



INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION Inc.

For the opening ceremony of the Finn 60th Anniversary Regatta

Budapest, 12 August 2009

Dear Finn Sailors,
Dear Organisers, Volunteers, Finn families and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to greet to you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the International Finn Association on the occasion of the Finn 60th Anniversary Regatta in Uppsala, Sweden.

Celebrating the 60th birthday of our beloved boat gives me as IFA president an opportunity to reflect on the past of the International Finn Association as well as the future of our class.

Our class has over the past decades produced

- talented young sailors becoming true sailing heroes in the single handed, tough, tactical and extremely physical Finn,
- a sailing community from junior to masters level based on mutual respect, friendship, tolerance as well as openness on and off the water,
- athletes sailing against each other in huge fleets, juniors against respected senior sailors, club level athletes against the international elite, as well as masters sailors fighting sometimes harder than our juniors do, and
- Finn sailors enjoying each other's company over a couple of beers after the day's racing.

This has not changed and hopefully will not change with time, although the International Finn Class had to go through a constant transformation over the decades. As a result the Finn is still on the programme of the Olympic Games, the boat has become a modern racing machine with a carbon wing mast and a plastic sail, but the sailor is still in the centre with his endurance, power, talent, tactical knowledge and the so called "Finn Spirit".

The Finn Masters fleet and our national Finn fleets are stronger than ever, giving stability, depth and multilevel accessibility to the Finn.

However, times are constantly changing and the Finn Class has to adapt to new challenges. This is something the class management takes as an extremely serious task as we have a common responsibility with our advisors, friends and supporters to build

Executive Committee: Dr Balazs Hajdu (HUN) – President • Corinne Rolland-McKenzie (FRA) – Executive Director • Daniel Birgmark (SWE) – Vice President Sailing • Zach Railey (USA) – Vice President Development – Michele Marchesini (ITA) - Development Advisor • Fons van Gent (NED) – Vice President Masters • Tim Carver (GBR) – Honorary Treasurer • Robert Deaves (GBR) – Chairman Marketing Committee • Richard Hart (GBR) – Chairman Technical Committee • Clifton Webb (NZL) – IFA Development Coach • Juri Saraskin (EST) – Chief Measurer

IFA Inc. c/o Corinne Rolland-McKenzie
3, impasse de la Bousquette, 66 370 Pezilla la Riviere – France
Tel: (+33) 4 68 92 60 46 - Fax: (+33) 4 68 38 09 13 Email: corinne.mckenzie@orange.fr - Website: www.finnclass.org

IFA Incorporated in Australia - 14 Montana Parade, Croydon, Vic3136 Australia

on the Finn's great past and hand the class over in a good shape to future Finn generations.

Nevertheless, let us not think further ahead for now and proudly reflect on the great past of the Finn Class.

In doing so, I wish you all the best for the regatta and fair sailing on the waters of Uppsala.

Kind regards



Dr Balazs Hajdu
IFA President

Executive Committee: Dr Balazs Hajdu (HUN) – President • Corinne Rolland-McKenzie (FRA) – Executive Director • Daniel Birgmark (SWE) – Vice President Sailing • Zach Railey (USA) – Vice President Development – Michele Marchesini (ITA) - Development Advisor • Fons van Gent (NED) – Vice President Masters • Tim Carver (GBR) – Honorary Treasurer • Robert Deaves (GBR) – Chairman Marketing Committee • Richard Hart (GBR) – Chairman Technical Committee • Clifton Webb (NZL) – IFA Development Coach • Juri Saraskin (EST) – Chief Measurer

IFA Inc. c/o Corinne Rolland-McKenzie
3, impasse de la Bousquette, 66 370 Pezilla la Riviere – France
Tel: (+33) 4 68 92 60 46 - Fax: (+33) 4 68 38 09 13 Email: corinne.mckenzie@orange.fr - Website: www.finnclass.org

IFA Incorporated in Australia - 14 Montana Parade, Croydon, Vic3136 Australia