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# FINNFARE

DECEMBER 2017



- *Max Salminen wins incredibly close Finn Gold Cup*
- *Silver Cup victory for Oskari Muhonen*
- *National reports show Finn class in great health*
- *Restoring a classic Finn back to life*
- *News, Updates, 2017 IFA AGM, Accounts...*





Photo Robert Deaves

## Congrats

to *Max Salminen* for winning the Finn Gold Cup, *Jonathan Lobert* for winning the Europeans, *Oskari Muhonen* for winning the Silver Cup. And to WB-sailors in Miami, Palma, Hyeres 2017, who all won with our latest NEO sail model.

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# President's Letter

## DEAR FINN SAILORS AND FRIENDS OF THE FINN CLASS

**A**ttracting as many young sailors to the Finn as possible remains a continued effort for our class and what a positive feedback on our work was delivered by the 2017 MVM Jörg Bruder Silver Cup in Balatonfüred with one of the largest junior fleets ever. Thank you MVM Sailing Club for hosting our junior fleet and producing a fantastic atmosphere for the event.

The European summer Finn sailing season was highlighted by 2017 Opel Finn Gold Cup in early September also at Balaton. To the surprise of many, Lake Balaton proved to be also weather-wise a worthy venue for the Gold Cup and a huge Finn fleet of over 110 boats showed again the strength and depth of our class at the highest level. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to Spartacus Sailing Club and the organisation committee for hosting us at a wonderfully reconstructed and well prepared venue in Balatonföldvár.

During the Gold Cup a well-attended AGM discussed a long list of Finn Class management related agenda items and elected a refreshed Executive as well as a restructured Technical Committee along with some important amendments to the Finn Class Constitution. I have high hopes in our new Technical

Committee that they will guide us wisely through an inevitable procedure of equipment related reviews and potential technical changes as part of the evolution of the class.

As a mentioned in my last letter a major current issue is the movement of independent sailing equipment manufacturers criticising that the large majority of the current Olympic Classes Equipment including hulls, masts, sails, booms etc. are not free for production to any potential producer which led in the past to significant quality and pricing problems. The issue is not only an internal matter for the sport of sailing but also has important legal implications so we are all positively looking forward to World Sailing resolving this matter for the best of our sport and for a long term basis. ≈

**Dr. Balazs Hajdu**  
HUN-1  
IFA President



OPEL FINN GOLD CUP 2017  
112 Finns made for an  
impressive sight taking  
part in the 2017 world  
championship

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**Cover photo:** Max Salminen fully focussed on Lake Balaton. Inset: Oskari Muhonen  
**Photos:** Robert Deaves/IFA

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## MAJOR FINN REGATTAS 2017-2019

#### 2017

17-22 December • Palamos, Spain  
**Christmas Race**

#### 2018

15-18 January • Royal Queensland YS  
**Australian Nationals**

21-28 January • Miami, USA  
**World Cup Series Round 2**

23-28 February • Cadiz, Spain  
**Andalusian Olympic Week**

9-17 March • Cadiz, Spain  
**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

15-17 March • Lyttleton, New Zealand  
**New Zealand Nationals**

30 March - 7 April • Mallorca, Spain  
**Trofeo Princesa Sofia**

22-29 April • Hyeres, France  
**World Cup Series Round 3**

18-25 May • El Balis, Spain  
**Finn World Masters**

21-26 May • Medemblik, The Netherlands  
**Delta Lloyd Regatta**

21-25 June • Kiel, Germany  
**Kieler Woche**

7-15 July • Warnemünde, Germany  
**Warnemünder Wocher**

30 July - 12 August • Aarhus, Denmark  
**2018 Sailing World Championships / FINN GOLD CUP**

11-14 September • Split, Croatia  
**MASTERS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

28-30 September • Lake Garda, Italy  
**Malcesine Finn Cup**

#### 2019

6-14 June • Skovshoved, Denmark  
**Finn World Masters**



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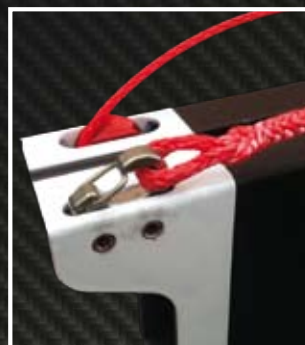
## QUALIFICATION FOR AARHUS 2018

**THE 2018 FINN** Gold Cup is within the World Sailing Championships in Aarhus, Denmark and the quota is limited to 90 entries and subject to the World Sailing qualification process. The IFA Event Manual does not apply. Places are allocated as follows:

- Every MNA is awarded one entry per event;
- Extra places are awarded to MNAs based on the 2017 World Championship;
- Further places will be awarded based on the World Sailing Rankings on December 15;
- Any places not already awarded will be decided by the Aarhus Qualification Commission on a discretionary basis.

Deadlines and other criteria apply at every stage. Please look at the qualification document.

[http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/Aarhus2018WorldsQualificationSystemFINAL-\[21721\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/Aarhus2018WorldsQualificationSystemFINAL-[21721].pdf)



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## TWO NEW FINN BOOKS

**THEY HAVE BEEN** a long time coming but are worth the wait.

**BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD RACE** is the story of the Rio Olympics, and of the journey of the 23 Finn athletes who took part in Rio. At over 250 pages, it is a unique look at what it takes to qualify and compete at the Olympics.

Paperback available for £13.50.

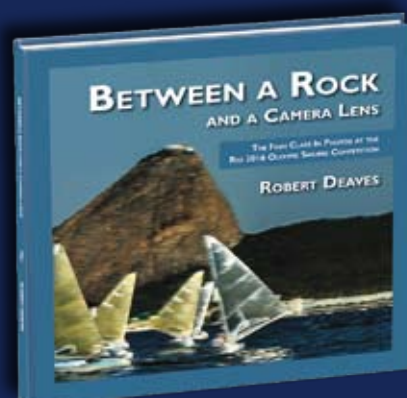
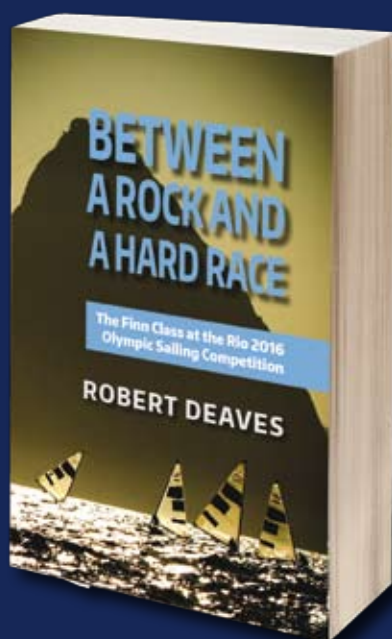
**BETWEEN A ROCK AND A CAMERA LENS** is the story of the Rio Olympics in photos. The book includes more than 400 colour photos from the Olympics as well as daily insights and quotes from the sailors who took part.

There has never been a book like either of these two books. They complement each other perfectly and tell

and show the Rio 2016 Olympic Games for the Finn Class in a way never attempted before.

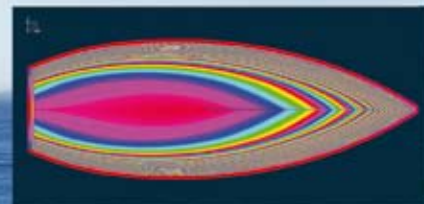
Limited edition hardback from £18.

More info: [finnclass.org/shop](http://finnclass.org/shop)





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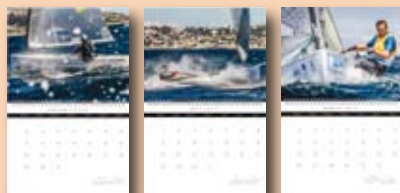
## 2018 FINN CALENDARS

**TWO NEW CALENDARS** have been produced for 2018.

The **2018 Finn Class Calendar** features images from the major events in 2017.

Size: 28 cm by 48 cm (when open)

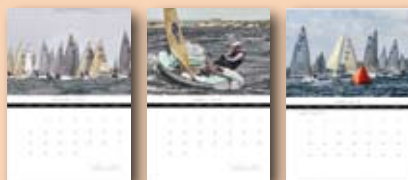
Price: £13.99 plus tax and shipping



The **2018 Finn Masters Calendar** features images from the 2017 Finn World Masters in Barbados.

Size: 34 cm by 48 cm

Price: £18.99 plus tax and shipping



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## NEW RULE 42 VIDEO

**WHILE WAITING FOR** wind on Lake Balaton during the 2017 Silver Cup and Finn Gold Cup we filmed some common situations for Rule 42 breaches, including infringements on the starting line, sailing upwind, tacking, sailing downwind, boom rowing with Oscar flag displayed, and various common breaches while gybing.

Thanks to Michal Jodlowski for creating and editing the video.

The video can be found on the Finn Class YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/thefinnchannel](http://www.youtube.com/thefinnchannel)



Photos / Jesus Benedito



## LATE U23 PRIZEGIVING

**AS THE TROPHY** was missing and couldn't be presented at the European Championship in Marseille earlier in the year, we held an impromptu U23 European Championship prizegiving during the Finn Gold Cup in September overlooking Lake Balaton.

Left to right Oskari Muhonen (third), Henry Wetherell (first) and Arkadiy Kistanov (second).

They also received the event bibs from Marseille.

## AARHUS TEST EVENT

**A FIRST CLASS** fleet of 30 Finns took part in the Hempel Sailing World Championships 2018 Test Event in Aarhus. Nicholas Heiner took the lead on third day and went into the medal race guaranteed silver. He just had to beat Zsombor Berecz to win the event and he did just that for his first major victory in the class.

1	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	58
2	HUN 40	Zsombor Berecz	67
3	FIN 218	Tapio Nirkko	68
4	POL 17	Piotr Kula	70
5	SWE 33	Max Salminen	72
6	CAN 18	Tom Ramshaw	80
7	ITA 117	Alessio Spadoni	91
8	CRO 69	Milan Vujasinovic	92
9	NOR 1	Anders Pedersen	98
10	AUS 41	Jake Lilley	102

## ROB COUTTS FINE ART PRINTS

**THE FINN CLASS** has partnered with Finn sailor and artist Rob Coutts to exclusively offer fine art prints of his distinctive oil paintings to help the class fund its FINNTEAM development programme.

The paintings are available as giclée fine art prints in a range of size. For more information and ordering please go to:

[www.finnclass.org/robcoutts](http://www.finnclass.org/robcoutts)







# Max Salminen wins incredibly

**T**he Finn Gold Cup is an extraordinary collective experience that is second to none in the Finn sailor's calendar. It brings together sailors from across the world, and across the spectrum of experience and ability. It matches Olympic champions against the best youth in the world; it matches experienced helms against the inexperienced; the young against the old; the knowledgeable against the knowledge hungry; the elite against the club sailor. There is nothing quite like it on the Olympic campaign trail. It is unique to the Finn class and something that is valued and respected by Finn sailors across the world.

It is a fantastic university of sailing with knowledge and experience flowing down and through the fleet, with sailors sharing an understanding of how to sail this simple and yet complex sailboat, both within their own pier groups and most importantly to the new generation of Finn sailors.

The 2017 Opel Finn Gold Cup at Spartacus Sailing Club at Balatonföldvár on Lake Balaton was the largest Finn

Gold Cup for 35 years with 113 sailors from 32 countries taking part. There were 35 U23 sailors, all soaking up the experience of the exceptional level of knowledge on offer from the top sailors.

The insight that sailors learn from competing alongside and against such a world-class fleet stay with them for the rest of their lives and set them up to be the world and Olympic champions of the future. You cannot buy this experience; it has to be earned through competing at the Finn Gold Cup. The 113 sailors learned this valuable lesson every day. Even a day spent on shore turns into a valuable learning and bonding experience with conversations and sharing of experience and stories that educate and clarify the magic of sailing a Finn.

## DAY 1

Nenad Bugarin, from Croatia, opened the championship by leading the fleet on the opening day after two very tricky races. Home favourite, Zsombor Berecz was second, with Piotr Kula in third. Ed Wright won the first race.

After two false starts and a general recall, Oisín McClelland led round the top



mark in Race 1 from Jonathan Lobert. But it was Wright, who led through the gate and extended up the second beat. The right side came in strong on the second beat with Anders Pedersen coming through into second. The fleet closed up on Wright on the final downwind as the search for pressure became paramount. Lobert came through for second, with Berecz third.

In Race 2 the corners were strong with those who bailed out of the left struggling at the top. Facundo Olezza rounded first from Deniss Karpak and Bugarin. Karpak had dropped 20 places in the first race but in the second race he was good enough to hold his position as the top three boats separated from the fleet. Bugarin sailed well to take the lead on the second upwind and sailed away from the fleet for a comfortable win, from Olezza and Karpak.

Lobert: "It's hard to say to what to do today. It was just 'where is the wind'? I was just trying to use what I had and make the best of it."

Salminen: "It was shifty as we expected and back and forth and you had to be on your toes all the time – but lake sailing. I think in this big fleet and in these conditions you have to be happy with what you get."







