

## MINUTES

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL A CLASS ASSOCIATION.

Medemblik, Netherlands.

Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

The meeting opened at 20:06 under the Chairmanship of Graeme Harbour, of Australia, standing in for Class President Andrew Landenberger whom was unable to be in attendance.

#### 1. Those Present:

Charles Bueche (Switzerland)

Sandro Caviezel (Switzerland)

Harold Wigerstedt (Sweden)

Graeme Harbour (Australia)

Piet Saarberg (Netherlands)

Jan Groot (Netherlands)

Thomas Paasch (Denmark)

Gordon Upton (UK)

Struan Wallace (UK)

Bruce Mahoney (USA)

Daniel Philpott (New Zealand)

Guido Schultz (Germany)

Marcin Haminsui (Poland)

Tymoteusz Bendyk (Poland)

Jacek Noetzel (Poland)

Michael Modlhammer (Austria)

Georg Reutter (Germany)

Stefano Sirri (Italy)

Giuseppe Colombo (Italy)

Michael Warlop (Belgium)

Philippe Muyzers (Belgium)

(Minutes recorded by Robert Griffiths from Australia).

2. Apologies; Andrew Landenberger, Class President, (Australia).

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Andrew Landenberger sent his apologies regarding his inability to attend due to commitments to the Australian Olympic Sailing Team. He will be retiring from the class Presidency as of this meeting.

He noted the high degree of technological development in the class of the past year. The foiling boats had become better and easier to sail. Challenges to Rule 8 seemed to have settled at least for a while. The blocking of any Rule 8 change has ironically proved useful for development. Launching and retrieval of the boats remains easy and unchanged. Classic design boats still have their place in all events. He supports ongoing classic and foiling inclusive events.

The class continues to grow.

The sad, and sudden passing of Murray Philpott was acknowledged. It was gratifying to see his wife Christine, and his son Daniel present at the 2016 World Championship.

He thanked all those whom have assisted him in his duties, with particular reference to Graeme Harbour, Thomas Paasch, and Charles Bueche.

Jan Groot has done a tremendous job in organising the Medemblik 2016 World Championship.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Piet Saarberg tabled his report. He noted a generally quite year. There has been no push for any rule changes, and Rule 8 seems to be off the agenda. He had received emails from a number of National Presidents unable to attend this AGM, whom had nominated their stand in representatives.

A worry for the class is the high cost of new boats. This can hold off entry of younger sailors, as the cheaper boats are generally of the non-flying variety. Piet indicated that he would be giving up the position of Class Treasurer this year.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominations; President: Charles Bueche.

Secretary: Piet Saarberg.

Treasurer: Phil Muzers.

Committee: Thomas Paasch, Graeme Harbour, Andrew Landenberger, Bailey White.

All of the above were nominated by Graeme Harbour, seconded by Thomas Paasch, and elected unanimously.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Piet Saarberg tabled his report. The account balance as of the 17-06-2016 was 44,955.98 Euro.

## 7. AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Graeme Harbour tabled his auditor's report for the period 1/1/15 to 31/12/2015. His oral comments were: Account balance at present sits at approximately 45,000 Euro, and this balance has remained reasonably constant over the past few years.

Gordon Upton has done a great job maintaining and updating the webpage over the past year, and this remains the main Association cost. Other main costs are fees payable to ISAF, and the travelling expenses of the President to attend the World Championship.

All countries are currently up to date with the payment of their membership fees. The membership fee of each country are payable by the end of the calendar year.

Graeme noted that under the Association Constitution a budget should be prepared each year, but that in practical terms it was difficult to produce accurate projections.

The current world membership stands at 894 members, which represents a loss of 50 to 60 members since the previous year. There has been a significant drop in memberships in Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. There has been an influx of young members in Poland.

The cost of new boats is a problem.

In following discussion the Belgium President suggested that statistics on the demographics of the membership in each country be compiled.

## 8. MEMBERSHIP FEES:

It was resolved that membership fees be maintained at their current level of 10 Euro.

