

To all 470 sailors, past and present. And to all new 470 sailors who dream of competing in this world class boat.

I was in St Petersburg, Russia representing our class at the 2011 ISAF Mid-Year Meeting in support of the selection of the 470 Men and 470 Women as two separate events for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our President Stanislav Kassarov and Manager Luissa Smith for leading a very professional and well thought out campaign.

I think it is very important for all sailors to understand how much hard work and personal commitment they put into this. Since the meeting in November last year, Stanislav has travelled twice to Asia to help ensure the 470 bid would be successful.

There has been countless hours of work, even at night to ensure support around the world. Luissa and Stanislav showed their class and commitment. The world of sailing proved it by voting in the desired slate in the round one. It sent a strong message.

Recognition should also go to Vice President Nino Shmueli and past President Heinz Staudt. For Heinz, he has been through this stressful bidding process many many times. All our top 470 builders were also supporting the bid and many actually in St Petersburg.

I would encourage all 470 sailors to pass on congrats to the above team. Please take your time to seek them out and show your appreciation for their hard work.

The successful slate of ten Olympic events was proposed by the Japan Sailing Federation plus 8 other nations. There were many other slate options with the same classes/disciplines. After the conclusion of voting, the Japanese Sailing Federation President Hirobumi Kawano performed a speech of thanks to the sailing world. It was very moving and referred to the recent earthquake/tsunami. He received a standing ovation.

The world support of the 470 is now undisputed. Let's take our class to new heights and make it even stronger.

Regards

Malcolm Page