

MINUTES 2015 INTERNATIONAL A CLASS ASSOCIATION
AGM

PUNTA ALA, ITALY

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

Attendees; Andrew Landenberger, Murray Philpott, Ben Hall, Bailey White, Graeme Harbour, Charles Bueche, Sandro Caviezel, Thiery Boisbouvie, Struan Wallace, Tom Bøjland, Michael Moolhammer, Georg Reutter, Jacek Noetzel, Marco Gaeti, Piet Saarberg.

(Minutes recorded by Robert Griffiths).

Andrew Landenberger opened the meeting at 8:30am

1. President's Report:

Andrew Landenberger noted the divisions that are troubling the class regarding the foiling issue. This is a difficult one to resolve, given the range of valid, but conflicting viewpoints.

He thanked the Italian members who have contributed to maintaining a comprehensive and up to date Facebook page.

It has been pleasing to note the influx of youth into the class. After three years of the Open World Championship format, it is perhaps timely to review the Championship Rules.

The World Championships have now been allocated up till 2019, and it is important to maintain the discipline of ensuring the World Championships continue to be allocated three years in advance.

On a personal note, Andrew mentioned that finding time to fulfil his Presidential duties had been difficult given his Olympic coaching commitments, and that he has relied heavily on the assistance of other committee members (Ian Johnson, and Graeme Harbour in particular). This problem will continue into 2016. His tenure as President will expire at the 2016 World, and a potential replacement should be canvassed.

2. Secretary's Report:

Piet Saarberg reported that Austria, Australia, Switzerland, Belgium, Poland, New Zealand, Germany, Netherlands, and

Britain had forwarded their membership fees the International Association.

3. Fleet Reports:

BRITAIN: Fleets slowly growing. 41 members. Members whom have manned the A Class stand at the Boat Show have reported enthusiastic enquiries. The dominant question asked is "Does it foil?" Cost seems less of a concern. The fleet is pushing for younger members.

DENMARK: Steady numbers. Dominant enquiry: "Does it fly?"

AUSTRIA: 20 members, slow growth. Four regattas are held annually.

GERMANY: 130 members, steady. Heinz Muller is oldest fleet member, at 90 years of age. Bob Beier is the new, 2015 German Champion. Training camps are planned to encourage new members.

POLAND: 30 members. Younger sailors have been buying up old boats. Uncertainty has resulted due to the possible rule changes. Six regattas are annually held, mainly at Sopot, which has excellent, brand new facilities.

NEW ZEALAND: Stable numbers. Awaiting rule finalisation.

ITALY: Stable, 120 members. Around 25 boats generally attend regattas. The financial crisis is still affecting Italy.

There are only 2 or 3 foiling boats in Italy. There are some young members, but mainly it is an older membership.

The National Championships were held at Lake Garda, with 60 boats competing, many of which were from other European Nations.

USA: 250 members. 150 boats regularly race, and 50 boats attended the recent National Championships.

40 new foiling boats arrived during the past year. The upgrade to new boats has released many new boats onto the market, which has in turn depressed the used boat market.

The foiling boats are attracting the young. One owner is 15 years of age, and 12 year old has been observed sailing an A Cat.

The West Coast Fleets that have been relatively inactive have recently become more active. There has been active promotion, both on the Web, and in the Social Media.

AUSTRALIA: There has been a lot of foil development since the Takapuna Worlds. Two containers of Exploders have delivered to Australia (with yet another to follow after the Punta Ala Worlds).

Regatta numbers were at the usual numbers, with 30 entries at each of the Vic, NSW, and QLD Titles. There were 50 boats at the Lake Cootharaba Nationals. Despite the foiling development, C board boats continue to be competitive.

Rule 8 polling: 70 % reply rate, the majority voting to retain the rule, with the belief that foiling and further development is possible within the current rule. Unfortunately a legal challenge has been received from Dario Valenza, claiming – amongst other things – that the Association Committee had failed in their duty to conduct a proper ballot. The Australian Association was forced to utilise Australian association funds to obtain legal advice to counter this disappointing situation.

There are 110 financial members. Looking forward to hosting the 2018 World Championships at Harvey Bay. The 2016 Nationals to be held at Sunshine, Lake Macquarie.

SWITZERLAND: There has been growth in number of sailors, but some disillusionment. There are many active members, but there have been problems with regular participation rates. Many decide on the Friday night that if the weather forecast is not good, they will not participate. The Open World Championship format has meant that qualification through regatta attendance is no longer necessary.

Rule 8: half the fleet have new foilers. This has resulted in a drop of used boat prices.

FRANCE: 114 members, and growing. There has been an active debate regarding foilers versus floaters. Most boats are floaters. 20 races are held each year.

There is a double ranking system for floaters and foilers, and France suggests that other countries adopt the same measure.

NETHERLANDS: There was a low turn up at the Dutch Nationals (30 boats). There are 28 active members. Members voted to keep Rule 8.