# close Opel Finn Gold Cup



Pos	Sail	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	MR	Points
1	SWE 33	Max Salminen	9	4	(17)	1	6	6	5	16	47
2	FRA 112	Jonathan Lobert	2	14	9	2	8	(60)	3	10	48
3	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	20	9	2	(21)	1	3	13	2	50
4	GBR 11	Ed Wright	1	(58)	1	19	4	5	8	12	50
5	HUN 40	Zsombor Berecz	3	6	12	(37)	10	16	2	4	53
6	GRE 77	Ioannis Mitakis	15	10	3	10	11	(21)	4	6	59
7	POL 17	Piotr Kula	5	7	14	16	(68)	1	17	20	80
8	ARG 48	Facundo Olezza (U23)	28	2	4	3	(bfd)	12	16	18	83
9	CRO 69	Milan Vujasinovic	31	8	(39)	4	5	13	23	8	92
10	NOR 1	Anders Pedersen	(dsq)	12	11	11	31	7	9	14	95

## DAY 2

Lobert took the lead on Day 2, and though he led both races, the tricky breeze got the better of him twice. Race wins went to Wright and Salminen. Salminen was up to second with Olezza third.

Race 3 got away first time in 10-14 knots. Jake Lilley rounded first from Lobert and Ioannis Mitakis. Lobert flew down the run to lead through the gate and looked to be heading for a win. However a shift on the second beat brought new U23 World Champion, Oskari Muhonen, to the front. Nicholas Heiner also made gains and was soon chasing the leaders downwind and, with Wright winning the race, moved into second just before the final mark, with Mitakis in third.

After a wind delay, one general recall and two black flag starts pulled out seven boats, including Bugarin, in Race 4. Lobert was again in front at the top from Arkadiy Kistanov and Salminen. On the second upwind, Lobert was more conservative in the middle and lost out again. Salminen came past and extended downwind for a comfortable win. Lobert hung on for second and led a tight group across the line with Olezza in third.

Wright: "It wasn't looking too good at one stage. It's one of those places where you can take some big chunks out of the fleet on the shifts. I managed to get lucky and round the second top mark pretty well. I went right at the bottom and left at the top. I think the right just ran out of pressure and I had a nice pressure on the left."

Lobert: "It's a bit frustrating but in those conditions you have to take what you have and in the end it's two top ten, which is good, and will be a good average. It was a good day in the end."

## DAY 3

Salminen was the third leader in three days as the ever-tricky wind caused a few more high scores. Wright moved up to second with Heiner, who won the first race of the day, in third. Piotr Kula won the second race.

Race 5 was a left hand favoured course with most of the fleet heading out towards the eastern shoreline of Balaton to get the best wind. Heiner led round the top mark from Milan Vujasinovic and Mitakis. Heiner pulled away downwind and was never really threatened to record his first win of the week. The battle

behind him was pretty intense, with lots of place changes. In the end Lilley, came through for second ahead of the British pair of Henry Wetherell and Wright.

Lilley continued his good form by leading round the top mark in Race 6 from Kula and Muhonen. The first downwind was kind to Kula who pulled ahead as the wind died to 6-7 knots. He maintained his lead to the finish, though was pushed hard on the second downwind by Muhonen and Lilley. Heiner came through in the last stages of the downwind to round the final, shortened, downwind mark inside Lilley to take third.

Heiner: "Slowly getting into the event and today was a really nice day. I spent the first two days trying to get the feel of the leverage with the big fleet and today I got a bit more into that. In the end I think it's just about winning your side and







11	FIN 8	Oskari Muhonen (U23)	21	23	5	41	18	2	(54)	11	121
12	GBR 71	Henry Wetherell (U23)	11	34	20	9	3	45	10	(60)	132
13	AUS 1	Jake Lilley	13	56	10	(dsq)	2	4	7	42	134
14	GER 25	Max Kohlhoff	10	20	27	(bfd)	19	22	21	15	134
15	AUS 261	Oliver Tweddell	6	42	25	6	12	31	24	(45)	146
16	BRA 109	Jorge Zarif	(ufd)	11	6	43	33	25	1	30	149
17	EST 2	Deniss Karpak	18	3	30	24	22	29	(37)	36	162
18	CZE 5	Ondrej Těplý (U23)	8	13	34	7	(54)	20	51	34	167
19	SUI 38	Nils Theuninck (U23)	(45)	16	26	34	28	8	36	19	167
20	CRO 1	Josip Olujic	23	15	(40)	32	20	40	12	25	167
21	GBR 91	Ben Cornish	16	30	8	12	(47)	36	29	37	168
22	CAN 18	Tom Ramshaw	12	55	24	18	32	(bfd)	22	12	175
23	FRA 17	Fabian Pic	14	(66)	21	35	15	15	25	50	175
24	RUS 6	Arkadiy Kistanov (U23)	42	50	(ufd)	5	9	11	32	28	177
25	CRO 52	Nenad Bugarin	4	1	7	(bfd)	7	ret	6	41	180
26	ESP 17	Pablo Guitián	35	27	22	13	24	26	38	(48)	185
27	GER 259	Phillip Kasueske (U23)	34	21	41	23	16	27	31	(72)	193
28	POL 16	Mikolaj Lahn	30	5	18	39	(70)	10	40	58	200
29	TUR 21	Alican Kaynar	19	54	43	(bfd)	27	18	18	22	201
30	ESP 235	Joan Cardona (U23)	26	35	31	rdg	21	33	30	(52)	205.3
31	NOR 9	Lars Johan Brodtkorb (U23)	17	19	38	22	45	54	11	(71)	206
32	RUS 57	Egor Terpigorev	29	(61)	42	14	37	23	27	35	207
33	ESP 7	Alejandro Muscat	43	22	28	31	49	17	(55)	20	210
34	ITA 123	Filippo Baldassari	22	29	19	44	(61)	34	19	47	214
35	ITA 59	Alessio Spadoni	46	25	36	26	36	19	26	(73)	214
36	USA 91	Luke Muller (U23)	48	32	16	17	23	47	39	(56)	222
37	SWE 11	Johannes Pettersson (U23)	36	(52)	15	15	50	24	33	51	224
38	FIN 218	Tapio Nirkko	(dsq)	47	13	8	17	ret	20	13	232
39	RUS 1	Evgenii Deev (U23)	33	51	48	(bfd)	14	39	15	33	233
40	IRL 22	Fionn Lyden (U23)	32	36	32	51	34	(55)	35	18	238
41	GBR 29	Peter McCoy	39	33	23	28	60	43	14	(64)	240
42	ITA 66	Enrico Voltolini	7	44	37	(bfd)	56	14	28	65	251
43	DEN 24	André Hojen Christiansen	38	24	45	45	30	28	52	(68)	262
44	AUS 32	Jock Calvert (U23)	47	45	33	42	43	9	49	(76)	268
45	AUS 41	Lewis Brake (U23)	56	17	47	29.5	39	(76)	42	38	268.5
46	GBR 96	Hector Simpson (U23)	41	39	49	47	51	(62)	34	14	275
47	IRL 6	Oisín McClelland (U23)	24	67	46	25	(72)	49	43	31	285
48	FRA 75	Laurent Hay	64	18	52	61	(79)	30	45	21	291
49	FRA 2	Antoine Devineau	55	37	(68)	57	13	59	61	16	298
50	FRA 111	Valerian Lebrun	59	31	54	62	29	50	(68)	17	302
51	GER 595	Simon Gorgels (U23)	44	71	35	52	25	32	47	(dnf)	306
52	FRA 9	Guillaume Boisard (U23)	51	38	50	40	46	38	46	(63)	309
53	EST 1	Taavi Valtter Taveter (U23)	49	40	60	48	42	52	(73)	29	320
54	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle (U23)	52	26	44	27	52	73	50	(dnc)	324
55	FIN 225	Mikael Hyrylainen	25	75	29	38	65	41	56	(85)	329
56	CZE 1	Michael Maier	(60)	49	56	49	35	53	60	32	334
57	CAN 2	Kyle Martin	(66)	41	55	54	58	44	63	40	355
58	GBR 81	James Skulczuk (U23)	62	43	62	55	48	37	(74)	53	360
59	ESP 57	Victor Gorostegui	40	(81)	53	33	dne	56	41	26	363
60	UKR 4	Andrii Gusenko	37	(ufd)	51	20	57	63	44	94	366
61	NZL 64	Brendan McCarty	54	70	71	53	26	35	58	(79)	367
62	RUS 711	Dmitriy Petrov	27	63	70	36	(80)	58	57	67	378
63	POL 8	Lukasz Lesinski	53	46	59	59	(75)	69	48	49	383
64	TUR 35	Can Akdurak (U23)	50	28	74	50	83	71	53	(87)	409
65	ARG 1	Santiago Falasca	57	(82)	69	58	63	42	79	43	411
66	BRA 177	Andre Mirsky	63	73	61	46	44	74	(dnc)	69	430
67	ESP 117	Carlos Ordóñez Sánchez (U23)	79	48	(81)	69	76	68	72	27	439
68	RUS 161	Aleksander Kulyukin	58	57	66	66	73	57	70	(dnc)	447
69	BER 9	Rockal Evans	61	68	58	67	(89)	48	59	88	449
70	AUS 2	Rob McMillan	65	64	(ufd)	56	38	92	62	77	454
71	FRA 99	Marc Allain des Beauvais	76	79	85	(86)	41	61	64	54	460
72	GBR 703	Markus Bettum (U23)	68	65	57	63	91	(93)	66	62	472
73	FIN 118	Walteri Moisio (U23)	71	89	79	(bfd)	71	70	75	24	479
74	SLO 99	Jan Orel (U23)	82	(85)	72	72	40	66	67	84	483
75	UKR 8	Taras Havrysh	69	53	65	73	85	(bfd)	69	70	484
76	AUS 22	Joe McMillan	67	76	64	(dnf)	69	82	65	61	484
77	HUN 911	Elemér Péter Haidekker (U23)	86	84	67	78	53	46	71	(101)	485
78	GBR 707	Callum Dixon (U23)	72	60	75	64	87	51	77	(98)	486
79	SLO 11	Liam Orel (U23)	74	(dnc)	80	92	59	64	78	46	493
80	HUN 80	Domonkos Németh	93	(104)	86	68	55	89	83	23	497
81	HUN 7	Antal Székely	75	59	73	70	(93)	75	91	86	529
82	FIN 99	Jesse Kylanpaa	81	103	63	71	66	67	80	(dnc)	531
83	ESP 337	Miguel Cabrerizo	(105)	87	82	84	62	77	98	44	534
84	GER 279	Nicolaus Schmidt	70	72	91	76	67	103	76	(dnc)	555
85	HUN 50	Ákos Lukács	88	(94)	93	65	74	83	82	75	560
86	CZE 80	Martin Jozif	78	(102)	77	81	86	81	93	66	562
87	HUN 907	Botond Berecz	95	69	83	77	77	(104)	89	78	568



88	UKR 5	Oleksandr Gusenko	73	96	95	74	(104)	100	87	57	582
89	POL 73	Andrzej Romanowski	84	77	89	80	(107)	65	92	95	582
90	UKR 10	Valentin Klymentyev	96	83	94	85	81	86	(99)	59	584
91	CZE 67	Jozef Jochovic	85	74	78	79	(99)	91	84	93	584
92	IRI 1	Ahmad Ahmadi	(101)	78	88	60	90	80	90	99	585
93	CZE 75	Vladimir Skalicky	77	93	(98)	82	84	87	81	82	586
94	HUN 5	Pallay Tibor	80	98	76	(bfd)	94	78	85	80	591
95	GBR 26	Joe Stocker (U23)	(104)	91	96	96	64	79	96	81	603
96	HUN 56	Martin Tenke	94	(101)	84	75	95	72	97	91	608
97	HUN 75	Örs Németh	83	88	87	89	82	84	(102)	100	613
98	AUS 69	John Alexander	87	62	92	95	92	88	104	(dnc)	620
99	HUN 11	Péter Haidekker	89	92	90	83	100	90	(101)	89	633
100	AUT 1	Moritz Spitzauer	(108)	106	105	101	88	95	95	55	645
101	ESP 99	Gerardo Seeliger	97	90	(102)	94	101	97	86	83	648
102	HUN 8	Zsolt Mészáros	100	97	101	88	(109)	102	94	74	656
103	HUN 41	Zoltán Bartos	98	86	97	98	103	85	(109)	97	664
104	GBR 631	Richard Hart	106	105	109	100	106	105	(110)	39	670
105	GER 231	Denny Jeschull	91	80	103	90	105	(bfd)	100	102	671
106	HUN 59	László Taubert	90	95	(104)	102	102	98	88	96	671
107	HUN 6	Mihány Zoltán Demeczky	102	100	(106)	93	98	96	106	90	685
108	HUN 30	Zsigmond Kántor	103	99	99	91	96	101	103	(dnc)	692
109	HUN 2	Péter Sipos	99	(108)	108	87	108	94	107	92	695
110	RUS 142	Polovinkin Yuri	92	107	100	97	97	106	105	(dnc)	704
111	SVK 21	Michal Hrivnák	107	109	107	99	78	99	108	(dnc)	707
112	HUN 33	Zsuzsa Komm	109	(dnc)	110	103	dnc	107	111	103	757
113	GRE 21	Antonis Tsotras	(dnc)	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	dnc	798



keeping an eye out for the other extremes and see how they go.”

