

Dear Kim,

I applaud your offer for people to email you from your "News Update" on Scuttlebutt.

<http://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2018/02/28/world-sailing-presidential-update-february-2018/>

My introduction.

I was on the water the first weekend I was born & learnt to sail boats to a pretty high level in NZ before I focussed on windsurfing.

I have been almost full time on the Olympic Circuit since 1982 when windsurfing was introduced. It was the only Olympic Class I could afford.

As a sailor I finished 3rd in 84, 1st in 88 & 4th in 92.

As a coach I have helped others to win.

1st in 92 - windsurfing - my sister Barbara Kendall

2nd in 96 windsurfing - my sister.

4th in 96 windsurfing Aaron Mcintosh

2nd in 2004 Windsurfing Nikos Kaklamanakis

I have not included details of world championships or time in Tornado, keel boats, skiffs & coaching Nacra & Yingling.

2015 I coached the Dutch Nacra team to 3rd at the World Champs & Pre Olympic Regatta.

I have coached Olympic Sailing in many developed & developing nations.

China, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Oman, Cook Islands, Canada, Papua Nu Ginea, Indonesia, Holland, Great Briton, New Zealand, Taiwan, Philippines, Malaysia, etc.

I am currently working with JPN, NZL, TPE, INA & a few others unofficially.

The last two Olympic Games I watched from the comfort of home with my family.

Sailing in the Olympics & media coverage

I was surprised that the 2016 & 2017 World Sailing AGMs & subsequent meetings there has been little mention of the main product World Sailing has to use, Olympic Games live footage & how it should be improved.

What I have learned that as an athlete & coach, the best pay back is if you win a gold medal. Bronze medals are not worth much.

I have also learned that if the race is not shown on TV, the profile of the sport & financial return is greatly diminished. I had none, my sister had plenty.

Yes, people follow yachting on the internet but this is because they can't watch it live on a screen easily.

If we like it or not, our sport needs to be modified to be shown clearly & easily to full advantage live on a screen - on time.

The only way we could watch the Olympics in NZ is on pay TV. I bought a subscription just for this.

I was very disappointed with what I got, to the point where I wrote emails to Sky Sport TV, Yachting New Zealand & Mathew Belcher.

Although the images were the best we have ever had, the visuals editor was not able to tell the story of the race or the winners. The feed would often follow the race leader up close too long & by the next mark they would be well back in the pack without being able to understand why. The 7 second delay on the GPS tracker made things very confusing as well.

The commentators Peter Lester & one other, had no prior connection to the athletes or the windsurfing event & so had so little knowledge, they were only able to state the obvious & often made simple mistakes such as thinking the HKG sailor winning the race was from China.

Certainly following premature starters around the course & then realising someone back in 3rd was the race leader, is over complex & has unfairly taken video time from the deserving race winner. I have observed this often watching the World Cup races live. This also means the commentators only watching the screen cannot tell the story.

But the main issue at the Olympics is if the racing was delayed, the net work would show another sport & never re run the sailing. New Zealand does not have a hand ball team, but for the last 2 Olympics the sailing time was often showing hand ball or any other sport.

The sailing races often were never shown in NZ due to delayed starts due to light, strong or shifty wind.

I think it is very important World Sailing focus more on the most valuable product it has. Sailing being shown well at the Olympic Games to attract more people to the sport.

Please, no more premature sailors sailing around the course.

Improve the ability to start on time. [reaching starts are easier to understand, set, manage general recalls & are safer than high speed port starboard collisions]

Making sure the equipment being used can operate in a wide range of wind & wave conditions without having to make sail size changes [as the kites currently need to]

Training one team to follow the major Olympic Class Sailing Events that includes camera operators, editors & commentators. WS would then broker a deal for this team to work along side the Olympic Games broadcaster to ensure we have a good product.

Encourage & assist every NMA to work with their national Olympics Broadcaster to ensure the commentary of the footage is suitable.

Make sure the equipment being raced is accessible, affordable and easy to learn for self funded sailors & developing nations.

Windsurfing at the Olympics

I was very concerned with a Sail World article which said Andy Hunt & you had said you wanted Windsurfing replaced with Kite for 2024. This was never refuted.

I understand Windsurfing is under review & so is Windsurfing equipment.

I understand why the equipment is under review, but I think any current issues can be resolved.

I have read "Windsurfing will not necessarily be replaced" - so please inform me, **why it is Windsurfing under review?**

Based on accessibility, the comparative costs of sailing, Windsurfing is still the least expensive. Transport is the easiest & least expensive, [take on a plane, on top of a car with one person - multiple people in one car].

Base on durability & environmental impact.

I have seen some RSX hulls, centre boards, masts & booms still competitive after more than 8 years! [Lasers require new sails & top sections every event & the boats get too soft to last more than one year] Genakers & spinnakers in most classes only last 1 or 2 regattas. I know some RSX sailors have kept finishing on the podium with the same rig many times. RSX boards are still suitable for learn to windsurf fleets & will last many years.