## 9: INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY REPORT'S.

**THE NETHERLANDS.** The current membership is 18 to 20. There have been few new people. The World Titles have not helped growth.

**SWEDEN.** 5 active members. There is a difficulty in organising regattas. About three boats prepared to travel.

**SWITZERLAND.** The class is active with 3 new members in the past year. Some older members have left. 80 members are currently active. The flying boats are replacing the older boats. One third of the fleet are flying boats, and these boats are attracting younger members. Juniors do not have to pay membership fees. Thank you expressed to IACA members for their work.

FRANCE. Currently there are 89 members (down from 105 in the previous year) 35 boats attended the French National Championships. The flying boats constitute about 10 to 15 of the numbers. The second hand boat market is not active. Departures are higher than new memberships. The French National authority have expressed safety worries when combining fleets made up with higher speed foiling boats with slower non-foiling boats.

GERMANY. There are 127 members, a stable membership. Bob Baier is the current German National Champion. Heinz Muller at 91 years of age is still enjoying sailing his A Cat.

AUSTRIA. Current membership of 15, with 2 flying boats. Four regattas were held in the past year, with one having been cancelled.

BELGIUM. 17 members, up from 5. New entrants are mainly from Formula 18. Rule 8 is off the table. No one is buying foiling boats, with the new entrants buying second hand Classic boats from other countries,

POLAND. Membership is increasing, mainly due to foiling boats, and interest in the 2017 World Championships, which will be held in Poland.

NEW ZEALAND. Membership is flat, and numbers have declined since the 2014 World Championship, which was influenced by the short-term influx of some of the America's Cup people. Many are awaiting the foiling developments before deciding on updating boats.

USA. Six events were held in Florida over the winter, which attracted 58 boats. Currently there are 73 paid up members. Many have purchased new flying boats and there is an active second hand market. The North American Championships will be held in Newport, Rhode Is, in September.

Currently scoring the foiling and Classic boats separately. Many Classic boats are converting to foiling boats. Non-members have been requesting email data, and information.

UNITED KINGDOM. Membership is slowly growing, with 45 current members. Some older members have left. Younger members are coming through, though the cost of boats is a limiting factor. There are 5 or 6 regattas each year. The Nationals will be held at Rutland in August, and there will also be a non-foiling prize. F18 and Moth sailors have shown interest in the class.

ITALY. The Italian report was tabled. Andrew Landenberger was thanked for his efforts, and the great work that he had accomplished. Membership was 120, with 20 to 30 boats generally attending regattas.

Some disappointment was expressed at the number of attendee's presenting to the regattas. Factors indentified here included competitors waiting until the last minute to decide based on the weather conditions. Some of the foiling competitors were put off by forecast light winds. The lack of need to qualify for the World Championship was thought to be impacting negatively on regatta attendance.

Concern was expressed the World Championship Rules in relation to possible continuing open World Championships have not been formulated or voted upon. Noted that the initial resolution regarding the concept of an Open World Championship (opposed by Italy) was for a trial period of two World Championships. This had been extended for a further two years, and now this period has expired. Requested that new Championship Rules be determined, and put to the vote.

Mentioned that the current fee to enter a World Championship is set at 200 Euro and that 250 Euro was charged for the 2016 World Championship.

Measuring forms and other forms produced by the class need to be ratified by ISAF to have any status and to meet the requirements of the Italian National sailing authority.

AUSTRALIA. The Australian report was tabled. The Australian Championships attracted 48 sailors (4 of whom were juniors less than 21 years) and included Darren Bundock and Nathan Outteridge. Stevie Brewin won the event.

State Championships were held in Victoria, NSW, and Queensland and were won by Stevie Brewin, Dave Brewer, and Matt Holman respectively.

The class continues to attract much attention because of foiling, but some of the non-foiling boats are dropping away. The current membership stands at 97 members.

Planning has already begun for the 2018 Worlds; we have two sponsors that have pledged both money and facilities. The dates have been set for 11-24<sup>th</sup> November 2018, with a lead up regatta in the first week.