Kula: “I didn’t do well out of the first black flag start today and messed up my race, but wiped my tears away and won the second race. The crowd on the pin was so big, I found a more empty spot on the line and tacked quickly and then I played the shifts and was second at the top.”

Salminen: “It’s not about winning races, just about dodging those bullets that can get really hairy in a fleet of 113 boats.”

Finn sailors have many challenges, but Mikael Hyrylainen had a rather unique challenge, trying to get a snake out of his boat between races. Loitering somewhere in the depths of his boat for the first race, his slithery friend, named Frank, made an appearance and it took Mikael some effort, balanced on the foredeck, to force the snake back to the cockpit, where he was duly dispatched back into the Balaton depths.

#### DAY 4

Salminen extended his lead to seven points after placing fifth in the only race possible on Day 4. Wright remained second, while Lobert was up to third. The single race was won by the 2013 World Champion, Jorge Zarif.

One race was sailed late in the day in rain and a slowly building breeze, topping out at 13-16 knots. Lobert made the best of the wet upwind as the wind increased past 10 knots and Oscar was raised. He was followed round by Zarif and Bugarin. Zarif took the lead downwind and was never threatened for the win. Lobert came under pressure from Berecz who passed him as they came into the final mark just ahead to finish second ahead of Lobert.

Pedersen: “The favoured side changes a lot so it’s hard to keep up on the good side. It’s been very nice conditions, even though it’s been very tricky and very shifty. Though it’s better than we first feared, so

it’s been good racing.”

Berecz: “I decided to stop these mid-line starts and I went a bit closer to the pin and finally it paid off. I had the best speed downwind and I found myself in third place, which I kept on the second upwind, and then on the last downwind I passed Lobert to finish second. So I am really happy how the day went for me.”

Zarif: “I think it was a good race. It’s good to win a Gold Cup race after a very bad week so far for me, but to win a race is always very nice at the Gold Cup.”

#### DAY 5 & 6

No racing was possible on Day 5 and 6. On Day 5 the lake remained hot and windless all day. The fleet was sent out late on Day 6 to try and get one late race in, but after chasing the wind round the lake, one start was attempted right on the time limit, but a 50 degree shift caused that to be stopped and the fleet came back empty handed.





## DAY 7

On the final day, Salminen secured his first Finn world title with an extremely close and intense medal race in light winds. Lobert took the silver while Heiner took bronze after leading the medal race from start to finish.

The day again started with a postponement, but a light wind from the north prompted the race committee to send the fleet out. The title was down to five sailors, with Salminen, Wright and Lobert with the best chances, and Heiner and Berecz with outside chances.

Sailed in 6-8 knots it was the kind of conditions the sailors had expected all week, and that many had trained for. Heiner was especially keen to sail in light winds and it was soon obvious why as he took the lead on the first upwind and never relinquished it. He had done



everything needed to be in with a chance of a medal, now it just depended what happened behind him. Wright started badly and then got a yellow flag, but pulled back to sixth. Lobert had an even worse first leg, and rounded last. He made some ground downwind and on



the second upwind and then moved up to fifth, just enough for silver. Salminen controlled his main opponents and defended against Lobert and Wright. But the title nearly slipped away from him on the final downwind as the pressure dropped out on the left and both boats passed him just before the finish.

As the fleet crossed the finish line there was some frantic maths to work out who had won what. In the end, it was extremely close, with just three points separating the top four boats.

In the final race for the rest, it was quite fitting that the race win went to the new U23 World Champion Oskari Muhonen. This gave him an impressive 11th overall. Olezza picked up the best U23 prize from Muhonen and Henry Wetherell.

Heiner: "It was quite an interesting week, and for sure not what we expected wind wise. I think I lost a few places in the races just by my own mistakes, so I am a bit disappointed with that, so could have got away with a bit more."

Lobert: "It was a very tough week. I was at least five times leading races, but in the end I lost a few points and today

*I paid the price by finishing second by one point. It's very, very frustrating, but if someone had told me I would finish second with one point to the gold, I would have been happy. I think it is good for the Finn to see that there are so many guys and countries and the level of the fleet is always getting better."*

Salminen: "It's been an amazing week and I am just so happy that, even though it was a really light medal race that I managed to finish it off in the best



*way. I tried not to have any expectations about sailing here. I knew there could be some waiting on shore, but especially the first half of the week was amazing, with really good racing. It's challenging for any venue to host a event like this with 100 plus Finns, so it's been a positive surprise to me."*

Thanks to Spartacus Sailing Club and Balatonföldvár for putting on an outstanding Finn Gold Cup, for Opel and the other sponsors, to all the supporters and helpers. The friendly welcome and hospitality the sailors have received was nothing short of exceptional. ≈





## Golden Birthday on Balaton

**T**he International Finn Association President of Honour celebrated his 70th birthday at the Opel Finn Gold Cup on Lake Balaton.

He was sailing his first Finn Gold Cup for 41 years. One of the oldest sailors at the event, he recently relaunched his Finn career, re-energised by the prospect of sailing the 2018 Finn World Masters in El Balis, near Barcelona, where he will qualify as a Finn Legend. The Finn Gold Cup was part of his training for next year.

Talking to the sailors his Finn stories transcended the generations.

On his first day he bumped into Rockal Evans, from Bermuda, who was sailing his first Finn Gold Cup. One of the recipients of funding from the Finn Class development programme, FIDeS, Evans was attracted to the Finn to follow in his grandfather's footsteps, who sailed the Finn at the 1976 Olympics.

Seeliger's first Finn Gold Cup was 1969 in Bermuda. It didn't take long to realise that he had sailed against Evans' Grandfather, Howard Lee, at that event. Lee later sailed at the 1976 Olympics while Seeliger went on to compete at the 1972 Olympics. He tried to qualify again in 1976, but was up against a very strong Spanish team and stopped sailing the Finn soon after, but remained a part of the class and was IFA President from

1981 to 1997. For the past 20 years he has been the IFA President of Honour.

Seeliger's predecessor as IFA President was the former IOC President, Dr Jacques Rogge, and his successor was his son, Philippe Rogge, who also turned up at Balaton this week to meet old friends, and has threatened to be back on the race course before too long.

In 1970 Seeliger was sailing the European Championships in Dún Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland. In the latter part of the week it became very windy with winds from force 4-7. It was in the days of one long race a day, and because of fog on the Tuesday there were two races scheduled on Thursday, the second of which should not have been held. Two competitors were discovered floating away from their craft, including Seeliger. He had no lifejacket and was wearing several sweaters, common at the time for increasing weight.

He recalls, "I capsized and became detached from the boat."

"I was completely waterlogged. My lungs were full of water. I had given up."

Then he felt a pair of hands trying to pull him out of the water.

Hungarian Finn sailor, György Fináczy, had seen Seeliger's overturned hull and started looking around until he finally found his fellow Finn sailor. Fináczy

abandoned his race to save Seeliger. Somehow he got the soaking Spaniard into his boat and transferred him to a motorboat to go back to shore and to hospital for checks. Needless to say, Seeliger sailed the next day with no ill effects.



Out of the 46 entries Fináczy placed eighth to Seeliger's 16th. Fináczy took bronze the following year

When Seeliger went home to Spain he went to the Olympic Committee and asked them to give Fináczy a medal for good sportsmanship and for saving his life. Fináczy was invited to Spain to receive the medal, but could not leave the Communist Hungary at the time, unless it was for an international sailing competition. He could only come at Christmas, so the Palamos Christmas Race came into existence, created solely for Fináczy to be able to travel to Spain.

That first year there were two competitors: Seeliger and Fináczy in their Finns. Seeliger recalls that Fináczy won. The following year there were five Finns and from there the event took off to become the world famous race that it is today.

During the Opel Finn Gold Cup, György Fináczy and Gerardo Seeliger met again, for the first time in 30 years - old Finn friends with an unbreakable bond.

Seeliger said, *"Being here at the Finn Gold Cup is the best birthday present I could wish for."*

Once a Finn sailor, always a Finn sailor. ≈



Left: György Fináczy with Gerardo Seeliger at Balatonföldvár

Above: Gerardo with a flag signed by the sailors at the Finn Gold Cup





## U23 victory for Oskari Muhonen

**T**he 2017 Finn Silver Cup was one of the largest Finn Junior World Championships ever with 45 sailors from 22 countries heading to Balatonfüred, on Lake Balaton, just a few weeks before the Opel Finn Gold Cup on the other side of the lake.

The host club was the MVM Hungarian Power Companies Sport Club (Magyar Villamos Művek Sportegyesület-MVM SE), which created an amazing onshore atmosphere for the young athletes with a large lounge tent, many recreational activities and superb catering.

There was plenty of wind during the lead in to the event, but as is often the case, as the racing arrived, it started to drop and then disappeared for good. In the end, only six races were managed out of a possible 13. Still, they were six good races with worthy winners.

### DAY 1

The only sailor in Balatonfüred with Olympic experience, Facundo Olezza, made some sense of the chaotic wind conditions on the first day to build a 13-point margin after three very tricky races were sailed. Henry Wetherell and Hector Simpson were second and third.

The wind on Lake Balaton was kind of what everyone expected, but it still surprised with its variability, ranging from 2-15 knots and shifting 40-90 degrees at times. Several times the sailors were seen doing straight-line tacks.

Defending champion Phillip Kasüske, from Germany, started his defence by leading round the first mark. However it was short lived with Olezza moving ahead downwind and controlling the fleet from the front to take the first race from Oskari Muhonen and Kasüske.

Teply made up for a capsize in the first race with a win in the second. He rounded the top mark in third behind Olezza and Simpson and the three extended on the fleet. Olezza still led around the final windward mark after a mind numbingly shifty second beat, but then both Teply and Simpson sailed round him for the top three.

Teply commented, *"It was a very tricky and shifty day and also we had huge gaps sometimes we had 15 knots and sometimes 2, and it was hard to predict, and difficult to chose where to go."*

If Race 2 was tough, Race 3 got even tougher. With a huge split in the fleet, the boats on the Tihany shore looked



like they were pointing at the mark while on the opposite side Krzysztof Stromski was several hundred metres detached from the fleet. When he finally tacked, he crossed back ahead of the entire fleet to round in first from Fionn Lyden and Arkadiy Kistanov. Kistanov took the lead at the gate and pulled away nicely as the wind came in from the left, leaving those on the right stranded. He held his nerve to win.

Wetherell said of the day, *"It was a really shifty gusty day but that was expected. But when you are out there you get to see how shifty it really is so I am quite happy to come away with three counting results today. A lot of guys had some big scores, so I am just trying to keep in the game for now and keep it consistent."*

Olezza: *"Today was a hard day and very puffy, so it was essential to find the right pieces of wind that were coming through the land. I think I was just a little bit lucky that I was in the right spot."*

*"The youth Finn fleet is very strong and we have a pretty big number of sailors now so any small mistake can cost you some points."*





