

From Peter Rooke representing SoPYC

Hi Les and Michael,

Well I cannot let this go through without making some comments:

- The UK system will not work in Australia due to the distances involved.
- The quoted big swells of Fremantle are a myth; Owen Anchorage/Cockburn Sound are well protected by islands and reefs. The wave conditions are more similar to Port Phillip Bay off Brighton. You have to go out beyond the islands to get big swells.
- You mention people travelling for two or three days without the knowledge of sailing in more than the pre-worlds; this is rubbish as if there are more than 86 entrants there will be an international regatta for any boats who do not gain selection. Furthermore this is the situation West Australians have been whenever the World Championship has been held in the east and as you are well aware has never been a problem.
- You state "To change the 2021 world's qualification into a series, with an East Coast consideration heat at the 2020 nationals and a second round at the 2021 Nationals (pre-Worlds, *this would generate more interest in both the 2020 RQYS nationals and from an East Coast perspective, more participation at the 2021 pre-worlds as well as the world's event.*" Note the italics are mine. To me this is political balderdash, in particular I believe you need to explain how your proposal will generate more interest in both events. In my view it may increase interest in the RQYS event which as I believe to date has had no promotion or advertising and if you visit RQYS you would not be able to see any indication of the forthcoming event and nor will you see any Flying 15s. As for the 2021 event I believe your proposal will slightly weaken it. To me your proposal is just another indication of the lack of Queensland and Victorian interest in attending events outside their own states.
- In your numbered points 1 to 4 you mention the 4 places allocated by FFI to the host nation twice.
- Your second last paragraph states "If the situation was that the 2021 worlds were held on the east coast, then I'm reasonably confident that the above proposal would be adopted as a fair selection system". This is or most likely untrue and certainly misleading. It is once again a Queensland/Victorian view on things. It is glaringly obvious when looking at the participation at many national championships that the path to Western Australia for eastern states competitors is a far more difficult path than that for Western Australians in the other direction.
- At the last Australian championship in South Australia which we will assume was a neutral venue Western Australian boats took the first four places, six of the first 10 places, 10 of the first 15 places and comprised 50% of the fleet. Many West Australians have already made their travel plans for this year including attending the world championship in Ireland from where their boats will be most likely return in late October/early November. People have made their holiday arrangements and you are seeking to legislate to change these six months ahead of the event; this represents a blatant attempt to make an unsuccessful and poorly planned Australian Championships success at the expense of the West Australians.

I believe if you are serious with this view it should have been proposed at the last FFIA AGM which would have allowed a vote of all members on this matter; as it is it appears you are pushing your Victorian/Queensland centric view onto the total membership to save a regatta that appears to be failing through lack of organisation and promotion.

I hope this helps, please call or email with any queries.

Regards,

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Peter A Rooke

From Hamish Carnachan representing RFBYC

Dear Les

Thank you for your letter detailing the argument for the proposal. All of the points you raise have been presented to us by Ray and Peter previously when briefing us on FFIA's proposal. Some quick comments:

Comparison to the UK pre-qualification is futile as the small geographical area allows all fleets there to compete for the places on a relatively even keel – quite logical. Stating the obvious, that is not possible in Australia which is why that's not occurred in the past. The only equitable system is that all Australian competitors qualify via the pre-worlds. If the numbers pan out as you suggest then the boats from the Eastern sea-board have nothing to worry about.

Obviously we sail in the local conditions regularly, if your boat's well maintained there will likely not be an issue, it comes down to preparation. Most minor issues can be sorted easily. For your information there is no swell on the race course, just wind waves. The sailing program will have inbuilt flexibility to cater for most extreme wind scenarios. In a nut shell these factors are non-arguments when it comes to determining the basis of qualification.

It always seems funny to us in the West that travel is only raised as an issue at the National level when it's the East coast having to do it – it wasn't an issue for the Melbourne Worlds apparently where it was OK for the WA boats to travel without qualifying certainty.

Lack of support for the up-coming Nationals in QLD has zero to do with the Worlds qualifying, the two should not be connected. It is also not appropriate to divide allocation of qualification spots simply on the basis of State membership numbers as it is quite clear that the calibre of fleets across the States is not even. Remember, qualification to represent Australia is about selecting the best possible contestants. That said, if the members in the East insist that 5 places be allocated on the basis of a National Championships held in the East then I nominate the 2019 Nationals at Adelaide as the qualifying event. That would reward the best ability Australian representatives that support the Australian fleet on a regular basis, not just those who choose to jump in when it suits them personally.

With all due respect, my position on the proposal and I suspect that of our Western Australian members will remain unchanged as we do not concur with the arguments forwarded to justify amending the long established Australian representative selection process. I respect that FFIA is there to govern and make decisions on behalf of members. In this instance however our view is this decision is ill-thought and should have been debated openly and put to membership vote.

Regards

Hamish

From Peter Swann representing EBYC

Hi Les & Committee,

Following our telephone discussion I would like to put in writing my formal objection against this proposal.

- It is futile to use the UK qualification series as a reason for change. It is geographically possible over there and done over multiple events. Impossible here.
- There has been a gross misrepresentation of the Mornington discussions. The issue was raised at that meeting. It was soundly rejected by the majority there. The matter was not put to a vote as it was clear there was majority opposition.
- The appropriate way to deal with this issue was that it should have been put as a formal motion at the Adelaide AGM. It was not even discussed.
- It is unfair to make this major change 6 months out from the regatta, when many have long ago planned to go to Ireland, with boats not returning till late in the year.
- This issue seems to be largely about getting numbers to the QLD nationals. Has the regatta chairman of the QLD nationals started promoting the event yet? I don't recall seeing anything. The preliminary NOR for the Esperance Nationals went out 18 months in advance, and newsletters started going out 12 months out. I am happy to discuss running a successful regatta with the regatta chairman but time is ticking.....
- I do not believe we would be having this discussion if the Nationals were in Perth, & the worlds were over East.
- The West Aussie Fleet traverse the Nulabor to attend National titles at a rate approaching 10 times that of the East Coast fleet.
- The move would significantly disadvantage the Esperance fleet. We have a lot of middle level sailors who plan to Attend the Fremantle worlds, but will struggle to qualify. If 5 places are taken out, they will probably not get in the Worlds.
- Less places available in Fremantle would preclude many mid level Eastern State sailors from coming to try & qualify. Thus I feel it would detract from the world event.
- There are way worse places to have a holiday than Fremantle/WA in February for those who miss out.
- I do not believe the proposal is in the best interests of the class.

Yours Faithfully,

David Swan.

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