Based on universality, Windsurfing scores well. I have coached Olympic windsurfing in many developing nations where traditional boats were not suitable. The class has the numbers to prove this.

Based on Gender the numbers of women windsurfing are high. At times, in some countries, I have observed there are more women than men doing Olympic Campaigns.

Based on Youth path way, the Bic Techno is a strong global class with consistently large fleets at world championships.

Based on visual impact [colourful & interesting to watch] the RSX was the favourite class for the media in Rio to the point that when the TV course was to show 470, the broadcaster ensured the RSX was on that course instead.

The top end speed is as good as other top boats & an active sailor & equipment is more interesting to watch than a still sailor & equipment.

Based on starting on time & sea worthy ness, the RSX can currently race in more wind & due to pumping, fairly race in less wind than all other Olympic Classes.

Based on cost of running an event or a training venue, the RSX also requires less permanent shore based infrastructure than other classes & the land space for the size of the fleet is also less than other classes.

Format Change

If there was a desire to change the format or name of the event, there would not be a requirement to put Windsurfing under review. Simply a World Sailing Working party could work with the RSX Class to achieve this.

Certainly **Kite should not replace windsurfing** as it is not as developed, strong or versatile as windsurfing. Also with kite there are the risks associated with it in strong gusty or changeable conditions - which can become an issue with inexperienced race committees in unsuitable venues. Last year I have seen Race committees at World Cup events who struggled to get a race under way, have a fare windward beat & easy to cross start line. I have seen Olympic Class Continental Championships started in dangerous conditions where only 2 out of a fleet of over 30 were able to finish & the rest rescued. Lucky there were enough coach boats to rescue the fleet as the event boats were unable to & some had to return to port. The race committee had not observed the warnings from the locals, the weather forecast or the clouds. Kites also have an issue if the wind suddenly switches off shore & dies. I have been kiting since 1997 & **in perfect conditions, it is awesome - but** I have had some dangerous near misses & made some long swims. The Kite trials for the Youth Olympic Games in Oceania were advertised to be in Australia & then cancelled for a number of reasons including no entries & then advertised to be held in Thailand.

Sailor adaptability to change.

Your comment about adaptability to change in your article does not seem to take into account the financial impact of change & availability on developing nations.

Sailors within an event are adaptable as they need to be. Windsurfers & boat sailors have not done well swapping. Carlos Espinola is a rare example - but he became a crew.

Too much change destabilises an event & Windsurfing has had too much change forced on it.

Availability of affordable equipment vanishes when a new class starts, so self funded sailors who have just taken a hit on the devaluation of their equipment, struggle to buy the new equipment.

Developing nations either stop their programs or continue on the old equipment until they can afford to buy another board or boat.

It takes many years to build a global fleet.

I have seen & experienced this first hand many times.

Windsurfing has had 5 equipment changes since 1984 & been dropped from the Olympic Games. This has been more disruptive than any other Olympic Sailing event as experienced.

Each time the equipment & format was changed, the same sailors adapted to it.

Olympic Windsurfing has a long history which has built up a fan base & these fans & current sailors are not likely to change to boats.

Most of the general public heard the very loud news that windsurfing was dropped - which was much louder than it being reinstated or that it was at the Olympic Games in Rio & have made comment to me they did not think windsurfing was at the Olympic Games.

Putting the Windsurfing event under review is damaging to this event & sport.

Developing Nations

This decision to put Windsurfing under review was made up by a team of people dominated by english speaking & Olympic Sailing developed countries. These countries are fine with introducing change, or expensive & technical classes.

We should be trying to encourage & attract Asian & developing countries - which currently enjoy the benefits Windsurfing brings them & so they should have had some influence on if there is any change & if so what kind. These nations should have been included in the World Sailing decision making team - especially considering the proportion of Asians on the planet & their growing wealth.

Windsurfing Event Representation in World Sailing

I noticed there is little representation for Olympic Windsurfing in any of the World Sailing committees. I would be surprised if many of those making this decision to review the Windsurfing Event have high level current or complete historical knowledge of "Olympic Windsurfing" & so it seemed to become the easy event to "review?"

I have been contacted by many of my former & current clients, parents & ex sailors & coaches around the world who are extremely concerned that "Windsurfing is Under Review."

Some of these developing nations, over many years, have built up knowledge, skills & equipment for windsurfing & do not have any success in other sailing events - which is almost a different sport to boat sailing.

If Windsurfing Event is dropped, reduced or modified poorly, it is likely some of the windsurfing nations will not try to continue with any Olympic Sailing Program, which would be a big loss to the Olympic Sailing community & the event, also the large Olympic fan base may not follow Olympic Sailing as they cannot relate or have less interest.

Summary.

Please explain to me why the decision was made to put Windsurfing under review so I can give answers to my clients & the windsurfing community.

I hope you can help WS to focus more strongly on the Olympic Broadcast package, which includes the right equipment, format, events starting & finishing on time & a consistent media team.

Kind regards

Bruce Kendall MBE

New Zealand