

President's letter 2007



Dear friends,

I thank all of you for the success of the FD Class during 2005 and 2006.

In 2005, the numbers of IFDCO members and of boats who competed to the World Championship in Hungary confirm and show the interest to FD and our Class activity.

Congratulation to the Spartacus Sailing Club for the organization of the World Championship 2005.

Moreover, the good number of the teams attending to the Euro Cup events and to the World Cup, show that the strategy to link specific races scheduled in different Countries, seems to kindle the interest of the sailors to increase their participation in the races abroad and to be involved in the Class life.

Many thanks to all the Clubs organizing the FD races every year, since they help our Class, organizing classical events, became a tradition in the annual FD fixtures

With regard to the women FD teams, since 2005, Peggy Bahr, ex olympic 470 team from Germany, started to sail by FD with her husband Torsten, as crew.

Peggy had a very good result to the Worlds in Hungary and won the Lady FD Cup 2005 : congratulation and best wishes for her future sailing activity by FD !!

With regard to the technical matters, 2005 represents the beginning of a new Age, since is the first year during which is allowed the adoption of carbon mast.

The number of carbon riggings immediately adopted by the teams from every Countries and especially the number of carbon masts measured during the World Championship (about 30 %), shows a good interest of the sailors for this new step in the technical development of the FD.

Moreover, during this first year, some carbon profiles manufacturers, from different Countries in the World (UK, Australia, Italia, etc.), started to produce carbon riggings (mast, boom and spinnaker pole with different profiles, stiffness and fitting.

They are competing since the beginning to develop, test and evolve their profiles, to reach the best quality and performance.

This competition among the manufacturers will allow the carbon riggings to have a speed evolution; moreover, the interest of the teams to compare different technical solutions is increasing : this first step, I think will be faster than we expected and will project speedily our Class onto the future.

In 2005, another very important news in our Class life was the beginning of a Sponsorship Agreement between IFDCO and HARKEN SAILING WEAR : according to that sponsorship contract signed until 2008, Harken Sailing Wear will supply our Class with several clothes of their sportwear collections.

Since the fall-winter collection 2005-2006, HARKEN Sailing Wear will deal several models inspired to the FD history and emotion.

Those clothes, reporting both the HARKEN and the IFDCO Logos will be available for each FD Class member with a special discount.

In detail, the Crew Collection will be always available with several clothes (jackets, polos, gilets, t-shirts etc.) in several colours and sizes; moreover, every year HARKEN will develop and produce a fall-winter and spring-summer collections, in which will be selected some articles to show the IFDCO Logo.

Since this year will be possible to look the HARKEN Sportwear Collections with the FD Logo on the IFDCO Website; moreover there will be a link between the IFDCO and the HARKEN Website.

Together with the a lot of enthusiast sailors who granted the worldwide success of the FD Class, HARKEN will do being inspired by the most peculiar feature of the FD Class : to be in the van with high-tech and innovative solutions. For the same reason, IFDCO chose HARKEN Sailing Wear, as brand to perform the sportwear for the FD teams.

IFDCO, selling the sportswear to the Class members, will collect money to spend for the Class promotion, advertisement and activity; for instance, will be very important to help the young and new FD sailors, increase the participation to specific events and support the Transport of the boats to attend to World Championships overseas.

The first result of that strategy has been possible in 2006, when every container shipped to USA to attend to the Worlds in St. Petersburg had a grant of 900 € .

That represents just the first step of the IFDCO activities to support our teams ; anyway, that process require time and the cooperation of Class members, National Secretaries, etc. to show and improve the advantages to the sailors.

Anyway 2006 represented a year of further success : more events and more sailors participating.

The sailing season started with the World Championship in St. Petersburg (USA) where 35 boats coming from 11 Countries attended to the event it was the second time we have been guests of the St. Petersburg Yachting Club, since we already disputed a World Championship in 1997.

Anyway, great Club, kind hospitality, perfect organization, beautiful weather : a full success of the event !! My best congratulation and thanks to the Club and the Organizing Committee.

The sailing activity 2006 went on, showing a increasement of the sailors attending to the classical races, and particularly to the EuroCup events : 122 teams, from 16 Countries were represented on the Euro Ranking List .

On July, the European Championship organized in Austria by the Neusiedl Sailing Club had a great participation of 62 teams from 14 Countries ; in spite of the wind was always very light, the Club and the Race Committee have been able to dispute 5 races.

With regard the Dawes Cup -World Ranking List they attended teams, from Countries.

Again kind hospitality and good organization : many thanks to all the people engaged for such a successful event.

During 2006, the success of the carbon rigging increased and actually about 40 % of the fleet adopt the carbon profiles :that choice,confirm, as I said in 2005 that the carbon improvement and increasement in the Class is faster than we expected and will project speedly our Class onto the future.

The season 2006 finished with the “Conrad Gulcher Trophy” , a classical event for the FD Class, as always very well organized by the Loosdrecht Sailing Club; moreover, the Conrad Gulcher 2006 was a great chance to celebrate Clé Jeltès for his engagement and passion dedicated to the FD and IFDCO development, since the launch of FD in 1952. A party was organized and it was a beautiful chance to thank Clé for his role in the history of the FD Class : he has been engaged for several years both as International and Olympic Measurer, IFDCO V.P Technical and Chief Measurer, IFDCO Officer responsible of the archive and of the Measurement Certificates issue; moreover, since 30 years, Clé was editor of the FD Bulletin.

Dear Clé, you have been able to know the FD, the Class, the sailors and represent IFDCO all over the World, more than all of us : we thank you very much and appreciate your engagement.

Since many years, Clé is also IFDCO Honorary Secretary and now, he is going to live the FD Class activity, attending the AGCM and giving suggestion and information to all of us.

Now all the job done only by Clè, who deicated all the day to the FD Class, have been heritated by some IFDCO Officers.

In detail, Zsofia Csanda, already Commodore of the Eastern European Countries, started to be responsible of the IFDCO archive and to issue the Measurement Certificates, since last September.

With regard to the FD Bulletin, since last December, three young Dutch sailors, Sjors Riemslag, Casper Schaaf and Louk Nelissen, have been engaged as team editor of the next FD Bulletins.

Dear FD sailors, dear IFDCO members, excuse us, if that process required time and caused some miscarriage and difficult : for such a reason we missed the FD Bulletin in 2006 and we had a stop and a delay to issue the Measurement Certificates on last year.

Anyway, I ensure you that, the IFDCO team approach and the friendship among all the Officers, the Commodores, the Sub.Committees and the National Secretaries, is the best way to go on to promote, advertise and develop the FD Class under every point of view.

We are engaged to undersign sponsorships to support the Class activities and events, update and improve the website to advertise and promote the Class, develop boats and rigging to projecting the FD onto the future.

I believe that, those new aspects of the Class life are becoming more and more important to optimize number of sai-