budget for 2014 was increased by €1,000 so that Corinne could upgrade her laptop and this has been done for around €800.
• There were no promotion costs in 2013 but we do anticipate spending the money in future years.
• Robert’s payroll exceeded the budgeted amount due to commission from the higher than expected sales of PhotoFINNhish and the Finn Shop.
• We spent more money on development than planned because we supported sailors in attending the Dinghy Academy in Valencia.
• ISAF Meetings was expensive because of the cost of living in Oman and the fact that we paid for Luca Devoti to go to a Development Conference there as well, talking about the Dinghy Academy. There was also a media meeting in Copenhagen in May.
• We invested money in Finn Half-models for the Finn Shop which increased expenses but we have sold almost all of the stock already and profit for the Finn Shop was ahead of budget as a result.

Assets
Capital Reserves have increased by €10,536 to €122,549. This should be sufficient to meet the needs of the class for the foreseeable future.

Budget
The Budget has been adjusted for 2014 so that;

• Robert’s salary related to his coverage of our events has been increased by €2,500 to €10,000 per year in recognition of the increasing professionalism that this role requires and the quality of the material created. This also more closely reflects the amount we spent in 2013 of €9,225.
• The budget for Equipment Inspection and IM has been significantly increased from €1,000 to €4,000 per year and €5,000 in 2015 when we will revalidate the existing tools. Now that we have some stability around our Olympic status we need to concentrate our resources on enforcing the quality and standardisation of equipment and our measurement procedures.
• Regatta expenses now form their own line in the budget. This primarily covers travel costs for the Class Officers attending Major Regattas that are not covered by the organisers.
• We have reduced the budget for ISAF Meetings to €5,500 for 2014 and €6,000 in 2016. This reflects both the fact that we have secured our future up to 2020 and also because the 2014 ISAF Meeting is a cheaper location to visit.
• PhotoFINNhish expenses have been absorbed in the Finn Shop budget line and have been taken out of the budget as individual line items.
• The projected Memberships revenue has been increased based on the amount received in 2013.
• The projected income from Mast Labels has been increased to €13,500 in 2014 and €7,000 from then on. This reflects the real value of income received over the last few

FINNFARE JULY 2014
Enforcement
time they were built. Existing boats must comply with the rules in force at the 1st March 2014 onward.

The best way ahead with hull material restrictions was to ban the use of carbon fibres. The TC, Exec. and ISAF, it was agreed that the new rule came into force for boats built from.

• After extensive consultation with builders, our Executive were able to support the general wishes of AGM to require nation flags. Consequently we spent an extra €500 as a one off on the first Master Magazine.

2013 IFA ACCOUNTS

Revenue
Memberships 44838
Sail labels 28673
Mast labels 1100
ISAF Plaques for New Boats 16635
Interest 12
Advertising 8182
Finn Shop 1231
ISAF Worlds & EURO entries 0
PhotoFinnish Sales 2291
Forex Gain 0

Total 102962

Assets
Petty cash 221
Accounts receivable 0
GBP Working Account 59388
GBP Capital Account 28988
FRA Working Account 37552

126049

Liabilities
Amount Payable 3000
Salaries owing 500

3500

Capital 122549

Expenses
Payroll (Exec Dir) 35450
Payroll (Exec Dir Owing) 4150
Payroll PR 9225
Office 2803
Regatta 2000
Bank charges 104
Finnfare expenses 8338
Postage 525
Stickers (mast, sail, IFA hull) 1633
IFA Clinic 2044
Development 10210
Promotion (Photo, Filming) 0
Masters Admin 2500
Website hosting/technical support 260
ISAF meetings 10844
PhoFinn Royalty 0
Finn Shop 724
Forex Loss 1615

Total Expenses 92425

Annual P/L 10537
FOREX Adjusted P/L 12152

years and also the fact that we were paid €6,500 in January 2014 for money invoiced in 2013.

• Projected income from Advertising has been increased to €6,000 per year in line with the amount received in 2013.

• Because the fleet chose to go to Split for the Europeans in 2015 and not run a combined event in Aarhus we no longer expect to receive any extra revenue from the event.

• Masters expenses increased to €3,000 in 2014 because we spent an extra €500 as a one off on the first Master Magazine.

Technical Committee Chairman’s Report (Richard Hart)

Rule changes 2014
In accordance with AGM Instructions last year

• We made a successful submission to remove the requirement for ISAF approval of suppliers for nation flags. Consequently our Executive were able to support the general wishes of AGM to require nation flags on sails for the Europeans and Finn Gold Cup.

• After extensive consultation with builders, TC, Exec. and ISAF, it was agreed that the best way ahead with hull material restrictions was to ban the use of carbon fibres. The new rule came into force for boats built from 1st March 2014 onward. Existing boats must comply with the rules in force at the time they were built.

