

President's letter 2002



Dear FD sailors, dear friends,

2002 has been a very special year for our Class and confirm the continuous success and fame of FD.

This year recur the 50th Anniversary of FD birth: a big party and a race to celebrate our “ultimate sailing dinghy”, like rightly defined by Ian McCrossin, was organized by the Dutch FD Class Organization, the Loosdrecht Yacht Club and IFDCO, since 10th to 13th October.

The warm hospitality, the brilliant organization and the weather condition (wind 2-5 Beaufort and sun), were the best choreography to the 70 FD which attended to the event.

Moreover, it was wonderful and exciting to meet and see Olympic and World Champions who contributed to the history and the development of FD, to sail again by FD.

The magic atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood among the teams showed clearly that to sail by FD is a style of life and IFDCO is like a big family.

TV, magazines, newspaper and many guests, were present and contributed to the full success of the event.

Particularly, Tecla Gulcher honoured us with her presence.

I thank very much and I congratulate the IFDCO and the Loosdrecht Yacht Club for the excellent organization, and all the Champions and the sailors who contributed to the success of the 50th Anniversary with their participation.

But, let me assent to remember and to express my admiration to Conrad Gulcher: if we sail, love FD and enjoy since 50 years, is because Conrad conceived such a wonderful dinghy and realized his dream, launching FD in 1952.

Conrad, looking to the future with an excellent far-sightedness, conceived a “high-performance dinghy”, which still represent a model of technologic development, fashionable water-line, low minimum hull weight and performance for many actual boats.

The Conrad's approach to a continuing development of FD, with regard to materials, fitting and rigging evolution, was basic for the FD success.

Of course, we have to thank all the people, champions, yard, measurers and sailors, who contributed to achieve this success.

Particularly, I desire to remember Clé Jeltens, since I think he fully personifies the dream and the concept expressed by Conrad.

Clé knows FD and IFDCO since the beginning and better than each of us; moreover, he goes on to analyse the technical and measurement development together Peter Hinrichsen.

Finally, inform us about the Class life, collecting news on the FD Bulletin and maintains the archive of Sail Numbers and Measurement Certificate.

Many thanks and congratulation Clé; dear FD sailors, to Loosdrecht we received a pleasing and unexpected surprise, since Clé was dubbed “ Sir “ by the Royal Dutch Court, because his merit in sailing sport and particularly his engagement in FD development.

Dear Clé, now we have a “ Knight “ in IFDCO and we are proud of you.

With regard to the 50th Anniversary, the success of that event is the best evidence that our Class is alive and increasing; like I often said “ we have inherited FD, such a wonderful sailing patrimony; now, it is our duty to project IFDCO into the future “.

Stephen Parry is going ahead to write the new edition of the Class Book; moreover, Paul deSchipper are collecting stories and experiences of FD sailors in order to publish the 50th Anniversary Book.

Again, Peter Doran is selecting 70 – 80 articles published in the past FD Bulletins, in order to record “ The best of FD “ on a CD.

With regard to the “ FD New Logo “, I think it ‘ll be finalized within next December.

The two Books, the New Logo, the CD and IFDCO photographic materials, represent basic tools to promote FD to new sailors, TV, magazines, sailing clubs and eventual sponsors.

About the fleets, in 2002 were issued some new sail numbers and the second-hand boat market is increasing; moreover, on last October, two Italian teams ordered two new boats for 2003.

On last August, the FD Class moved to Tavira, Portugal to attend to the World Championship; Tavira, a old town placed in Algarve and surrounded by lagoon and salterns, kept good weather, light and medium wind to the fleet.

But it was also amazing to see the fog coming with the see-breeze and force the FD ashore.

The fleet represented by 50 FD from 13 Countries, and the excellent level of the competitors confirmed the success and the interest for our wonderful dinghy.

I was delighted to see the Spanish Class increasing year by year and show very good sailors; many thanks also to the strong fleets coming from Australia, New Zealand and U.S.A., always present to International events in Europe.

Moreover, it was wonderful to see a increasing of women teams, sailing by FD; for that reason, I proposed to found a “ Lady FD Challenge “, that will be awarded since 2003.

The Clube Nautico de Tavira and the Organizing Committee were engaged to cheer up our stays with dance, dinner and sport-wear.

My best congratulation and many thanks to the Organizing Committees and the Clube Nautico de Tavira.

The full success and the good participating to all the races 2002 reflects the advertising and development strategy of the Class.

From the technical point of view, Peter Hinrichsen is always alert to improve the measurement procedures and the definitions reported in the Class Rules.

I believe that better procedures and definitions, not only make the measurer's task easier, but also educate each sailor to know better boat and fitting.

With regard to the Carbon Fibres Mast, in spite of the technical detailed analysis reported by Peter Hinrichsen, the opposite views arose from the Competitors' Hearing in Tavira, it seems suggest prudence and further trials before to achieve a final decision.

I'm sure that, like always happened in our Class, we shall find out together the best solution for the future development of the mast, without forget that FD was always ahead and far-seeing with regard to technical choices.

About the future agonistic activity, IFDCO found a "Euro Cup"; that challenge will be awarded since 2003 according to a European Ranking List and will enrich the FD Calendar.

After such a wonderful 2002, prodigal of events and new programs, I'm looking forward to a stronger fleet, new young FD sailors and women teams.

Moreover, I renew to all the FD sailors my invitation to contribute to the IFDCO activity; I'm enthusiast of our Class, but I need you engaged in a "team-work".

In 2003, the Europeans will be held to the Lake of Como; I'm looking forward to receive all of you guest of Centro Vela Dervio.

To the Lake of Como, you could enjoy, sail and visit delightful foreshortening and artistic patrimony.

The season will finish in Australia, were the Sandrigham Yacht Club in Melbourne, will give hospitality to the Worlds during Christmas holidays.

I'm already dreaming the FD race season 2003 and I wish you good sailing.

Cheers,

Alberto Barenghi