

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CANOE SAILING COMMITTEE
IN THE PERIOD 2007 -2008**



**Report from Benjamin A. G. Fuller
Canoe Sailing Committee Chairman
For the XXXII. ICF Congress in Rome, 2008**

For the last two year period, the Sailing Committee has been conducting business primarily electronically, with a major electronic meeting held in March of 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to process the results of a ballot held amongst canoe sailors regarding a major restructuring of the canoe measurement rules.

After the sailing committee meeting and test sail of a prototype of a new sailing canoe in March,2006 a provisional rule was drafted and a number of canoes built to that rule. These canoes were invited to compete as a separate class at the Canoe Sailing World Championships held at McCrae Yacht Club, Port Philip Australia Dec 31-January 6 2006. After a meeting chaired by Sailing Committee member Alan Powell (UK), the Sailing Committee determined to put these new rules to a vote, using rules change procedures adopted by the Committee in 1999. These rules were passed and were brought by the Committee to the ICF BoD meeting in April 2008 where they were approved. While they will not formally go into effect until January 2009, boats are currently being built to these rules.

These new rules essentially revert back to the development rule that led to the creation of the current one design sailing canoe in 1971. Since then advances in boat building techniques and materials have led to these boats becoming dated, less appealing to the new sailor and expensive. The new rules boats will make it easier to build boats from kits and build by amateurs. The new canoes are considerably lighter than the old boats and will be far easier to transport. While they will not be inexpensive they will be competitive with other single handed high performance sailing boats, the sailing canoes primary recruiting area.

The World Championships, hosted by Australia, were brilliant. Helen Brownlee represented the ICF. The Australians took first and third with an American taking second. The Australians also won the New York Cup, the team race trophy first sailed for in 1886. This is the worlds oldest international small boat sailing trophy and is to go on display in the Australian National Maritime Museum. In addition, the Worlds resulted in a most useful promotional video, clips from which are on the Web.

Besides the World Championships, a Europa Cup was sailed at Loch Lomond August 6-10 2007, and National Championships were held in Australia, Sweden, Germany, the UK and USA, in both 2007 and 2008.

Planning is now underway for the next World Championship to be held in Germany at Lübeck, July 22-30, 2011.

This will be my last report to Congress as Chair of the Canoe Sailing Committee as I have served for eight years and am resigning. I expect that the Sailing Committee will meet under new leadership in the winter of 2009.

ICF Sailing Canoe Committee
Chairman
Benjamin A.G. Fuller