

"COMMENT BY RSD CHAIRMAN ELECT."

Following comments on various forums etc, I felt it important that I should make some statement to outline its position.

This is not something I would normally agree to, as the new RSD committee has not as yet been elected. However there is a lot at stake here and I do not wish to see members rush into something they may well regret.

As many of you will know International radio controlled sailing is currently looked after by the International Sailing Federation, Radio Sailing Division (ISAF-RSD)'.

RSD has been largely inactive over the last few years tempting IOMICA to join ISAF directly. The IOMICA executive has taken this opportunity (as they see it) to enhance the prestige of the IOM class and is trying to rush through this vote by the end of October.

But the RSD is reforming in November with new members as the new Permanent Committee of RSD. With all the people who have volunteered to stand being active radio sailing skippers and with all the positions having been filled, it is a wonderful opportunity to pull International Radio Sailing back together again. RSD elect are keen to keep all international radio sailing classes under one umbrella, which will avoid duplication and the division of the sport's strength and human resources.

The sport is not strong enough to stand as a single class, as has been seen before, but together they can present a united front. This does not mean that RSD will dictate to classes how they should run, on the contrary every encouragement would be given to classes to run their own affairs, and for RSD to act as the necessary go between with ISAF. Therefore cutting overall costs to all those concerned.

Many standard club members probably wonder what all the fuss is about, when all they wish to do is sail at their local water and enjoy themselves. However for the sport to succeed there needs to be a structure that hands down the tools that are required by those at the various levels of the sport, and at the top of that triangle is ISAF.

The IOMICA Executive are proposing to remove the IOM class from ISAF-RSD and join the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) directly to gain full international class status. This would see the International One Metre class relating to ISAF in the same way as any of the International Dinghy classes.

IOM members worldwide voted at the 2009 IOMICA AGM to investigate the possibilities of joining ISAF directly. They did not vote for the IOMICA Executive to make a rushed application to join ISAF directly, which is what is happening.

It would seem that the IOMICA Executive have speeded the process up on the basis that they felt RSD was about to be dissolved in November due to its inactivity during the last few years. This is **NOT** the case (see above)

If IOMICA join ISAF directly there are some more onerous regulations that will be applied to the IOM class that will affect **ALL IOM OWNERS**, not just the top skippers. For example, all newly registered boats from 2010 would have to pay a registration fee of £5 to ISAF and then display an ISAF sticker on their boat. These need to be fully quantified before members can make a meaningful decision.

- . If IOMICA join ISAF directly then radio sailing classes will no longer be operating under a single international umbrella organisation.
- . IOM class rule ratification will still be required and an ISAF committee with little or no radio sailing experience would not necessarily be able to understand some of the finer points. If RSD remains as the umbrella for all classes then those who have a good understanding of the sport, can handle this

I believe that at this stage a 'NO' vote is in the best interests for the future of international radio sailing, I feel that a 'yes' vote at this time would be damaging to the future development of the structure of radio sailing. The consequences of a 'yes' vote have not been fully investigated, in particular the costs. It is vital that ISAF-RSD be given the opportunity to re-establish itself under its new and enthusiastic leadership and that discussions on the future of international radio sailing be conducted with IOMICA before direct class affiliation is considered. There is nothing to lose by this action.

Mike Clifton