Thank you to all the past IACA committee members, particularly Andrew Landenberger, and Graeme Harbour.

10. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT. This was tabled and presented by Graeme Harbour. Thank you to all the Technical Committee members for their assistance, and in particular. Mike, Thomas, and Murray.

The untimely death of Murray has left a large void.

Updated Measurer's Guidelines have been completed, and include measurement of deck sweeping type sails, and an amended measurement form documentation.

Review of Black Band requirements found that they were not really needed. World Sailing agreed that this was the case.

Interpretation of Rule 7 regarding rudder hangings was raised. World Sailing was consulted and a temporary ruling was put in place.

It is apparent that our Class Rules need updating, and it is hoped this can be completed over the next 12 months, and presented at the next WGM at Sopot.

This meeting marks the end of Graeme's chairmanship of this committee, which has spanned the past 5 years.

Charles Bueche thanked Graeme for his work.

11. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. The IACA Committee may nominate these appointments. The committee has grown to 11 members, which is somewhat unwieldy, and a smaller committee has been suggested.

New committee appointments: -

Thomas Paasch (Chairman), Graeme Harbour, Andrew Landenberger, Sandro Caviezel, and Bruce Mahoney.

The Italian Sailing Association has several requirements of both the Italian A Class Association and IACA. Compliance requires a re-write of the Class Rules, with ratification by World Sailing. Progress to date has been slow.

Measurement requirements need to be formally ratified and documented for the Italian Sailing Authority. Other National Sailing bodies may have similar or different requirements.

At Punta Ala, some 7 measurers and 260 hours of work were required for the check measurement of all boats. The new system of random spot checks on boats after a day of racing seems to work well, and it is the system used in many other classes of boats. Jan Groot has welcomed this change in terms of reducing organisation load and cost.

12. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES.

The Open Championship format for the World Titles was instigated after the 2011 Aarhus World Championship, on the basis of a 2-year trial period. The trial period was extended for a further 2 years at the NZ 2014 World Championship.

A sub committee was set up at Punta Ala to rewrite the championship rules. This committee comprised Murray Philpott, Bailey White, Ian Johnson, Tom Bojland, Charles Bueche and Marco Gaeti. The death of Murray Philpott caused the work to essentially stop.

A new smaller ongoing subcommittee was proposed to comprise Struan Wallace, Andrew Landenberger and Tom Bojland. Stefano Sirri advised that the Italian President Marco Gaeti had requested that Italy also have a representative on this committee and requested Stefano Sirri be elected as well, which was approved.

Graeme Harbour advised that given the year delay in finalising the new championship rules that it was possible under the constitution to call an extraordinary Worlds General Meeting which can be conducted on line and it was requested the new subcommittee have new proposals in place so this matter could be finalised by end December 2016. Georg Reutter the German president also requested that all presidents be allowed to give input. To assist the new subcommittee it was agreed that all presidents have 4 weeks from date of meeting to give input to the sub committee if they wished.

13. 2020 World Championship. No formal proposal has been received yet. The America's would be the next continent in line. Bruce Mahoney mentioned that the USA is very interested, and that he awaits a formal proposal that is being worked on by Bailey White.

It is important to maintain the current of long term planning and event allocation.

14. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY. Ben Hall made a beautiful new World Championship trophy, which was first presented at Takapuna. Unfortunately because of its 10 kilogram weight, and large dimensions, it is proving to be a difficult exercise for shipping. It was proposed that the base of the trophy be modified to address the problem.

15. Other Business. Three Argentinians were recorded as non-starters in the first two races, because mis-read the instruction and ended up sailing the incorrect group. The International Jury denied their request for re-dress. It was determined that the IACA meeting had no powers to intervene, and that any interference would be inappropriate.

Meeting closed at 22:10.

Minuted by Robert Griffiths, Australia.

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Results of Worlds 2016:

- World champion: Mischa Heemskerk
- First Junior : Jakub Surowiec
- Master : Darren Bundock
- Grand Master : Roeland Wentholt
- Great Grand Master : Jorg Goesche
- Female : Carolijn Brouwer