4. Financial Report:

Current bank balance is approximately 43,000 Euro.

All countries, with the exception of Cayman Islands and the Chec Republic, have paid their membership fees. Argentina are in the process of paying. Argentina will now need to form an association.

The banking laws in Netherlands in effect limit Piet Saarberg to be the only signatory to the account. Piet suggested that his son Hans be also authorised to be a signatory in case of an emergency. This proposal was moved by Andrew Landenberger, seconded by Graeme Harbour, and adopted by the meeting.

The Italian representatives will investigate the Italian banking requirements, with a view to moving the account to Italy, where more flexible banking regulations may allow other committee member signatories.

5. Auditor's Report:

Graeme Harbour tabled the Auditor's report.

Membership fees are due by the end of December. He noted that there was often a problem with late payment.

A budget was in place for the following, although he advised that difficulties are intrinsic in accurately projecting likely costs.

Graeme suggested more tightly controlled payments, noting that a mast had been exchanged as a payment for some of Martin Valluzli's work.

6. Election of Officers:

The current IACA Committee consists of Ben Hall, Graeme Harbour, Marco Gaeti, Andrew Landenberger, and Murray Philpott. Ian Johnson has been unofficially co-opted. It was

proposed that Jan Groot be appointed. Proposed by Andrew Landenberger, seconded by Graeme Harbour as the Dutch representative being appointed. Motion carried.

7. Technical Committee Report:

Graeme Harbour tabled the Technical Committee Report. Graeme commented that his experience at these current Punta Ala World Championships had been that a number of boats failed to measure, even though National Measurers had previously awarded them measurement certificates at previous, major regattas.

He also noted that one of the Australian members (Dario Valenza) continues to argue against the Technical Committee and even ISAF rulings.

The current Technical Committee personnel will continue. Graeme Harbour will be standing down, as Committee Chairman in 2016, and that a replacement will be needed. Michael Moolhammer and Struan Wallace both expressed interest in joining the committee, and it was suggested that the Polish Measurer, Tymoteusz Bendyk be approached.

8. International Membership Fee;

It was voted that the current membership fee of 10 Euro remain unchanged.

9. Selection and Ratification of 2018 European Championship Venue:

Georg Reutter submitted a presentation to host this event at Wallemunde, Germany, 14th to 21st July 2018. Located on the Baltic Sea, the event would be preceded by the Wallemunde Week Regatta. Facilities include a beach, a harbour, hotel, and camping accommodation.

No other competing bids were presented.

Andrew Landenberger proposed a motion, seconded by Jacek Noezel, that Dr Reuter's proposal be accepted, and this was ratified unanimously.

10. Review of Open World Championships:

Andrew Landenberger proposed that a subcommittee be formed to review the Open World Championship format. The Committee will be chaired by Murray Philpott, and will include Baily White, Ian Johnson, Marco Gaeti, Tom Bøjland, and Charles Bueche.

The current World Championship Rules limit the entry fee to 200 Euros. Consideration could be given to increasing this limit, and to increasing the number races from the current maximum of nine to perhaps 12 races, each of shorter duration.

11. The Proposal by USA, Canada, and Great Britain to strike out Rule 8.

The votes and proxy votes of membership countries were presented and tabulated.

The following countries voted to remove Rule 8: USA, Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, and Switzerland.

The following countries voted to retain Rule 8: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Holland, Poland, and Spain.

Representation or a proxy vote was not received from Sweden, Brazil, Ireland or Belgium.

Each country was allocated voting numbers proportional to their financial membership.

Voting results: 66.34% voted to remove Rule 8, falling short of the 66.6667% required by the Constitution to affect change. Therefore Rule 8 remains in force.

Bailey White suggested that a subcommittee be formed to further look at solutions to this ongoing issue. Andrew Landenberger concurred, noting that the issue, although once again determined by vote, is not going to go away. He suggested that a committee be formed to continue to examine solutions to this problem. This was decided to be added to the brief of the open world championship committee.

12. SACA proposal to alter the IACA Championship Rule 16.

A proposal was submitted and tabled by Switzerland, supported by Denmark, Great Britain, and the USA to amend Rule 16, to allow safety radio devices and trackers.

Current Rule 16: Radio Communications. "No transmitting equipment, radio receivers, portable phones and similar devices shall be carried on board any competing boat.

Proposed Rule 16 amendment:

16.1 Radio transmitters, radio receivers, portable phones and similar devices may be carried but shall only be used in relation to emergencies.

16.2 Screen-less GPS trackers allowed only if requested by the event organisation.

The majority of countries represented voted to change Rule 16 as per above. Two countries voted against the change. Motion carried. Rule 16 changed to incorporate clauses 16.1, and 16.2.

Meeting closed at 9:40am.

Results

World champion Glenn Ashbey
First Junior Jason Waterhouse
Master Jacek Noetzel
Grand Master Roeland Wentholt
Great Grand Master Scott Anderson
Female Katrin Brunner