

Re: Proposal Aluminium Mast November, 2006

At the annual general meeting in Dansk Folkebådsklub in 2005 there was a proposal from the members to adjust the rules for the aluminium mast.

The background was that the existing rules are fixed so that in principle there is only one producer who is able to produce an approved aluminium mast for the Folk boat. We think that is a drag for the distribution of the Folk boat outside Scandinavia.

At the same time it is required that the rules give the possibility of producing a mast which is more flexible than the one we today know from Benn's Master. It will make it easier for the sail makers to make all round sails so that it is not necessary for the regatta racers to have two mainsails.

Here in Denmark it is the general opinion that an aluminium mast ought to have internal halyards to avoid unnecessary wear and tear of the mast's surface which appear from external halyards. It will strengthen the Folk boat's reputation as a boat which is easy and cheap to maintenance.

Therefore a mast-committee was settled to proceed with the aluminium mast. During the annual general meeting in Denmark in spring 2006 the committee presented a proposal for new rules. During the summer this proposal has been finished so that it can be presented in NFIA forum.

- The proposal is to remove the deflect rule (6.2.7) so that a profile weight per meter is entered.
- The profile has to be defined by a minimum and maximum measurement at MB1 MB2 and MB3.
- Internal halyards are allowed.

It has been important for us that the existing aluminium masts also are measured according the proposal for rules.

We have been in touch with Danish mast producers and sail makers and they have commented our proposal.

In September 2006 Dansk Folkebådsklub was offered to borrow an aluminium mast made by a Danish producer. The mast is built according the proposal for rules. In September and October we have tested this mast and have achieved important experiences. We know that same type of mast is tested in Germany also.

The tests in Denmark have been successful and all involved are positive. The boat has sailed as a Folk boat – neither better nor worse.

We do hope that we with today's introduction can achieve your support so that we can go on with our ideas, so that we during 2007 can collect further experiences with test masts in Denmark, Germany and also in other NFIA countries.

We are engaged in the work to get a boat with a test mast to participate in the Danish rank races in 2007 with an exemption from Dansk Sejlunion.

The experiences from Denmark and other countries are going to be for possible adjustments of the proposal - heading against a voting during the summer meeting in 2008, and would if passed be effective from January 2009.

We wish a process in which most possible countries are active and controlled by NFIA.

We are looking forward to hearing your spontaneous attitude to contents in our proposal for new rules.

08.11.2006
Per Jørgensen
Member mast-committee, Denmark