

# International A-Division Catamaran Association World General Meeting Houston Yacht Club, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The meeting started at 10:07

Present were;

Charles Bueche – President

Bailey White – Secretary

Graeme Harbour – Tech Ctte.

Andrew Landenberger – committee member Gordon Upton – Editor/Minutes

11 other members

Proxy voters were

ESP – Micky Todd,

GER – Charles Bueche

FRA – Emmanuel Dode

NZL – Graeme Harbour

SUI – Charles Bueche

AUS - Andrew Landenberger GBR – Gordon Upton

POL – Jacek Noetzel

1. President's Report – see attached
2. Secretary's Report – see attached
3. Technical Report – see attached
4. Treasurer's Report – see attached
5. National Reports.

Many National reports have not been recieved

AUS – see attached. In addition Landy reported that there were fewer boats in the AUS nats as covid lockdown prevented travellers crossing state borders. More classics sailing vs open boats. They were trialing a 2 top marks gate, but it seems to prove to be not a good idea. Open class is ownership is falling as costs and being harder to sail for older sailors. The boats now tend to become concentrated in a few areas and comms within the national class are not too good as a result. He feels they need better event promo.

USA - Covid actually increased memberships to 120 after they doubled the dues. Reasons – good Classic fleets and the twin fleet sailing is working well. Regular 45 boat regattas are a success. Improved USACA website with card payment for memberships and with auto renew enabled proved good. They had a good Nats at Lake Carlisle, St Louis. Next nats in CAN in Sept 22. 2023 it will be in CA. They are writing a NA Championship rules to standardize the regional SIs. Wind limits were requested lowering for US national events. Suggesting a How To video series eg launching etc.

Sis and Class Rules need coordinating to prevent issues and to have a standardized NOR and SI system for future major events.

GBR – Many A Cat sailors in the UK are not in the association, and tend only to sail at their local clubs. The travellers are all BACCA Members. Covid shut down the season for travellers and only 2 TT events were held after others were cancelled by host clubs.

NZL reported that the planned Worlds bid was not happening now after a drop in sailors post Covid.

POL reported fewer sailors from last year. A few youngsters sailing but they think class is not as interesting as some other classes eg Moths. Classics vs Open are an issue as they think fewer rules for the Open div. would make boats safer and easier to sail.

FRA reported they are still an 80% classic fleet

6. Election of Officers

The President and Secretary remain on office. The Technical Committee is unchanged also.

Due to issues with Swiss Banking requiring any financial official for a Swiss based international organization, the financial officer must be a Swiss resident. As a result, the bank declined the Polish IACA Treasurer elected in 2021, Karol Kwiatkowski. As a result Francois Delaite was proposed by Charles Bueche and seconded by Bob Webbon. It was passed unanimously. François Delaite is the new IACA treasurer as for 29.4.2022.

#### 7. Fees

These remain unchanged and the system works well.

#### 8. Proposals

It was proposed to officially subsidize World and Euro champs as a one off payment for each event, to help support and promote the event by IACA. And €1000 travel costs for Int Measurer. Passed with 75 for – 0 against

#### 9. AOB

- Insurance issues. Difficulties in finding overseas coverage are experienced by some sailors from certain countries. If no solution found, AUS etc cannot sail in overseas events. Currently no general policy is available
- A division sail demarcation is suggested, say a coloured flash. Also an alteration of the name of the Classic division to something less archaic.
- Suggestion of dropping class max wind limit down, although a sea state should be considered and PRO attention should be drawn to this 10.3 rule in the Championship rules. A division liaison rep could be suggested.
- Harness rule changes - The new rule states – RSS 50.1c A trapeze harness worn by a competitor which may be used to support the competitor on a trapeze shall be of the quick release variety complying with ISO 10862 which allows the competitor to detach from the hook or other method of attachment at any time. A class rule may change this rule to permit trapeze harnesses that are not of the quick release variety, but a class rule may not change the requirement that a quick release harness comply with ISO 10862. *Note: Rule 50.1(c) does not take effect until 1 January 2023.*

It is suggested that the class ask World Sailing to first postpone the implementation initially as no manufacturer yet has a practical, totally reliable and tested system. It also requires all sailors to purchase a new design harness to continue in the class.

- National event calendars should be sent to the IACA editor for inclusion on the website to allow associations to co-ordinate and publicise their events
- Suggested World Ranking system could be instigated.

The meeting closed at 12:13.

#### **President's report for the IACA World General Meeting 2022**

Dear presidents and representatives of national associations,  
Starting with some history : both VDAC (Germany) and SACA (Switzerland) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. Our German friends edited a beautiful book with many nice pictures and entertaining stories.

My friend and famous Swiss sailor Dieter Melcher is now 83 years old - I still call him from time to time to get his precious advice. Dieter told me some bits of IACA history, his words : “in May 5th,1975, the IACA was founded in Utting/Ammersee during the Ranga- ni-Keti regatta, with the help of some Andechs beers. When I woke up the next morning, I was IACA President”. Dieter Melcher wrote the first "Racing Rules" and the first "Statutes resp. Constitution", this took a whopping 2 pages !

More recently, in 2021, the class could race again, albeit in some restricted form. We are now again together for the first post-pandemia World Championships, and not all traces of it are gone, given the multiple forms I had to sign to enter USA. I do expect an entertaining sailing year 2022 as we do have 2 major events in Houston and Garda. Having a closed European championship in Italy had people realize they should qualify, and I'm quite certain we will see a renewed interest in local regattas this year.