Enforcement
I take the liberty of quoting our president Balazs: “For the next years (without the burden of constant Olympic lobbying), measurement and class rules issues will enjoy priority to strengthen our position as an Olympic class.”

Hopefully members will agree that this has been a high priority at all times, but the pressures of modern professional and Olympic competition are putting a greater strain on our rules and measurement procedures than ever before.

Two initiatives have already been taken with the aim of addressing these issues

• the introduction of the Class Database, and

• the requirement that when new moulds are introduced, the first hull produced should be inspected by a Technical Committee nominee (such as our Class Chief Measurer).

During the next year we must concentrate on getting these two items operating properly.

Over time, a huge amount of work has been put into the development of our rules and also into defining the required shape of the hull. In the past, some of this work has been lost and has had to be done again.

To measure adequately, it is necessary to standardise and define the measurement tools and techniques. The portable swing test frames have been refined over the last 25 years. To ensure that this work is generally available, we are purchasing construction drawings.

We are one of two ‘measurement controlled’ Olympic Classes, and the only one where ‘ISAF approved moulds’ are not required – thus making it practicable for smaller builders to support our class. Our hull measurement procedures and equipment are therefore of critical importance. We are currently undertaking an audit of the lines plans and coordinates, and checks of the templates already in use.

One task for an audit is to consider whether the procedures in the system are working properly. It is important that the work of Official Measurers, International Measurers (Equipment Inspectors) and our Class Chief Measurer be coordinated and consistent: Hopefully we will sometimes be able to have several of these working together at major class events, rather than “minimal coverage”.

The foundation of our system is the work of the ‘Official Measurer’ who first measures your equipment. We are hoping for more general adoption of ISAF In-House Certification and its built-in quality procedures – at present the system only covers sails.

I am old and should be replaced on age grounds if for no other reason. We have had difficulties because several very suitable people are financially involved with one or another of our builders, and therefore ‘interested parties’. Rory Barnes from GBR has been suggested as a replacement – I have co-opted him onto TC and would like to propose him as Chairman - Designate.
Hopefully he will attend Santander so sailors can get to know him, and the hope is that he will become familiar with the work and be proposed for election as Chairman in 2016 (if I last that long).

Our Technical Committee would be greatly helped by the addition of young active Finn sailors. At present it consists of André Blasse’ (AUS), Thomas Le Breton (FRA), André Budzien (GER), Robert Carlen (USA), Rodney Cobb (GBR), Robert Deaves (GBR), John Driscoll (IRL), Guillaume Florent (FRA), Jan van der Horst (NED), David Howlett (GBR), Gilbert Lamboley (FRA), Larry Lemeux (CAN), Walter Mai (GER), Gus Miller (USA), Miklos Nemeth (HUN), Ju’ri Saraskin (EST), Tim Tavinor (GBR) and Clifton Webb (NZL). Hopefully you will add Rory Barnes, and further volunteers or nominees would be welcome.

Rule changes
The sail rule includes a difficult measurement about hollows in the leech. It is not in the ERS system. Please will you authorise me to investigate (with TC, measurers and others) and possibly substitute an Upper Width Measurement at 4500mm from the Head Point. I believe that this would be a simpler way to ensure that we don’t have strange shapes at the leech.

Also referring to the sails, some people have been asking for carbon headboards, which immediately increases the price by £156 (€187). Do you want this?

Vice-President Masters (Andy Denison)

In September 2013 I opened a Lloyds Euro Stirling account for the Finn Masters, cancelling the Dutch account with Fons. The intention is to keep the account UK based in the future.

I created a new website bringing the site up to date with the latest technology and transferred the hosting to the UK, our thanks were extended from the association to Jan Kingma for all his previous work with the old site.

In September I travelled to Sopot and Kavala in Greece, to make reports for the website and the new Masters Magazine and go through the guidelines with the authorities.

I have made changes to the Guidelines and the NOR and we are currently, ongoing with John Doerr, to bring our documents up to date.

I purchased a perpetual trophy for the winning master, as this was not available, calling it the President’s Cup and listing the past presidents on it.

In January we released a new magazine called the Finn World Masters. In March 2014 I attended the Dinghy show in the UK and met with the Barbados Tourism Authority, who are pitching for the 2017 Finn World Masters at Sopot.

Sopot has around 200 entries to date everything seems to be going to plan and I don’t anticipate any problems.

At present I’m working on how to transport 9 Finns in a container as I feel this is curbing our enthusiasm to try overseas venues, I have now put out some guidelines on a workable frame for a 40 ft container. I feel we need to consider a non-European venue once in a while; otherwise it makes a make a mockery of our Championship being a world masters event.

Sorry, but we didn't manage to make a proper ad, we were too busy making your new gear.

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Only change is permanent

At WB-Sails, all our designs are under constant development. Our sails are manufactured to your exact mast numbers, weight & hiking ability. Every luff curve is shaped individually according to our computer model, we have no “standard” option. Quality starts with design.

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