1	FIN 8	Oskari Muhonen	2	(22)	8	7	2	1	20
2	ARG 48	Facundo Olezza	1	3	4	6	(ufd)	11	25
3	IRL 22	Fionn Lyden	11	4	7	(12)	3	2	27
4	GBR 71	Henry Wetherell	4	7	10	8	1	(15)	30
5	NOR 9	Lars Johan Brodtkorb	13	9	(19)	2	14	3	41
6	USA 91	Luke Muller	5	13	5	4	(ufd)	19	46
7	CZE 5	Ondrej Teply	16	1	16	5	10	(17)	48
8	SWE 11	Johannes Pettersson	10	10	9	13	8	(dsq)	50
9	GBR 96	Hector Simpson	9	2	11	(dsq)	23	7	52
10	FRA 9	Guillaume Boisard	8	(20)	2	14	15	13	52
11	GER 259	Phillip Kasueske	3	(40)	3	9	18	23	56
12	ITA 71	Federico Colaninno (U19)	21	8	(28)	16	11	9	65
13	RUS 1	Evgenii Deev	17	16	6	18	9	(ret)	66
14	ARG 1	Santiago Falasca	24	19	13	(25)	5	6	67
15	ESP 235	Joan Cardona Mendez (U19)	7	23	17	3	(ufd)	21	71
16	RUS 5	Evgeniy Bugaevskiy	14	(21)	20	17	6	16	73
17	POL 116	Sebastian Kalafarski	23	(38)	14	1	7	29	74
18	SUI 38	Nils Theuninck	22	14	18	11	12	(30)	77
19	SLO 11	Liam Orel (U19)	12	17	(43)	15	21	18	83
20	GBR 81	James Skulczuk	25	6	24	(34)	25	5	85
21	RUS 6	Arkadiy Kistanov	(ufd)	30	1	20	16	20	87
22	ESP 117	Carlos Ordóñez	26	5	(39)	22	30	8	91
23	AUS 32	Jock Calvert	20	(ufd)	15	21	26	10	92
24	GER 595	Simon Gorgels	15	(34)	25	33	13	14	100
25	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle (U19)	(ufd)	29	22	24	4	25	104
26	GBR 707	Callum Dixon (U19)	6	(39)	30	10	22	37	105
27	GBR 703	Markus Bettum	18	15	29	32	(33)	12	106
28	AUS 1	Lewis Brake	(ufd)	27	12	23	27	22	111
29	GBR 28	Jack Arnell	(ufd)	12	dne	29	29	4	120
30	CAN 63	Gordon Stevens (U19)	28	18	(38)	31	20	27	124
31	SLO 99	Jan Orel	36	11	31	26	34	(39)	138
32	POL 52	Krzysztof Stronski	(ufd)	33	23	19	31	32	138
33	UKR 55	Muzychko German (U19)	29	31	(44)	27	19	35	141
34	TUR 35	Can Akdurak	19	(37)	35	36	28	24	142
35	FIN 118	Waltteri Moisio (U19)	34	35	32	28	17	(40)	146
36	POL 50	Szymon Winiarski	27	24	36	(39)	36	26	149
37	EST 1	Taavi Valter Taveter	(ufd)	32	21	35	37	28	153
38	HUN 911	Elemér Haidekker	30	36	27	(dpi)	24	36	153
39	HUN 56	Martin Tenke (U19)	32	26	37	(38)	35	33	163
40	HUN 80	Domonkos Németh (U19)	35	25	(41)	41	32	31	164
41	BUL 83	Georgi Menchev (U19)	39	28	40	37	42	(dnf)	186
42	BUL 243	Hristo Zheghev (U19)	dpi	dpi	dpi	dpi	40	34	186.9
43	GBR 26	Joe Stocker (U19)	33	(43)	33	42	38	41	187
44	BUL 42	Svetlin Popov (U19)	dpi	dpi	dpi	dpi	39	38	187.9
45	ESP 114	David Ordóñez	37	(44)	42	44	41	42	206



## Day 2

Despite spending four hours on the water, no more racing was possible on Day 2. The sailors were twice sent out, but both times came back empty handed. Everyone expected to lose a day or more of racing, but no one had expected



to lose the second day, which had the second best forecast of the week.

Of the 45 young sailors competing, 15 were under 19 years old, therefore, to recognise this, it was announced that an U19 prize would also be awarded to further encourage those just starting their Finn careers.

## Day 3

Sebastian Kalafarski of Poland confidently won the only race possible on the third day of racing. However Olezza still held a 13-point advantage. Luke Muller moved up three places to second while Wetherell dropped one to third.

After a day of waiting around on shore for breeze the fleet was finally sent out mid-afternoon, as a light southerly had developed. After one false start, the fleet got away in 4-6 knots. The left side paid with those starting at the pin in the leading group. Joan Cardona Mendez

rounded first from Muller and Kalafarski, who started at the boat end. Kalafarski sneaked through on the run and locked into the lifting shift up the second beat, holding a nice lead at the top and down to the finish in the gradually fading wind.

By this point the wind had evaporated in the hot Balaton air, but the race committee persevered and 40 minutes later a new breeze arrived. However it didn't last long and despite one false start, the fleet was sent home.

Muller commented, "It was a bit tricky. I tried to get off the line clean and the guys who turned out best tacked right off the line and held on port for a long time and from there it was really just staying in pressure and keeping the boat speed up."

## Day 4

Another long day of waiting for wind was rewarded with two late races on Day 4. Muhonen won the day to lead the fleet





by five points. Olezza had a day to forget and dropped to second, while Lyden had a stellar day to climb to third.

The long postponement was lifted just after 15.30 with a light southerly established at 6-8 knots and the best breeze for three days.

Lyden led round the top after favouring the left from Wetherell and Méndez. Lyden still led at the gate but a crazy second beat let Wetherell through to the lead. He looked to have it sealed but Muhonen almost passed him near the finish. Three of the top 10 picked up a UFD starting penalty, including regatta leader Olezza.

Brodtkorb led at the top in Race 6 but he infringed Muhonen, who took the lead and sailed away for a huge win. The next boat was not even round the leeward mark as he crossed the finish.

Lyden controlled second place all the way with Jack Arnell moving up to third on the second beat, but was then passed by Brodtkorb on the final downwind.

The race team tried to get a third race in but after two false starts they called it a day with the setting sun spreading its golden light across Lake Balaton.

Lyden said of the day, *"I thought we were done with sailing today, but then they sent out which was good. Both starts were very pin end biased and I managed to get away quite nicely. I was good both top marks and from there I just tried to cover the fleet as best I could to protect the left hand side, which seems to be good here."*

He said he is enjoying his first Finn

regatta. *"It's good so far. It's a really friendly and nice class. I love sailing the Finn. I love the more technical side to it and the downwind with free pumping."*

Muhonen: *"After the bronze in the youth Europeans this year I was thinking about the gold here, as well as getting some good training before the Gold Cup, but I would just be happy with a medal."*

#### DAY 5

The Finn sailors sweltered in the Balaton heat but no racing was possible on Day 5. The breeze just never arrived, so the sailors enjoyed the games sports laid on by MVM on the club lawn.

#### DAY 6

The championship drew to a close after another windless day and with Finn, Oskari Muhonen, as the new U23 World Champion. Facundo Olezza took the silver and Fionn Lyden, the bronze.

In the U19s, Federico Colaninno won from Joan Cardona and Liam Orel.

Sailors gathered at the club from 0700 in the morning hoping against hope that the previous night's forecast of some wind was correct, but it wasn't to be and AP was soon raised for another day sitting round in the blazing sunshine by an unblemished lake. The plug was pulled shortly after 13.00 with no wind expected all day and a cutoff time of 14.30. Even by 17.00 the lake remained motionless with the only movement that of ducks, swimmers and chains of Finn being towed to Balatonföldvár ready for the Opel Finn Gold Cup, which started

the following Friday.

Olezza took silver after a bronze in 2016 and left with a lot of 'what ifs' after losing the overall lead on Friday. Lyden, sailing in his first Finn regatta is clearly going to make a name for himself if he keeps this kind of performance up.

Speaking after the racing was abandoned, Muhonen said, *"I expected we were going to sail today but the weather is what it is. It's a lake so I expected it to be pretty tricky. I knew I was fast in the light but it's always pretty good and surprising to win. My downwind in the light is pretty good but also on the upwind I felt I had really good height."*

At the very first Silver Cup in 2004, Tapio Nirkko from Finland lifted the trophy in Rio de Janeiro. Fourteen years later, Finland had another Finn youth World Champion in Oskari



Muhonen. Nirkko went on to represent Finland in three Olympic Games and is campaigning for a fourth Olympics in Tokyo. His biggest opposition to do that could now come from the young Muhonen.

On being World Champion. *"It feels good to win and it's great. My first world championship title. Pretty amazing."*

Despite the unhelpful weather the MVM SE sailing club did an exceptional job looking after everyone. Great food has been laid on every night and the staff has worked tirelessly to keep everyone fed and watered. The lounge tent on the lawn was active all day and while the sailors may not have improved their sailing skills as much as they would have liked, their table tennis, volleyball and futsal skills improved beyond measure. ≈





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A photograph of a sailboat racing on the water. The boat is white with the number "174" and various sponsor logos including "zhik" and "B". A sailor in a black wetsuit and white cap is leaning over the side of the boat, holding a boom and celebrating with his right arm raised. The background shows other sailboats and a rocky coastline.

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Masters 2016 - Torbole  
8 of 10 boats were D-Fantastica

(C) Berit Hainoja





# Old wooden Finn – new project

Bob Nowakowski POL 26

It is common knowledge the English like classic and vintage yachts or dinghies (please note Classic & Vintage Racing Dinghy Association [www.cvrda.org](http://www.cvrda.org)). In some other countries, including Poland, the old-timers are generally the old vessels, which are still floating and not sinking.

Getting back with memories, I took the non-orthodox strategy of restoring an old Finn, which one of Polish sailing clubs wanted to sell. For a small amount I bought a 50 year old Finn hull. I sanded it thoroughly, then varnished and equipped it with brand new modern fittings and rigging, including a carbon mast, laminated sail, contemporary control lines, comfortable gear and place for hiking, and new coloured ropes contrasting with varnished mahogany and pine wood. I installed a new specially ordered traveller, new deck mast ring, all new cleats and blocks.

Remembering the old and uncomfortable gear of sixties I wanted to have good looking furniture with the ability to be sailed easily, comfortably, safely and relatively fast. The boat was equipped with a set of big pneumatic floating tanks for easy recovering after capsizing. (I have tested this to a turtle position, and after recovery I had the water inside below the floor level, which was easy to take out with bailers.) For a good outlook I bought set of new fabric covers and new trolley.

The Finn design is already nearly 70 years old. There have been decades of constant gear improvement, while the defined hull shape stays practically unchanged. During that time the users worked out perfect fine-tuning of control systems, which recently stay unchanged in all new boats supplied by today's manufacturers. They are far away from their counterparts half a century ago. During the restoration, thinking about the most suitable place for the new elements of the fine-tuning, I came to the conclusion that their modern placements is the effect of the 70 years of the Finn development, so is the best from of previous versions. There are two independent cockpits of seven control lines on both sides of centreboard, easy to handle by hand, also when hiking. Only the mainsheet line goes from the main cockpit.



Restoring my boat I had to make a decision - if it should be "museum antic" with original old fashioned equipment or 50-year old wooden boat, which sails comfortably, safely and easily. Of course I chose the second way, finding that I am not alone in that thinking. As you can read on the website of the British Finn Association <https://finnuk.org.uk/carbon/> in this tradition loving nation has 3 per cent of Finns that are classic with aluminium or wooden mast and Dacron sail, but 12 per cent are "classic with carbon" meaning Finn wooden boats with very modern equipment. Let the costs of this renewal stay my secret.



I feel that the restored boat has its limitations - old vehicles should not go too fast. With this assumption, on this beautiful Finn woman can sail, which is not so popular nowadays. It could be somewhere in the country or maybe, e.g. in Croatia...

I have heard a lot of warm words and congratulations about the job I had done. Finally I had checked the possibility of active sailing on my boat in a Finn regatta last October. It was the surprise that I could fight on the water close to the other Finns. It was the last argument for the type and form of restoration I had chosen. ≈





For the past decade, the Finn class has been supporting sailor's dreams through the Finn Class Development Programme (FIDeS). The current support includes part-funding three sailors to train at the Dinghy Academy in Valencia and with some logistical support.

The three sailors who received funding in 2017 were Oisín McClelland, from Ireland, Ahmad Ahmadi, from Iran, and Rockall Evans, from Bermuda.

Evans moved into the Finn just over a year ago. The grandson of 1976 Finn Olympian Howard Lee, he has set his ambition to qualify and compete at the 2020 Olympic Games in the Finn.

*"The fleet is awesome with tough, tough racing. They are tough boats to race at the top level, so I have to get fitter, do more cardio, get stronger, and better all round. However, I am learning a lot."*

He is certainly the right size for the boat at six and a half feet tall and weighing 103 kg, but knows he has a lot of work to do.

*"I have been in the boat about a year now, racing and training, improving slowly but surely, but I have got to make way more improvement before the first qualifier next year in Aarhus."*

*"My plans after the Gold Cup are to move to Sydney to train from October to February 2018, and then I come back to Europe, maybe to Valencia, training with a new group of guys there in the lead up to the first qualification event in Aarhus in August."*

# Young potential

McClelland has spent most of the year training in Valencia.

*"We got some pretty good training in over the summer. After the Europeans I felt that I had made a big step forwards in boatspeed and set up." He placed 30th out of a fleet of 64.*

*"My goal for the year was to finish top 30 at a major event, so it felt like I'd done well there."*

*"The money from FIDeS had allowed me to train pretty much non stop since the Europeans."*

He says that next for him is a solid winter of training in Valencia.

*"I think this season was a lot of building. I learnt a lot, made some steps and next year I just have to put it all together and move forward. Obviously the goals are a bit higher next year, but the progress is still there. I am still making progress every day I am on the water."*

He was joined on the campaign trail this year by another Irish sailor, Fionn Lyden, who recently picked up the bronze medal at the U23 World Championship.

*"It's a good thing for sure. With another competitor from the same country, it's going to make you wake up better in the morning. When you are*

*feeling a bit groggy it's definitely great motivation. We get along well and we are making plans to train together next season as well."*

Ahmadi is the most recent inclusion in the FIDeS programme and the 2017 Finn Gold Cup was his first major event in the class.

