



International Rafting Federation

S&C Committee Highlights

Report by Deb Cook, Head of S&C

Firstly, this report begins with an apology, as I took on this role with full intentions to being a lot more proactive and hardworking than I have been able to be. Four months after being elected to be head of S&C I discovered I was pregnant, and although I kept up with things for a while, I definitely found it hard to fulfil this role once the little man arrived!

So, huge thanks need to go out to Sue and Joe, who have both filled the void and helped tirelessly to make sure the S&C stayed on track. And I also must mention Pieter who has also worked incredibly hard to try and secure a World Championships for 2016, as well as his involvement in this one. There are obviously other major helpers - Freddie for his work scouting in Indonesia, and Yuni in making this Worlds happen, and all of the other members of the S&C that help contribute to discussions, amendments and work out on the ground.

So, I can take no credit for what has been achieved in the last two years, but there is still a good list, and this is thanks to many others. Well done!!

1. Assessment and acceptance of the Japanese 2017 WRC R6 bid

This is looking like a fantastic event, with the scouting trip completed by Joe Willie Jones. It all looks set to be a fantastic world championships.

2. Assessment and acceptance (hopefully!!!!) of the 2016 WRC R4 bid.

Pieter has been instrumental in this bid being realised and has worked very hard to try and make this become a reality. He and Dirk have completed a recce and work is still ongoing to try and secure the championships at Wadi Adventures in Al Ain.

3. Discussion and finalisation of reducing Youth age divisions - many thanks to all those who took part in this discussion, and especially to Sue who managed to keep track of it all and ensure we kept moving forward and reached a conclusion.

4. Discussion on points per discipline (left as is in end)

5. Updating of Race Rules end 2013 and again end 2014/ start 2015. Again, many thanks to all who took part in these discussions, and for Sue for tirelessly bringing together all the responses, gently encouraging the use of the forum!, and helping things reach a conclusion. Huge thanks must also go to Joe who has an incredible talent for attention to detail and has not only been extremely active in discussions, but has also worked ridiculously hard to re-write rules to make them more user friendly and appropriate. Which has worked as we have had far less requests for exceptions.

6. Continually working with organisers for WRC 2015. Many people have been involved in ensuring that this WRC will be a great success, but special thanks to Yuni for making the bid happen and working so hard to achieve the requirements of the IRF, and big thanks to Pieter for all his work from the Pre-event assessment trip to all the liaising with Yuni.

7. **Judges Com** – See Eric's report
8. **Youth Development** – See Oleg's Report
9. **2014 – dealing with the cancellation and re-bidding for 2014 WRC** and subsequent chaos trying to get Brazil to run the event according to our rules and regs (which they failed to do!). This was incredibly disappointing for the IRF, but mainly for all the teams of athletes that travelled so far to take part in what was supposed to be an incredible event. The work that this competition created for the IRF was immense, both in the run up to the actual championships, and then the resulting chaos afterwards. It is incredibly frustrating to have to spend so much time on something like this when we are all volunteers, and there is so much else we could be achieving with our precious time.
10. **ERC – Slovakia 2014, BiH 2015.** Floods cancelling R6 in BiH which were shifted to 2015. Both were run well. ERC alternating R4 and R6 now fitting in well with WRC. Slovakia was a great event in 2014 - big thanks to the organising team out there as it seemed a great success and teams were very happy with how it was run. ERC in Bosnia was also a great event, and they did an amazing job with a very tight budget after losing so much the year before. Sad to see the devastation that they faced due to the floods, and how much damage to all the infrastructure for the racing that was in place for the World Champs in 2009, but many thanks to Alex and his team for taking on the mission to make the event a reality.

Thanks