Dear World Sailing Classes,

Since you may have read our Chair Markus Schwendtner’s letter to the classes regarding the upcoming elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the WS Classes Committee allow me to introduce myself properly: my name is Jan Martin Wilschut, chair of the oldest international junior class within World Sailing (since 1958), the International Cadet Class Association. As its class representative I have attended every World Sailing Conference since 2011. I am Dutch and live in the Netherlands.

I have been actively involved in junior and youth sailing for about 15 years: first as a parent and almost immediately as a committee member of a national class association and organizer of successful world and european championships. Since then I have stepped up to the international class association, reshaping it into a more modern and professional body, successfully reconnecting to former class nations, actively engaging with all our members on several continents, generally making it future proof.

Our class was founded in 1947 and instantly revolutionized sailing on many levels: serious and affordable double-handed racing for juniors (6-17) in a three-sail dinghy came within reach, resulting in what we call “the Training Class of Champions”, giving out building licenses to independent builders around the globe, gender equality as the norm, gender equity as the result. And many WS Sailors of the Year to prove it. Mind you, we feed sailors into virtually every class around the globe.

Professionally I am an international designer and an entrepreneur having co-founded several start-up companies focusing on scalable business models e.g. in cross-media, horticulture, gaming and hospitality services. I am an experienced board member, a creative result-driven professional nourishing a large multi-cultural and multidisciplinary network.

As Chair of the Classes Committee I will be deeply committed to the classes, great or small, Olympic or non-Olympic, whether present at the meetings or not, because as Classes Committee we hold the masterkey to our wonderful sport: the equipment. And with it our sailors and our responsibility towards them, our stakeholders.

As a candidate I have no vested interest, no hidden agenda, no affiliation to an Olympic class. Naturally I believe in honesty and integrity. I believe in a modern, effective, communicative and transparent World Sailing. Progress is being made and I look forward to contributing to that. Most work though will not be done in Council, where we have only the one vote, but through networking and liaising with the appropriate people. And by making sure that we, the classes, receive all the programs and services of WS that are due to us.

But I will push one point time and time again: sailing starts at grass-roots level. Let us not forget the kids. Let’s make them enthusiastic for our wonderful sport and, more importantly, keep them in sailing. I will promote our youth as much as possible: they are OUR future. And not only in sailing…

I am looking forward seeing you at Sunday’s virtual meeting and I ask you to place your trust in me as Chair of the Classes Committee and your Council Representative for the next four years.

Best regards,

Jan Martin Wilschut
Chair
International Cadet Class Association

NEDJW11

M :: +31 6 53 365 718
E :: janmartin.wilschut@gmail.com