*"I really have a good feeling about the races and the guys and how friendly they are, helping each other and I really appreciate that."*

*"Every race I do I learn something from the start to finish. It has been really good so far in the seven races so far. It was completely different to what I was expecting but since I joined in, it has been a really nice fleet for racing. I really love it, and I am learning all the time."*

For the future, *"I just need to keep training towards my qualification, the worlds in Aarhus and the continental, as well keeping up with the paperwork for the visas and stuff."*

*"I want to sail full time and keep improving in the Finn and sailing fast, so I am really looking forward to having good progress in the coming months." ≈*



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Wilke masts congratulates Giles, Vasilij, Caleb and all other Finn champions for their wins and success at the major regattas around the world.





## BRAZIL



**LUIS MOSQUERA WRITES:** "The second semester started at full speed for the São Paulo Fleet. Coach Bruno di Bernardi from CB Vela, the Brazilian Sailing Federation, offered a four day clinic to Finn sailors focussed on boat speed and steering technique. The Guarapiranga Lake offered all sort of conditions, ranging from shifty light winds to heavy showers. It was a great practice session for the next two regattas scheduled for September.

From September 1-3, 12 sailors got together at Yacht Club Paulista to compete at Campeonato Paulista 2017. The fleet enjoyed three days of great sailing with a steady southerly. Antonio Poncell from Chile won the first race of the day while Ricardo Santos from YCSA won the second. On Saturday the fleet was lined up for the third race and Marcelo Bellotti from PYCETA YC, a decorated Star sailor competed with a borrowed boat was very fast on the runs to get the bullet in Race 3. Ricardo Santos then won Race 4. On the last day Antonio Poncell showed consistency and secured the first overall, followed by Ricardo Santos and Marcelo Belotti. The prize giving ceremony was held at the yacht club and Ms. Georgia Bruder, the daughter of the legendary three time Gold Cup winner Jorg Bruder was the special guest of the night.

1	Antonio Poncell	CYA
2	Ricardo Santos	YCSA
3	Marcelo Bellotti	PYCETA YC



## SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

A week later 14 sailors from São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasília and Santiago do Chile crossed the lake towards Yacht Club Santo Amaro to attend the South American Championship. This time the wind was not so generous and the race committee did magic to complete five races. Ricardo Santos, sailing for the first time with his brand new Fantastica dominated the first and second races, followed by Antonio Poncell and Pedro Lodovici from YCP.



On the following day, Pedro Lodovici mastered the light winds to win the third race, followed by Ubiratan 'Bira' Matos from SEESP. Antonio Poncell won the fourth race followed by Ricardo Santos and Felipe Gil from CYH. In this case we had two Chilean sailors in the top three positions in race four. Race 5 was critical with an early start to Antonio Poncell. He didn't return and was OCS. Juliano Camargo Rosas from YCB won Race 5 followed by Ricardo Santos and Robert Rittscher from YCP. With this combination of results Ricardo Santos had a one-point advantage over Antonio Poncell. On the last day, all sailors were on the water at 10.00 am for a light wind start. After lots of wind shifts and variation of intensity, Robert Rittscher was leading the fleet, followed by Juliano Camargo Rosas. On the final approach to the top mark in the second beat, Ricardo Santos tacked below Antonio Poncell and slightly touched the Chilean bow. Drama while Ricardo was making his turns and Antonio was catching up the leaders. When Robert Rittscher was less than 100 meters from the finish line the wind died completely and the race



committee abandoned the race. The fleet was sent to the club and the sailors waited for the wind. At 4.00 pm the time limit was over and Ricardo Santos was crowned the new South American Championship. Antonio Poncell was the runner up and Pedro Lodovici was third.

The awards ceremony was held at the yacht club ballroom with a great celebration. At this moment all sailors are planning the next South American Championship to be raced in Santiago, Chile.

1	Ricardo Santos	YCSA
2	Antonio Poncell	CYA
3	Pedro Lodovici	YCP

## TAÇA ALBERTO RAVAZZANO 2017

Over the weekend of September 30 and October 1, the Rio de Janeiro Yacht Club organised the annual edition of Taça Alberto Ravazzano.

Three races were sailed in the mythical Guanabara Bay, the venue of the 2016 Olympic Games and Arnaldo Fernandes from ICRJ was the champion, followed by Jorge Rodrigues also from ICRJ and Thiago Moraes from CRG. ≈

1	Arnaldo C. Fernandes	2 1 2
2	Jorge Rodrigues	6 2 1
3	Tiago Moraes	6 3 3
4	Andre Mirsky	1 6 6
5	Guilherme Galliez Pinto Avelino	6 6 6



# Finn races around the world





## DENMARK



### RICHARD BERG-LARSEN WRITES:

The Danish Finn class is now ready for the winter season. The yearly Bacon Cup commences the winter season, where about 30-50 per cent of the Danes who sail through the winter place and leave their boats in Vallengsbæk until the Kastrup Cup, which is normally sailed in early May.

The Kastrup Cup will be May 5-6 in 2018, after which the dinghies will be driven back to their home ports for the summer season.

The Bacon Cup is open for large dinghies, and was sailed in A-Cats and Finns this year.

There were 15 Finns on the starting line, managing to get three races done before the signal went out from the clubhouse that the 26 kg of pork meat was about to be served.

The wind was quite tricky, and Michael Staal managed the difficult conditions best of all. ≈

1	DEN 80	Michael Staal	8
2	DEN 231	Christian Jørgensen	11
3	DEN 46	Martin Mikkelsen	12
4	DEN 212	Jan Peetz	19
5	DEN 44	Svend Erik Molbeck	19
6	DEN 20	Casper Elkjær	19
7	DEN 249	Svend V Andersen	21
8	DEN 1	Frank Hansen	21
9	DEN 962	Allan	24
10	DEN 246	Jens Kristian	27



## FRANCE



### FRANCOIS RICHARD WRITES:

Regeneration will remain the key word of 2017 first semester for the French Finn class. Since the Cannes races in February many of French national and regional events saw the rise of young and new Finn guys. Some are former Laser guys, others came from Europe dinghy; in both cases they gained size and weight with finally no other option but Finn racing. At other major events like Hyeres World Cup or the Europeans, outclassed by Jonathan Lobert or Fabian Pic, they followed more than they led, but they also learned rapidly. So did Valerian Lebrun the 2016 Europe class world champion, and Guillaume Boisard. While Valerian has not reached the standard Finn champion calibre, since he's medium sized and just over 80kg, Guillaume Boisard has grown impressively. In addition, practice at La Rochelle, the best location in France to improve next to Jonathan Lobert, Fabian Pic and Laurent Hay plus several other keen and expert masters, or grand masters.

After numerous Finn Gold Cups, Finn Europeans and French Nationals (2009), the Société des Régates Rochelaises hosted the French open nationals on its world famous bay. 53 entrants represented eleven nations and most expected Laurent Hay to be the hot favourite.

Laurent had won 2016 French championships while achieving very consistent results in medium and high wind. On Day 1 at La Rochelle he raced on equal terms with Spanish Victor Gorostegui. Both got a bullet and a second in 15 knots wind and current, and the La Rochelle combination of swell and chop. Apart from master Christoph Christen, all followers were part of the Finn new wave. Devineau, Boisard, Montagut and Merceron plus the young Turk Can Akdurak.

For Day 2 the wind was first light then increasing to 18-20 knots. Race 3 was another win for Laurent Hay. As usual in heavier conditions Laurent persevered but speed and efficiency was shown by Boisard and Merceron. In the event Eliot Merceron was a guest star. He was lent a Fantastica hull by Laurent Hay and wisely listened Laurent's advise on how to trim a Finn. Merceron then showed his obvious talent as the second best French Laser sailor. He's still too light to seriously join the fleet and most probably he will campaign for Switzerland for Tokyo 2020 on a Laser, since he enjoys dual nationality. He should normally qualify easily. During Race 4, Gorostegui



was left behind, then he tried harder to close the gap but capsized midway downwind. When he got his Finn upright he realised that his mast top was broken, so he retired from Races 4 and 5.

He could took another win and a fourth in Races 6 and 7, when Laurent Hay was doing his worst with sixth and seventh. The north-westerly winds were gone for final race which was started in under 5 knots of easterly winds. It was flat calm and the options lightly favoured the right side of upwind leg. Being easy and fast in heavy airs Boisard once again expressed excellent speed to round second at mark 1. He then followed lightweight Tarnowski around a shortened course. At the opposite of right good side of upwind leg Laurent Hay rounded bad but could strike back to top finishers with a fourth. This was not sufficient for him to keep his French Finn champion title which became Boisard's first major success in the French fleet.

After many years in the Europe class to be one of the best, Boisard joined for two years the Etudes sport centre at La Rochelle to race on Laser, and then the past six months on Finn. His impressive score: 4,5,2,1,3,3,1,2 left him six points ahead of Hay and Merceron while Devineau, another young promising talent was fourth only two points behind.

For some 15 years Marc Allain de Beauvais, President of IFA France didn't miss the event except for this 2017 edition due to family celebrations. Anyhow he organised it on the long term with clear intentions to set its future international evolution and attract numerous foreign competitors of all generations. The high reputation of the host club at La Rochelle and quality of several local entrants made this year's edition both a nice event on the race course and on shore. ≈

1	FRA 297	Guillaume Boissard	16
2	FRA 75	Laurent Hay	22
3	FRA 7	Eliot Merceron	22
4	FRA 2	Antoine Devineau	23
5	SUI 5	Christoph Christen	48
6	NZL 64	Brendan McCarty	50
7	TUR 35	Can Akdurak	52
8	FRA 89	Benjamin Montagut	60
9	FRA 38	Michel Audoin	73
10	ESP 85	Victor Gorostegui	75





**IT HAS BEEN** another busy season in the UK with great turnouts at most of the major events. This was best reflected in the **British Finn Travellers Trophy** for the Silver Finn Trophy, a much sought after prize across the Finn Fleet. The trophy, which was first awarded to Vernon Stratton in 1963, records the names of many famous and influential Finn sailors. It is a trophy that takes pride of place on any Finn sailor's mantelpiece.

The 2017 BFA Travellers trophy had 76 sailors compete at one or more events through the year. Six venues hosted seven BFA



events to count for the Travellers Trophy, with Menegham Rythe SC hosting both an open event and the Southern Championships. Sailors counted their best six results, which had to include the National Championships at Thorpe Bay.

U23 sailor Cameron Tweedle took the title for the second year in succession but the result was not secured until the last race at the last event in Warsash. Cameron was pushed to record a good final result by Jack Arnell and the consistent and tenacious master Cy Grisley. Both Jack and Cy attended every one of the seven Travellers Series events and their podium finish reflects both their strong results and commitment to the class all year.

Cameron's final position as the top U23 sailor, plus Jack's as runner-up, qualifies them both for a BFA grant to assist with entry and travel to the 2018 Silver Cup.

1	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle, U23	22
2	GBR 28	Jack Arnell, U23	41
3	GBR 69	Cy Grisley, M	47
4	FIN 201	Kristian Sjoberg, GM	33
5	GBR 88	Jon Tweedle, M	73
6	GBR 2	Allen Burrell, GM	74
7	GBR 90	Richard Sharp, M	74
8	GBR 707	Callum Dixon, U23	112
9	GBR 61	John Heyes, GM	114
10	GBR 21	Michael De Courcy, GM	135

Menegham Rythe welcomed 17 Finns to the **Southern Area Championship** on 9-10 September. Although depleted by the adverse forecast and attendance at the Gold Cup, new and returning sailors were welcomed to the fleet, which was given an international flavour with two Finnish boats joining the line up



With a forecast of 40 knots for the Sunday, race officer Robert McDonald dispatched the fleet to Hayling Bay east with four races scheduled for the day. The breeze crept up gradually through the afternoon, averaging 16-20 knots with the occasional 25 knot gust thrown in for good measure. The developing wind against the tide resulted in some great downwind surfing in the latter races with a few capsizes to keep the race crew busy.

Jack Arnell, freshly back from Hungary, showed great pace taking the first three races and was heading for a fourth before gear failure resulted in his retirement. Julian Smith showed great consistency and downwind pace to take second overall, closely followed by Kristian Sjoberg in third.

Having reviewed the forecast back at the clubhouse the decision was taken to abandon racing on the Sunday.

1	GBR 28	Jack Arnell	3
2	GBR 720	Julian Smith	6
3	FIN 201	Kristian Sjoberg	8
4	GBR 8	Tim Carver	9
5	GBR 21	Mike de Courcy	11
6	GBR 90	Richard Sharp	15
7	GBR 100	Mathew Walker	21
8	GBR 69	Cy Grisley	22
9	GBR 22	Andrew Wylam	25
10	GBR 88	Jonathan Tweedle	28

Forty five Finns gathered at sunny Southend-on-Sea for the **GAC Pindar 2017 British National Championships**, on September 22-24 for an exciting mix of every age group from U23 tigers to the veterans and legends, plus international entries from Sweden, Finland



Netherlands and Ireland.

Overall Hector Simpson (above left) proved a clear winner, discarding a fifth to record a low score of just 14 points. Second to fourth was separated by only a single point – highlighting the quality and competition between the members of the Under 23 group.

