

After a brief discussion, the IRSA Executive Committee has approved the public release of the letters relating to the recent resignations of the Publicity Officer, the Racing Chairman, and the Secretary.

Dear All,

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the post of Publicity Officer IRSA as from the 6th July 2014.

Following 4 years of work with the previous elected EC and the DNM's I find the activities of the newly elected EC unnecessarily dictatorial, aggressive and unsympathetic. These issues relate to the leadership of the Chairman and I am not prepared to devote my spare time to deal with such a situation.

The way IRSA is being changed without discussions with the DNM's , the manner of operation of the EC , the pace of change and the ensuing work load are a cause of concern for the future of Radio Sailing.

In the past the DNM's have been kind enough to support me and it is a sad day that the recent take-over of IRSA by CEEFIE and the approach of the Chairman has prompted my resignation.

Tight sheets and full sails to you all. Robert Hobbs

Richard Rowan
Dunoon
Scotland

5th July 2014

Lester Gilbert
Chairman
International Radio Sailing Association

Dear Lester

Resignation from my elected positions as General Secretary and Treasurer

I would advise you that I am resigning from my posts as General Secretary and Treasurer with immediate effect.

This decision has been made for the following reasons:

1. A major factor in reaching this decision is an increase in my commercial workload. Simply, I no longer have sufficient time to spend on the work required by my roles in IRSA.
2. I am also finding that you are conducting your chairmanship of IRSA in what I consider to be an inappropriate fashion. What I mean by this is:
 - (i) In your published list of EC business, you are proposing to make a significant number of changes in the way that IRSA operates. You have not indicated that you intend to discuss these proposals with the IRSA members other than retrospectively.

You talk about “stakeholders” in respect of IRSA business, but it seems to me that you are simply ignoring the most important stakeholders in IRSA - which are the National Members plus the International One Meter Class Association,

- (ii) In the new forum that was set up to run IRSA committee business, you arbitrarily choose to use the **Roberts Rules of Order In Brief** book for the conduct of the business in the forum. Whilst, I had no initial objections to that, you have not so far asked the Executive Committee to agree the adoption of Roberts Rules.

To be more specific, you initially created a document which set out a subset of Roberts Rules which would apply to the business being conducted in the forum. Already you have found it necessary to update this document 3 times. Recently you have declared that this is the only document that applies to IRSA business.

I purchased a copy of your recommended version of Roberts Rules, namely the “In brief” version. That at least gave me an idea of how these rules work. If I hadn’t done that, I would be at a loss to understand what was going on.

What is relevant here is that you have already chosen on several occasions to quote directly from not only the “In Brief” version but also from the main version of Roberts Rules.

It now seems to me that your implementation of Roberts Rules has been designed to

make it difficult for any other member of the forum to express their concerns and more importantly any opposition to your plans.

- (iii) Referring to the discussion of the primary motion on Class Administration, you chose to apply the section of Robert's Rules which applies to large assemblies. Apart from this being quite unsuitable for the purposes of a small committee such as the IRSA EC, you also chose to ignore the advice for Chairman as set out in Roberts Rules not only in the way that you conducted yourself during the debate but also in the way that you voted in the motion.

And I have serious objections to the deprecating and disrespectful tone that you used when referring to a number of the points raised in my amendment to that motion. My amendment was submitted in good faith because I believed that your primary proposal was badly drafted, would not achieve its objectives, was proposing significant changes to the IRSA constitution and would lead to dissent by the Members.

- (iv) There have already been far too many occasions in the forum when your response to an individual posting has been very aggressive and unfriendly. Quite simply, you have forgotten that the IRSA EC is manned by volunteers who have set aside their personal time to "put something back into the sport".
- (v) I also have been concerned about your attitude to my role as Treasurer. On a number of occasions your comments have been very negative, almost to the extent of implying that I am not carrying out that role correctly. Noting that I have been on holiday for 3 out of the 7 weeks in which the forum has been running.
- (vi) You desire to have a Treasurer that is more proactive in finding things on which to expend IRSA funds, in fact you don't think that IRSA needs a Treasurer at all - what you are planning is a "Commercial Director" and to "arrange for periodic changes of Officers and Head Office locations (both in different countries)".

You have also suggested that IRSA should register as a UK charity.

Quite simply, I consider all of the above to be inappropriate to the needs of IRSA at such a short time after the GA, especially considering the modest level of income available to IRSA for the next 2 years. But the proposals also imply a considerable increase in the "overheads" of IRSA with the implication that National Members will be expected to pay substantial affiliation fees in the future.

I could mention many other matters or situations which you have handled in a dictatorial fashion. It seems that you are intent on pushing through your business without regard to the opinions of Jim, Frederico, Robert, Roy and myself. In fact it is noticeable how little contribution your "CEEFIE colleagues are making - only excepting Selywn Holland.

I simply find all of the above unnecessary and I am not willing to waste my leisure time on a body where my contribution is simply not welcome.

Regards

Richard