



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE SAND ET LAND YACHTING
WORLD LANDSAILING ORGANISATION

December 2017

FISLY Presidents Report

Much has occurred in FISLY since my last report in September 2016 just after the first time we had a European Championship on the Mediterranean coast, organised by the FFCV and local clubs at the fabulous La Franqui in South Eastern France.

In September 2016 France the FFCV and Bretteville club hosted our 51st European Sandyacht Championships for Classes 2,3,5,Standart and Promo on the magnificent beaches at Bretteville sur Ay in the North West of France. The organisation was excellent and for the first time at a European Championship some classes completed up to 18 races and covered over 800km approximately at an event which was streamed live with 35k views.

Meanwhile behind the scenes many people have given up their personal time and worked diligently to progress and complete a number of FISLY projects, all of which we had undertaken to deliver as improvements for pilots and for our sport.

Our project to secure access to and to translate and make available "Bertrand Lambert Windpointage" our sport specific scoring software has been completed. This project involved many individuals from different member countries collaborating together to resolve language and software requirements. Our thanks to the Lambert Family and to all those who worked on this project to achieve our goal of having the software available without cost to our member countries in different languages.

Another FISLY longer term project is coming to a successful conclusion shortly. For a considerable length of time work has been progressing on the re organisation of our rules and how they are set out, or aim is to mirror the layout format of International Sailing. This project which has worked closely with the FISLY council is led by Dutch and Belgian officials who have overhauled modernised and simplified the layout of the FISLY International Sailing and Racing Rules. Expect in early 2018 to see the easier to follow new format incorporating rule changes and revised class specifications voted into the rules during 2016 and 2017. Well done to all involved in the completion of this project.

Also of significant importance is our ongoing project to review and amend where the need is identified FISLY bye-laws and perhaps even our constitution. Since FISLY was founded in 1962 our existing legally registered procedures and constitution have served us well. However in more recent years as we have grown globally and as we continue to grow some of our statutes may need revision to permit us to grow and develop. Our secretary and the FISLY council whom you elected have identified areas that need clarification, or change to facilitate and reflect the needs of a growing modern International Sporting Body. Meetings with legal advice will be held this month to assist us finalise the changes needed to meet our requirements as a growing International organisation for future years. This project should be concluded during 2018.

We welcomed Portugal and Italy as new FISLY members since our last FISLY General Assembly and both countries successfully participated in one of our 2017 European Championship events.

In 2017 we wrote to the International Olympic Committee requesting inclusion of Landsailing as an Olympic Sport to achieve this aim all FISLY members need to reach out to new countries and invite them to join the FISLY family as we work towards fulfilling our long term project goal of Olympic recognition and becoming a member of AGFIS , the General Association of International Sports Federations.

Other changes to FISLY membership included Ireland and the UK becoming full members of FISLY in 2017 and France stepping down from being a full member to become an Associate member.

2018 will see the arrival of another of our completed projects, this one led by and completed by our treasurer and our German members. The Online International Pilots Registration list will go live soon. This register will facilitate the hosting of international events by providing confirmation of pilot eligibility and insurance requirements which will greatly assist event organisation and provide clarity on eligibility.

FISLY had another first in 2017 when members hosted three different European Championships during the year. As we grow in numbers it has become more difficult to find national associations with the space and membership / manpower to facilitate hosting our European Championships for all classes combined. 2017 was seen as an opportunity to spread our wings to new locations as we did at La Franqui in 2016. Three locations were picked to host part of the 2017 Euros, including the Republic of Ireland for the first time.

The Class 8 / Kitebuggy European Championships were very successfully held at Hoylake near Liverpool by the PKA who facilitated some fantastic racing and catered for the competitors needs on and off the Wirral Sand Bank between August 29th and 2nd September. Our thanks to Adrian and Alison for yet again organising a superb event where it was noted that for the first time during a C8 Championship all competing pilots were flying de-power kites.

Classes Promo, Standard and Mini Spirit and Mini Sport were hosted at Laytown – Bettystown in Eastern Ireland Sept 10 – 15th, our first time to the Irish Republic.

108 competitors who made the journey to Ireland for the 52nd FISLY Europeans were not disappointed. A full week of competitive racing was held for all classes in great conditions with a very convivial atmosphere and a good organisation. Ireland was particularly thankful to all who travelled and a big thank you to all overseas volunteers who assisted and brought along the International comradery of FISLY member nations who worked as one to assist in the running of the event. Maybe a new venue to return too!

Two weeks after Ireland our 3rd European Championship event for Classes 2,3 and 5 was successfully hosted by Pat and Derek Nixon and the Wirral Sandyacht Club in Hoylake, Liverpool.

Our third European Championship organised by Pat, Deggsie and the WSYC was as always a great success, even if the weather made it somewhat difficult to complete the race card it did not dampen the spirit of the competitors or the organisers. Another successful Hoylake and FISLY's third European Championship for 2017. Congratulations to all of our European Champions and on behalf of all FISLY members, thank you to the many who arranged and ran the many FISLY championships in 2017.

As we move into 2018 we will have older projects to finish and new projects to start, without the commitment of your council members and you the pilots these would not be possible.

2018 is a World Championships year and St Peter Ording in Germany is our host for sailing craft, while Borkum will host Class 8. I look forward to our extended worldwide family coming together in Germany in September 2018.

All of our landsailing champions started sailing somewhere as simple beginners, to the people who introduce beginners to our sport, thank you. To the council members whom you vote to represent you at the FISLY table, thank you for your hard work on projects and for your contribution to our sport.

To those of us who enjoy our sport and enjoy the company of people who partake in it, I ask you to help with our biggest project yet. I ask you to try and reach out to other countries, to involve them to assist them in building the sport of landsailing and to ask them to join you as FISLY members.

If our dream of being a mainstream sport or of becoming an Olympic discipline is to succeed, it will do so only if every one of us works very very hard to make it happen.

Let us make it happen by working together. Wishing everyone a peaceful, prosperous and windy 2018!

Alan Watson
FISLY President