At the prize giving the Sunday Times Gold Cup was awarded to Hector Simpson, adding his name to the prestigious list of previous British Finn National Champions. As well as prizes for age categories, Legend winner Howard Sellars (above right) from Warsash was also presented with the Till –Torrance Trophy, in memory of two popular characters in the fleet who passed away in during the year.

1	GBR 96	Hector Simpson	14
2	GBR 81	James Skulczuk	23
3	GBR 29	Peter McCoy	24
4	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle	24
5	GBR 707	Callum Dixon	30
6	GBR 2	Allen Burrell	37
7	GBR 37	Simon Percival	48
8	FIN 201	Kristian Sjoberg	55
9	GBR 28	Jack Arnell	57
10	GBR 567	Martin Hughes	64

Warsash Sailing Club hosted the 2017 British Finn Association **UK Masters** and the final Open meeting of the year. This popular end of season event was supported by 29 sailors, most of whom were at least Masters, with a spattering of Grand Masters, Great Grand Masters plus one Legend. But true to form the U23 squad turned out in force to fight for the Open title and provided excitement and the occasional lesson for the old hands. ≈

1	GBR 96	Hector Simpson	8
2	GBR 98	Cameron Tweedle	12
3	GBR 28	Jack Arnell	19
4	GBR 81	James Skulczuk	21
5	GBR 581	Alex Atkins, M	29
6	GBR 61	John Heyes, GM	29
7	GBR 707	Callum Dixon	36
8	GBR 2	Allen Burrell, GM	39
9	GBR 69	Cy Grisley, M	39
10	GBR 567	Martin Hughes, GGM	54



## ITALY



**MARGO BUGLIELLI WRITES:** The final event of Coppa Italia Finn 2017 was the classic **International Finn Cup - Andrea Menoni Trophy**, which took place in Malcesine (Lake Garda) at the end of September.

It was a great event, with 70 Finns participating from 11 countries, including all current World champions: Max Salminen returning from the victory in the Finn Gold Cup, the U23 champion Oskari Muhonen and the Finn World Masters winner Vladimir Krutskikh.

Six races were sailed with the Ora (Garda southern wind) blowing from 6 to 12 knots, less than usual but with the Oscar flag flying in three races.

After three bullets in the first day, Salminen went on to control the next three races and won with a nine points margin on second placed, the young finnish Oskari Muhonen. Third place went to Italian Enrico Voltolini, winner of the Andrea Menoni for the second consecutive year, followed by another Junior, the Swiss Nils Theuninck, and the Master champion Vladimir Krutskikh.

Organisation was good as always in Malcesine and the prizegiving was enriched by a lottery where nice prizes were drawn. Prizes included Zhik



wetsuits and lifejackets offered by the Negrinautica shop in Torbole and nice bags and accessories made with sailing cloth and offered by Kevlove curious bags, a firm based in Bogliaco on lake Garda.

1	SWE 33	Max Salminen	8
2	FIN 8	Oskari Muhonen	17
3	ITA 66	Enrico Voltolini	18
4	SUI 38	Nils Theuninck	20
5	RUS 212	Vladimir Krutskikh	22
6	FIN 218	Tapio Nirkko	23
7	ITA 117	Alessio Spadoni	37
8	ITA 123	Filippo Baldassari	42
9	FIN 225	Mikael Hyrylainen	45
10	SWE 11	Johannes Pettersson	57

### COPPA ITALIA 2017

Malcesine was the last event of Coppa Italia Finn 2017.

Overall 28 races were sailed over seven weekends (Anzio, Caldaro, Grado, Castiglione della Pescaia, Dervio, Ancona and Malcesine), with very good conditions and only a few races missed, most of which were unfortunately in Ancona at the beginning of September, where a few storms didn't allow any racing.

87 Italian competitors participated in at least one event, plus several foreign Finns from all over the world.

The overall winner was Marko Kolic from Garda lake, who had won before in 2010. Marko didn't win any event but was always in the first few places and very consistent. Second place went to Marco Buglielli and third to Giacomo Giovanelli, followed by Tommaso Ronconi and Alessandro Cattaneo. First Junior was Federico Colaninno in ninth place, while Master categories went

to Giacomo Giovanelli (Master), Marco Buglielli (Grand Master), Marco Viti (Grand Grand Master, 7th overall) and Franco Dazzi (Legend, 31st overall).

Coppa Italia is supported by a pool of sponsors: Quantum Sail Design Group, 3FL Saildesign, WB-Sails, HitechSailing.com, Bertacca Sail Equipment, Residence Ca' del Lago, Garnell, Behind the Cloud, Demetz Bolzano and Negrinautica. ≈

1	ITA 40	Marko Kolic	622
2	ITA 2	Marco Buglielli	607
3	ITA 202	Giacomo Giovanelli	597
4	ITA 234	Tommaso Ronconi	565
5	ITA 191	Alessandro Cattaneo	508
6	ITA 114	Roberto Benedetti	482
7	ITA 98	Marco Viti	319
8	ITA 19	Nicola Roncoroni	365
10	ITA 71	Federico Colaninno	352
10	ITA 6	Enrico Passoni	343



## JAPAN



**THE JSF ENOSHIMA** Olympic Week 2017 was the first Finn event at the 2020 Olympic venue in the quad. A number of sailors had been training there during 2017, including Giles Scott, who made his return to the class with another victory, winning five races in the shortened seven race series. ≈

1	GBR 41	Giles Scott	7
2	AUS 1	Jake Lilley	14
3	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	18
4	GBR 91	Ben Cornish	21
5	AUS 261	Oliver Tweddell	27
6	GBR 71	Henry Wetherell	31
7	JPN 3	Yuji Fujimura	44
8	SWE 33	Max Salminen	45







## TO POLDER

**HARRY VAN DE Pavert** writes: During the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of September the Randmeerrace as well as the ONK Finn Master 2017 were sailed. Two titles in one event, a nice "polder model".

Due to the land reclamation a fantastic recreational lake was created where WSV Randmeer has its housing. As always we were warmly welcomed. Over 50 active competitors were going after the nice prizes. And that was not going to be easy as the weather forecast promised no wind.

On Saturday too little wind came from the south, so we had a delay. The race committee saw wind from the North and started the race. Many sailors (especially those from Loosdrecht) had to get used to sailing with wet feet, but fortunately the race committee provided a nice water temperature.

They were right to start as a nice breeze came along. The wind turned fiercely which meant you had to be on the right side. But our chairman Chris showed us how you do things in Harderwijk. A nice first place. In the second Chris had the same intentions but his enthusiasm was overwhelming and he started just a little sooner than the rest of us. He was excluded. Karel van Hellemond followed his chairman blindly and he too started to soon....Hans Zuurendonk removed all the seaweed from his rudder and gained such speed that he had his second early start. Tijmen van Rootselaar won this second race, closely followed by Eric Bakker.

Evgenia, one of the female participants, sailed to a beautiful sixth

place, right behind Chiel Barends, who made a reference to the Dutch male and female football teams. At the buoy there was an altercation between Evgenia and Lacus Jan. Lacus Jan explained that this was a linguistic misunderstanding. Nice way to "polder".

The wind remained, increased and decreased with sometimes tricky changes in direction. We managed to sail four races with the pumping flag on one leg of the course. Cees Scheurwater saw this immediately and put all of his energy in that moment. He did this so effectively that footage is made of his achievements. He seems to have been asked for giving a master class. Of course the footage is for sale afterwards. However the last race of Saturday was also won by Tijmen. Eric Bakker was leading at the end of the day. The weather forecast for Sunday was awful as far as the wind was concerned.

Then we had a very tasty barbecue. We had a delicious meal and talked a lot, while enjoying the still lovely weather. All the differences of opinion and the steering mistakes were soon forgotten over a few drinks.

Very little wind on Sunday but we did go sailing. We only did one race. While passing the start boat many suggestions were made to end this suffering. It works to "polder"; the race was shortened at the buoy. Tijmen won this one too, thus having three first places.

He calls himself a light weather specialist. I tend to agree. Eric was 7th.

The wind was gone and the committee decided to end it. The final scores were counted up.

Winner of the Randmeerrace: Tijmen van Rootselaar (NED 94)

Dutch Champion Finn Master 2017: Eric Bakker (GM). He collected a lot

of prizes, but it seemed he was also celebrating his birthday on Sunday.

1st Master: Ronald Ruiter (NED 67)

1st GGM: Jan Zetzema

1st Legend: Pax v.d. Griend

Chris thanked the people that organised the races and the jury members.

A special thanks to the foreign competitors.

We can look back on a nice weekend in the polder.

This text was written as a novel.

No rights can be derived from inaccuracies.

1	NED 94	Tijmen van Rootselaar, S	12
2	NED 703	Eric Bakker, M	15
3	NED 27	Paul Kamphorst, M	26
4	NED 66	Ewout Meijer, GM	32
5	GER 700	Martin Hofmann, GM	36
6	NED 995	Arjan Vos, S	38
7	NED 82	Roel Lubberts, GM	38
8	NED 7	Cees Scheurwater, GM	44
9	NED 50	Jan Zetzema, GGM	45
10	NED 128	Harry v.d. Pavert, GGM	53

## 2017 DUTCH OPEN FINN CHAMPIONSHIP

**CEES SCHEURWATER WRITES:** It must have been one of those special weekend for the many Dutch Finn sailors.. too much involved in graduation ceremonies, working pressure, sabbatical starts, birthdays, holiday or afraid of long travelling distances in our big country etc etc.. and so not able to participate in the 2017 Finn National Championship... Nevertheless, a small group of 32 sailors found the spirit to compete in the famous Medemblik area to battle for the honour of title of National Champion in the Finn Class of Holland. While avoiding to end up in boring stories on puffs and lulls left and right I'd like to share some observations.

Since a long time the podium at the end of the series was taken by surprisingly young guys. No fat-bellied, burned down and sour and stiff masters, but three young gods in the power of their life. I would say: open up that bottle of champagne! Even better of course was that one of those men recently won the Aarhus testing event and finished third at the Balaton Gold Cup. We are talking Nicholas Heiner of course. After having sailed with and against his old man, it was my pleasure to compete this new Dutch hope for Tokyo. Men, are we happy about that or what?

Secondly this series was characterized by remarkably close racing. Seldom did I see so close finishing at the end of all races. This meant exciting races where (sort of) everybody could win, or at least could



Ellen Lubbers





have had the illusive feeling of being able to win, a nice sensational feeling that lasts really long. Although, the disillusion grows with the illusion I reckon. But.. the tension was on.. good racing.

Last but not least one could see some technical development in the fleet.. the number of Fantastics is slowly growing. The proud number two of this championship, recognized for his smart beat sailing, looked even smarter due to a extraordinary good combination of speed and height. Really impressive, well done Nanno.

Well, okay, another less important observation.. the weather was pretty squally. Not impressed by the land wind oscillations, we encounter those more in our lake rich country, but it was the amount of rainfall that made us wonder. Wow, did it rain. Even parts of the harbour were flooded. The happy catamaran people simply stood ankle deep in water. Never saw that before in Holland.

We have to appreciate the committee. Circumstances definitely were not easy to handle but they managed to lay perfect race courses. Remarkable though was the fact that jury boats were nowhere to find. Somebody must have an explanation. Happy to hear why sooner or later. ≈

1	NED 89	Nicholas Heiner	12
2	NED 787	Nanno Schuttrups	24
3	NED 94	Tijmen van Rootelaar	26
4	NED 41	Karel Hellemond	30
5	NED 703	Eric Bakker	39
6	NED 68	Martijn Van Muyden	50
7	NED 972	Tobias Kirschbaum	52
8	NED 995	Arjan Vos	59
9	NED 40	Peter Aukema	78
10	NED 7	Cees Scheurwater	80



## POLAND

### BOGUSŁAW NOWAKOWSKI WRITES:

Gdynia, which will be the venue of 2020 Europeans, hosted the Polish Sprint Championships in July with 12 sailors. The event had short races lasting 5-10 minutes. The participants were divided into three groups for qualifications and after eight races the top eight were qualified to two semi-finals with four boats in each. Piotr Kula won a one-race final for top four (two from each semi-finals).

1	POL 17	Piotr Kula
2	POL 16	Mikołaj Lahn
3	POL 18	Bartosz Ptak
4	POL 8	Łukasz Lesiński
5	POL 50	Szymon Winiarski
6	POL 73	Andrzej Romanowski
7	POL 13	Oskar Adamiak
8	POL 116	Sebastian Kalafarski
9	POL 27	Piotr Rosiński
10	POL 52	Krzysztof Stromski

The North Sails Polish Masters took place in Świnoujście (Bay of Pomerania) in August with 12 participants. The prize for the regatta winner was a discount voucher for Finn sail sponsored by the North Sails who also sponsored a clinic conducted by multiple Finn national champion Wacław Szukiel before the Nord Cup regatta in June. The races were preceded by a three day clinic managed by the Gold Cup 1981 bronze medalist and triple Polish national champion Mirosław Rychcik. In medium winds and strong current the three-day competition was finally won by Andrzej Romanowski from Marcin Mrówczyński and Marek Jarocki. The event was also a trial of a new regatta area with open sea conditions, long waves and strong current making competition hard.

1	POL 73	Andrzej Romanowski
2	POL 87	Marcin Mrówczyński
3	POL 100	Marek Jarocki
4	GER 146	Friedrich Müller
5	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski
6	GER 92	Detlev Gumiński
7	POL 55	Lesław Świstelnicki
8	POL 38	Juliusz Reichelt
9	POL 27	Piotr Rosiński
10	POL 31	Maciej Rozkrut



In September Gdańsk again hosted the Polish Nationals with 20 Finn sailors. The first two days races were challenging conditions with wind between 15-32 knots. On the third day the wind dropped to 8-12 knots. The title defender and main favourite Piotr Kula who a week before finished seventh in the Gold Cup caught a cold before the regatta and needed three days of fighting and a medal race to win his seventh Polish title. As in 2016, second was Mikołaj Lahn and third Łukasz Lesiński.

1	POL 17	Piotr Kula
2	POL 16	Mikołaj Lahn
3	POL 8	Łukasz Lesiński
4	POL 116	Sebastian Kalafarski
5	POL 73	Andrzej Romanowski
6	POL 52	Krzysztof Stromski
7	POL 18	Bartosz Ptak
8	POL 50	Szymon Winiarski
9	POL 87	Marcin Mrówczyński
10	POL 13	Oskar Adamiak

The final of the Polish Cup competition was in October during the Warsaw Championship taking place at Zegrzynski Lake near Warsaw. Since the prize for the winner was a new North sail, 22 sailors came which was the highest number in 2017 season. In light and medium wind Piotr Kula again won from Łukasz Lesiński and 17 year old Oskar Adamiak who started sailing the Finn this year.

The Polish Sprint Cup was also won by Piotr Kula from Łukasz Lesiński and Andrzej Romanowski. ≈

### Polish Cup 2017 Final Ranking

1	POL 17	Piotr Kula
2	POL 8	Łukasz Lesiński
3	POL 73	Andrzej Romanowski
4	POL 18	Bartosz Ptak
5	POL 18	Krzysztof Stromski
6	POL 14	Piotr Mazur
7	POL 87	Marcin Mrówczyński
8	POL 26	Bogusław Nowakowski
9	POL 25	Marek Kubat
10	POL 21	Jacek Bińkowski



Photos: Jacek Kwiatkowski



## RUSSIA

### VASILY KRAVCHENKO WRITES:

The traditional **Open Russian Finn Association Championship (Open Russian)** was held in Moscow from August, 22-27. The regatta was the final stage of Andrey Balashov Cup and a stage of Russian Cup in Finn class. It is also the Russian Finn Masters championship.

In spite of the fact that the regatta was overlapped by the Silver Cup and Gold Cup this year, resulting in several strong athletes unable to participate, the Open Russian attracted 46 athletes from Germany, Estonia, UK and from nine regions of Russia. It was encouraging to see a significant increase in juniors – at the start there were 14 young athletes. Many of them have shown a good level of competition and perspective for future results.

The timing of the regatta was selected to the windy period. This year the weather did not disappoint sailors and organizers: all races were sailed with good wind and sun.

Lake conditions with gusts and shifts from numerous clouds made the races very interesting and unpredictable.

Former Byelorussian sailor Konstantin Lashuk, who has been training hard in Moscow in the Finn for the last four years and managed to get Russian citizenship only last year, took the lead of the regatta from the first day. His hard work and dedication gave a logical result – for the medal race, he was unreachable by his rivals and became the absolute winner of the regatta.

As for the other places on the podium and in the top ten – here the intrigue was maintained throughout the regatta up until the last moments of the medal race. These places were fought between by Kirill Luzan (Anapa), Yuri Bozhedomov



(Sevastopol), Felix Denikaev (Moscow), Mikhail Yatsun (Sochi-Krasnoyarsk) and Alexey Zhivotovsky (Moscow region). All of them were close to the top at different stages of the regatta. The final ranking in the competition was only delivered by the medal race.

Kirill Luzan, who was in second position before the medal race, got OCS and dropped out of the competition for the medals to fifth place. Junior sailor Michael Yatsun managed to win the medal race, and it lifted him to second overall. The bronze medal was taken by an experienced athlete from the Masters category, Yuri Bozhedomov, (Sevastopol) from Alexey Zhivotovsky just by 1 point.

1	RUS 12	Konstantin Lashuk	17,9
2	RUS 88	Mihail Yatsun (J)	44
3	RUS 575	Juriy Bozhedomov (M)	53
4	RUS 32	Aleksey Zhivotovskiy	54
5	RUS 111	Kirill Luzan (J)	60
6	RUS 171	Aleksandr Kravchenko (M)	75
7	RUS 41	Felix Denikaev (GM)	79
8	RUS 707	Viktor Pil'gunov (J)	103
9	RUS 17	Vasiliy Kravchenko (M)	119
10	RUS 14	Georgij Emeretli (J)	120

Official website: [www.open-russian.ru](http://www.open-russian.ru)

Following the Open Russian, Konstantin Lashuk became a winner of the **Andrey Balashov Cup** for 2017.

1	RUS 12	Konstantin Lashuk	115
2	RUS 11	Kirill Luzan	102
3	RUS 88	Mihail Yatsun	95
4	RUS 17	Vasiliy Kravchenko	92
5	RUS 63	Ivan Guree	89
6	RUS 32	Aleksey Zhivotovskiy	75
7	RUS 6	Yuri Bozhedomov	67
8	RUS 41	Felix Denikaev	64
9	RUS 28	Kirill Kolyachenko	62
10	RUS 51	Mikhail Petruga	56



### The International University Sailing

Cup continues to promote sailing sport among students. It was held by Russian Finn Association for the fifth time in Moscow under endorsement of FISU (International University Sport Federation) from August 14-21.

Support of sport among students is getting stronger from governments, and it may grow in parallel to the Olympic Games. At this moment there is growing relationships between countries in terms of students sport, and it may help students to get budgets for participations in international competitions and for team exchanges.

The Russian Finn Association is trying to use the chance to promote sailing and Finn class in this new trend. The annual international sailing regatta is set by Russian Finn Association, and the regatta has a stable format now, which involves boys and girls, to keep the sailing competition at a high level, and to build a good atmosphere for communication and exchange. Free boats charter, meal and accommodation for guests teams made the participation conditions affordable and attractive for young sailors.



This time about 50 students (boys and girls) from 30 Universities competed in three classes: Finn, Snipe and Luch (analogue of Laser). All three classes had a high level of competition. Nine races were carried out in each class. Artur Kotlyarov (Saint-Petersburg State University) won the Cup in the Finn class from Yatsun Mikhail and Kolyachenko Kirill.

Russian Finn Association plans to continue this tradition in 2018 – to hold IUSC 2018 on August 21-26. We are inviting our friends from all countries – there will be good competition for boys and girls. The same attractive conditions will be provided for the sailors, while RFA and Russian Students Sport Federation can arrange invitation supportive letters to your universities. The regatta will be followed by Open Russian. So Finners will have good chance for two weeks of interesting sailing competition.

Official website is [www.iusc.ru](http://www.iusc.ru)

We invite other NFAs to initiate universities sailing competitions in your countries in order to intensify student's team exchange and to make Finners' lives easier during their university studies. ≈



## SWITZERLAND



### 2017 INTERNATIONAL SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP

**BEAT STEFFEN WRITES**, For the 2017 International Swiss Championship, held from June 23-26, 52 competitors were on the starting line in Silvaplana, the iconic mountain lake 1,300 metres above sea level with its famous Maloya wind.



With some delay and a bit less wind than usual, the championship got under way with two races on Wednesday. Contrary to common knowledge, the left (forest) side seemed favoured, especially in the second heat. Uli Breuer took the first day with a second and a first. Thursday and Friday were perfect sailing days with fantastic weather and Maloya wind at its best, gusting over 20 knots, allowing for three races each day. Left or right was the question, splitting the fleet 50:50 race after race. But after eight heats sailed, the usual suspects had it right more often than not. On the eve of the medal race, Christoph Christen led with 12 points ahead of Uli Breuer with 18 and Christoph Burger and Roberto Strapatti with 20 each. The medal race turned into a showdown between Burger and



Christen, with Tommaso Ronconi placing second behind Burger and ahead of Christen.

With a solid third in the medal race, Christoph Christen had done enough to win his sixth Swiss Championship, ahead of Christoph Burger and Roberto



Strappati. Congratulations to Christoph for this fantastic achievement.

1	SUI 5	Christoph Christen	18
2	SUI 7	Christoph Burger	22
3	ITA 115	Roberto Strapatti	28
4	GER 707	Uli Breuer	32
5	ITA 234	Tommaso Ronconi	39
6	ITA 8	Florian Demetz	68
7	SUI 100	Patrick Fleischhacker	77
8	GER 22	Martin Mitterer	79
9	GER 165	Dirk Meid	87
10	NED 999	Hein Bloemers	90

### COUPE DE LEMAN, MORGES

The third Coupe de Léman in Morges, from September 16-17, saw more wind and lower temperatures than in previous years. 12 boats from three nations sailed three races on Saturday in 4-5 knots from the west. After a Fondue and fireworks on the lake, this first day concluded with a concert by the French Mountain Men.



Sunday allowed another five races in shifty 6-10 knots from the west, again.

Patrick Ducommun, "le Duc" from the Circle de la Voile de Grandson, excelled in these conditions and produced a 1,2,3,3,8, just enough to win the series with 22 points ahead of Ettore Thermes from the local club Morgien with 23 points and Carlo Lazzari with 25. ≈

1	SUI 72	Patrick Ducommun	22
2	SUI 98	Ettore Thermes	23
3	SUI 3	Carlo Lazzari	25
4	SUI 65	Thomas Bangerter	28
5	SUI 11	François Germain	32
6	FRA 40	Joseph Rochet	33
7	FRA 50	Michel Baudin	36
8	SUI 62	Samir Saydjari	49
9	SUI 58	Gérald Birbaum	52
10	FRA 55	Arnaud Baudin	73



## USA



### 2017 US FINN NATIONALS

Held by Encinal YC on San Francisco Bay from August 2-6 with 19 entries. Kyle Martin won every race except the first which was won by Rob Coutts.

1	CAN 2	Kyle Martin	9
2	USA 11	Phil Toth	29
3	B109	Charles Linsey	34
4	USA 9	Rob Coutts	37
5	USA 74	Henry Sprague	37
6	USA 70	Eric Anderson	57
7	USA 6	Max Rohr	59
8	USA 303	Joe Chinburg	68
9	USA 75	David Alexander	70
10	USA 234	Michael Brandon	80



### 2017 NORTH AMERICAN FINN MASTERS

Held at North Cape Yacht Club from August 24-27 with 22 entries.

1	USA 35	Darrell Peck	14
2	USA 101	Peter Frissell	16
3	USA 67	Remko Boot	21
4	USA 40	Charles Rudinsky	32
5	USA 117	Michael Mark	35
6	USA 12	Steve Landeau	39
7	USA 9	Rob Coutts	40
8	USA 74	Henry Sprague	42
9	CAN 27	Simon Van Wonderen	51
10	USA 23	James Hunter	51







# 2017 IFA AGM and 2016 Accounts

**INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION  
2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
BALATONFÖLDVÁR, HUNGARY**

## **MINUTES**

3rd of September 2017  
9.30 am Balatonföldvár YC

### **1. NATIONAL CLASS ASSOCIATIONS**

List of National Class Associations (NCA) and the Treasurer's statement of the NCA Representatives' voting powers based on the IFA dues received.

### **2. AGENDA**

The Agenda was approved with the addition of the discussion on Events entry fees and a discussion raised by the President on the development of a class environmental sustainability plan. The minutes from the 2016 IFA AGM (previously circulated on IFA website and to secretaries) were approved.

### **3. ACCOUNTS**

a. The 2016 accounts were approved – (unanimous) – Treasurer's report in APP1.  
b. The 2017/2018 budget was approved with the inclusion of the following additions taking effect January 1st, 2018:  
(i) an increase of the event entry fees from 200€ to 300€ to allow for more media coverage and race management quality - for 28, 10 abstentions  
(ii) an increase of the annual membership fee from 25€ to 30€ - for 29, against 4, abstain 1

### **4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

All reports (posted on the website) noted and approved (unanimous)

### **5. ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS TO IFA COMMITTEES**

a. To elect the members of the Executive Committee

(i) The President is re-elected (with the President abstaining from the vote)  
(ii) Current VP Sailing Björn Allansson is stepping down. Rafa Trujillo (ESP) is elected as VP Sailing.  
(iii) The VP Development Alejandro Foglia resigned. Marc Allain des Beauvais (FRA) is elected as VP Development.  
(iv) The Treasurer is re-elected  
b. The Technical Committee Chairman resigned. Paul McKenzie is elected as TC Chairman  
Besides the current members Can Akdurak (TUR) and Brendan McCarty (NZL) are elected onto the Technical Committee as new members  
c. The members of the Marketing Committee are re-elected.

### **6. CONSTITUTION CHANGES**

The following changes have been adopted by Council:

- To reduce the fees for small nations - unanimous
- To change the location of the AGM - unanimous
- To define a simple majority - unanimous
- To introduce electronic voting - unanimous
- To define the activity of the Technical Committee - unanimous
- To define a quorum - unanimous
- To formalise proxy votes - unanimous
- To formalise use of the IFA Event Manual - unanimous
- To define a 2/3 majority - unanimous
- To define the role of the Chief Measurer - unanimous
- To define U23 entries – unanimous

### **7. IFA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

a. Format and racing rules:  
(i) Update on 2017 format trials  
(ii) Submissions:  
- to race Up/Down + Triangle (in the second lap) in over 20 knots - 37 for, 7

against APPROVED

- to keep the last day with the last race for 11th and up followed by the medal race (with the latter given priority over the last race for 11th and up, should weather conditions be unstable on the final day - for 43, against 1 APPROVED  
- to raise the wind limit to 6 knots to start the race (measured as per the current rule) - 31 for, 7 against, 5 abstain APPROVED  
- to remove Rule 42 completely downwind - 5 for, 39 against REJECTED  
- to allow boom dipping when Oscar is up – WITHDRAWN  
- to reduce the wind limit for Rule 42 to 8 knots - 21 for 21 against, 2 abstain NO CHANGE UNTIL FURTHER TRIAL  
- to sail all races under Oscar – WITHDRAWN  
(iii) Future major events strategy and schedule:  
The Event strategy and schedule until 2020 is approved (refer to APP2) - 32 for, 6 abstentions APPROVED  
(iv) Championship manual updates (to note the last changes)

### **8. 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES AND WORLD SAILING EVENTS**

a. Update on 2020 quota and qualification  
b. Update on WS events (SWC, Olympic test events...)

### **9. MEDIA AND MARKETING**

a. Discussion over the Media plans for future events

### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The President recommends that the IFA should develop a "Green plan" focussing on regatta environmental approach. Council approved. A plan will be made and proposed by the IFA office.



Other points addressed by Council during the AGM for further discussion or implementation:

- How do we increase the value that the IFA adds to the average club member
- Following the adoption of the "Green Policy", a fee might be put on the coaches for use of coach boats
- IFA should have a policy to cancel unfair races even if they are broadcasted live.
- Event manual changes - change 'shall' to 'should' to avoid protest based on RC decisions?
- Media operations at events: the Olympic classes should look at ways to mutualise equipment (drones, tracking, gps...) and to share WS know-how and media equipment.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On the occasion of the 2017 IFA AGM let me reflect on some of our recent achievements and forthcoming challenges in the Finn Class.

Since our last year's AGM in Gaeta there have been many changes in the world of sailing. The International Sailing Federation (now World Sailing) elected a new president and a new board last November and since then World Sailing has been facing the challenge to achieve gender equality in sailing in the Olympics and at the same time a quota reduction to 350 sailors for Tokyo 2020 from 380 sailors in Rio 2016.

These processes will affect the Finn in many ways. As already stated on many different occasions the male population worldwide is developing towards taller and stronger people at a much younger age than in the past. At the same time the Olympic sailing regatta has seen a constant decrease of classes and quota for men over 85 kg. With the removal of the Soling and the Star over the last 16 years from the Olympics, for 2020 we are down to only the Finn. Based on a recent calculation as a result Olympic sailing quota for men over 85 kg went from over a 100 athletes in 2000 to only 19 for 2020 (less than 6% of the total number of sailors in the Olympics). World Sailing will decide at their November 2017 meeting in Mexico, which of the current Olympic sailing events selected for 2020 will be reviewed for the 2024 Olympic Games and we strongly hope that wise decisions on the future of Olympic sailing will allow the Finn to continue its Olympic presence and unmatched history.

The Finn however is not only about the Olympics. Finn sailing is booming in all parts of the world and across all our age categories. Besides the huge attendance at the 2017 Finn Worlds Masters and the Finn Masters Euro Cup,



we have seen nearly 50 juniors sailing at the 2017 Silver Cup and a fleet of well over 100 boats entered for the 2017 Finn Gold Cup. This has shown again the strength and depth of the Finn class and the power of our single fleet racing format.

Given the class rules related discussions since Auckland the exploration of post 2016 directions in equipment evolution have continued in order to make sure that the inevitable technical development in sailing filters in the Finn in a forward thinking but controlled manner. To further reinforce the positives of our technical policy the Executive have studied recent developments with an objective to maintain the spirit of the class rules, the one-design nature of the class and the design ethos that has supported the Finn throughout its history. As a result a number of proposals regarding equipment and cost control will be presented in the near future for in-depth discussion at every level of our life as a class from club sailing to national and international Finn sailing. I sincerely hope that with a new Technical Committee (TC) chairman and new TC members to be elected the progress will be accelerated.

The Finn is today the longest standing and technically one of the most developed Olympic sailing classes with large national and international fleets across three different age groups offering a lifetime appeal to sailors in all continents. Media-wise however some of you might feel that we could do more but I think that based on the current operation and financing of our association we have reached our limits. We have our major event websites in place (e.g. 2017.finngoldcup.org), we are strongly present in the social

media (Facebook: [www.facebook.com/InternationalFinnClass](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalFinnClass), Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Finn\\_Class](https://twitter.com/Finn_Class), Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/finnclass>), we come out regularly with the well renown IFA press releases, photos for free of right editorial use are available on Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/finnclassphotos/albums>), event videos on the Finn Class YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/thefinnchannel>) and all videos can also be viewed through FINN TV ([www.finnclass.org/finn-tv](http://www.finnclass.org/finn-tv)). Americas Cup or SLL type live broadcasting of our major regattas or at least the medal races / finals on TV would however bring us into another dimension when it comes to production costs and technical resources. Nevertheless, with class sponsorship and other promotional opportunities we might get there in the future. This is certainly a field to be worked on in the near future.

I wish you all the best and fair winds for the remaining part of the 2017 sailing season and thank you very much for your support over many years in the past. ≈

*Balazs Hajdu*

#### VICE PRESIDENT – SAILING – REPORT

It's been an intense and interesting period for the Finn class since previous AGM, with the Olympic Games naturally being the main attraction during last year. Giles Scott, the sailor that throughout the previous Olympic cycle dominated the Finn class was also the sailor at the top of the podium, come prizegiving in Rio, followed by Vasilij Zbogor and Caleb Paine.

A period of reflection for many of the sailors followed after the Olympics. Some rolled up their sails and put their boots to dry for the last time, while many



started to prepare for getting at it once again with a new hunt for Olympic glory. The Finn Class would see a wave of new, young and hungry sailors making a dent in the results during 2016, showing they want to be in it for 2020.

The new year started off with the world cups in Miami, where Jorge Zarif won the gold, and Hyeres, where Alican Kaynar won his first major regatta after just missing out a while earlier on Mallorca. Come the Europeans in Marseille some more sailors showed they were back in the Finn game and stronger than ever, where Jonathan Lobert won gold in front of Ed Wright and Ben Cornish.

The early part of 2017 has been a period filled with new formats for the finals as well as a period to show which sailors that wish to be in it for the upcoming years. ≈

*Björn Allansson*

## IFA TREASURERS REPORT 2017

### Key Messages

Our finances are cyclical and it's always a challenge in an Olympic year with increased costs and reduced income. The budget forecast a small loss in 2016 and the final result of a €6384 deficit is only 3.1% more than predicted which is well within manageable tolerances. The fact that we achieved this result was largely down to the Executive reducing costs wherever possible and making significant improvements to our Accounts Receivable position.

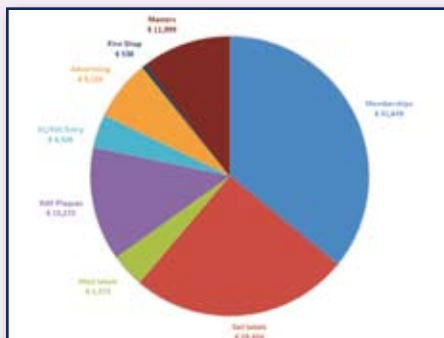
There is also a proposal on the table to increase the entry fee for IFA events to €300 to pay for enhanced media coverage at events in line with Oli Tweddell's reports. Even at €300 our entry fees are still cheaper than other Olympic classes. The International Laser Class Association for example charges a €330 entry fee at current exchange rates.

The budget has been adjusted to reflect the tight control on expenditure seen this year and the anticipated increase in entry fee income. The result is that we expect to make a small profit in the next few years despite increasing funding for Development.

I have incorporated the Masters accounts into the main report this year as although they run a separate balance sheet they are legally part of the same organisation so we need to record their income and expenses. In 2016 they made a small loss of €3693 which has also impacted our overall results.

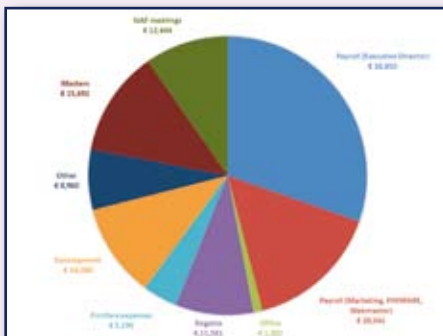
### Income

Income was down in 2016 compared to 2015 but we had budgeted for this and



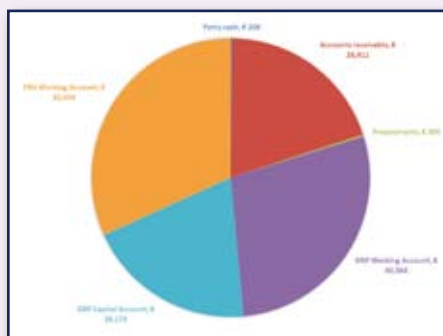
offset it with a tightening of control on our Expenses.

### Expenses



Expenses were €9650 under budget. Major savings were shown against Office Expenses and Finnfare. This is a great result that reflects the skills of the Executive in managing the Association.

### Assets



Accounts Receivable reduced by €9111 due to more regular invoicing in 2016. Overall our Capital dropped by €7536 but we do not expect this trend to continue and the budget predicts a small profit over the remainder of this Olympic cycle. ≈

*Tim Carver*

## MEDIA AND MARKETING REPORT 2016

The Finn Class media package through 2016 was its most successful yet. The Facebook reach of 1.8 million during the month surrounding the Olympics was an indication of this success. All channels recorded increased coverage and reach as we pushed out content all the way

from the Europeans until just after the Olympics.

The goals for 2016 were to significantly improve the Finn Class social media fan base, expand the reach of content and produce the best sailing media coverage from Rio. Within the limits of the very limited budget, this could be considered as achieved.

Other highlights include:

- Facebook followers increased from 5,000 (2016 EC) to more than 13,000 by year-end.
- Other channels also increased fan base and reach.
- Introduced Instagram – currently more than 3,000 followers.
- Website served 3 million pages, with 370,000 visits.
- Video views during the 2016 Finn Gold Cup exceeded 270,000 on both YouTube and Facebook.
- Facebook Live was used for the first time at the Finn Gold Cup.
- Finn Gold Cup website attracted 85,000 visitors.

A full report appeared in the November 2016 issue of FINNFARE.

The goals for the coming years include a better use of technology to cover events live, either internet TV or through supporting tech (heart rate, tracking, on board cameras), producing lively, entertaining and spectacular content. We are exploring ways to extend our media package through class funded initiatives, such as new cameras, drone footage, basic live coverage, more video, and through non-class funded initiatives which initially would involve finding a sponsor.

To stand out we should be choosing venues that can showcase Finn sailing at its best (waves, wind, blue water, backdrops, interesting area), but this should be balanced around maximising entries by choosing venues that are affordable and accessible and blend well with the fixed programme of events.

Media sponsorship – to access the kind of media coverage that we want is very expensive. Affordable options are being explored but it will always come down to cost. Extra funding through sponsorship or an entry fee surcharge is essential to lay on the kind of media package that is being requested. Currently a video highlights package is the responsibility of the host club. Tracking is an add-on extra if the club has the budget. Even doubling the current media fee would not cover either of these. To do much more involves the kind of budget that the Finn Class cannot even contemplate without external funding.



One of the focuses over the coming few years should be to find avenues where the class can access this level of funding to provide a higher and more professional level of media coverage.

Other areas for work over the coming year include:

- Protecting the Finn logo/brand (Finn logo is widely used by third parties for commercial purposes.)
- Refining the Event Manual to clarify venue media responsibilities
- Rebranding and repositioning of FinnTeam initiative
- Review of rights holding of Finn class content
- Build an attractive sponsor package
- Further studies on physical nature of Finn sailing
- Further exploit event/class branding and marketing opportunities
- Streamline the media platform and event websites to be more consistent.

*Robert Deaves*

*Additional papers and the Event Strategy paper and calendar can be found at [www.finnclass.org](http://www.finnclass.org). ≈*



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