On-going projects :

With the help of the IACA Committee, we are working on several projects on the administrative side : adaptation of the Constitution to the recent challenges posed by the audit 2020 of Denis Brendel, pressure of the IACA bank is putting on us and some minor modernization. If you do have ideas on what else should be modified in the Constitution, you are welcome to participate to the process.

We are soon going to vote on a minor change to the Championship Rules, to officialize the financial support for events. However, this foundation document need more changes, especially in regards to the new situation with two disciplines since we nailed the definition of classics in January 2021. This is as well a project for which your help would be appreciated.

Last but not least, and since our WGM of December 2021, Paul Larsen has been conducting discussions with the major boat builders to identify their main issues, and help the class the best we can, while not disrupting it. I take this opportunity to thank all members of the committees and all presidents of national associations for their engagement and hard work to make our class successful.

Charles Bueche, IACA president, April 2022

## **2022 IACA Secretary's Report**

Bailey White

It is terrific to be preparing a report for an in-person meeting after all the years. I congratulate the class on re-starting the World Championships post the introduction of COVID-19 and hope the class can continue to conduct World Championships going forward no matter the circumstance. I think it is important for the class growth and note we have heard the same from the boat builders.

One area that the secretary should be reporting on each year is numbers. Each year the secretary receives a count of plaques issued by World Sailing that is used in preparing our annual report for that entity. I went through my prior reports where World Sailing provided this count and want to note them for the class:

World Sailing issued plaques for the A-Class Catamaran:

- • 44 in 2021
- • 31 in 2020
- • 61 in 2019

I do not have numbers from World Sailing for prior years but will see if I can find them. I hope sharing these numbers can be useful for future reporting and considerations of class growth and health.

Another metric we have seen change over the years is the number of proposals by country presidents. This may be a good thing and indicate stability. I personally feel the class's prohibition against GPS has shown the difficulty of predicting the future and indicates a good example of why not making a new rule can be good. We feared GPS would ruin the tactics our sport when the prohibition was put in place, but our special prohibition against it means we cannot share information on the incredible speeds our top sailors are reaching at this Worlds and promote their accomplishments to the press. Also we must make sure competitors aren't wearing their regular fitness tracking or smart watches, a trend I doubt any foresaw when the prohibition was created. Putting rules in is difficult but so is changing or removing them. Attempts to change or remove the GPS prohibition have not passed over the last four years.

I also want to note we have received a very thoughtful message from a class member this morning recognizing the very different speeds of our Open sailors and noting the chance that many may not make the time limit. I agree that this is a risk and note some top sailors are delaying their finishes this week to let others be scored.

For my duties, as always, Charles and Graeme have been particularly helpful in keeping the records up to date and supporting the annual filings I make with World Sailing. Thank you to both of them.

best, Bailey

## **Technical Committee Report**

Notes from Paul Larsen, redacted by Charles Bueche

Multiple calls and one conference took place between actors of the class, including boat builders and designers. Paul told me the discussions have been very insightful about their struggles in these difficult times.

There is an impressive amount of passion for the class. The discussion is actively engaged with the designers and manufacturers. It has made us all aware of differing opinions and as well some consensus. This will take time and due process.

Paul really likes hearing their highly relevant viewpoints and being a conduit for it to get into IACA. It's an active, ongoing discussion that is opening up each parties awareness.

Charles adds : I want to clarify that we are not trying to modify anything in the rules without a very good reason to do so. The whole change process – if any - is going to the usual review, proposals, votes and ballot process. As such, do not get excited or afraid about this process, so far it's only discussions as we always have conducted in the class, and our unique goal is to ensure the success of the class as a whole, and not to fix things that are not broken.

## **Report to IACA 2022 Annual General Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 From the Australian International A-Division Catamaran Association Inc - (AIADCA)**

1. **2021-22 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Royal QLD Yacht Squadron , Manly, Queensland 8<sup>th</sup> January - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. With travel restrictions being eased in Queensland on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the AIADCA is hoping to see a good fleet. Contrary to the approach of other racing classes, the AIADCA decided that the Regatta should remain branded a National Championship irrespective of the status of interstate border restrictions. The 2024 Australian Championships are scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January at Paynesville Victoria.

2. **2022 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS** a. Victoria – 12-14 March 2022 Safety Beach SC VIC. 14 Classic, 12 flying, with Richard Howells and David Brewer respective champions

b. New South Wales – 19-20 February – Trial Bay NSW. 9 Classic and 2 Flying. Scott Anderson and Adam Beattie respective champions.

c. Queensland – Lake Cootharaba sailing Club Boreen Point QLD Easter Weekend 15-17 April. 11 Classic, 4 flying with Leon McNeill and Ron Sherwinski respective champions.

3. **2022 AIADCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** This meeting held by hybrid live/video 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at Royal QLD YS, during the National Championship. Paul Neeskens, Michael Kopp and Stuart Scott were returned as President, Secretary and Treasurer. John Dowling was re- elected as the continuing National Measurer.

### **4. ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION - RRS Rule 50.1(c)**

- From the RRS *A trapeze harness worn by a competitor which may be used to support the competitor on a trapeze shall be of the quick release variety complying with ISO 10862 which allows the competitor to detach from the hook or other method of attachment at any time. A class rule may change this rule to permit trapeze harnesses that are not of the quick release variety, but a class rule may not change the requirement that a quick release harness comply with ISO 10862.*

*Note: Rule 50.1(c) does not take effect until 1 January 2023.* - Concerns The AIADCA is scheduled to conduct a National Championship in January 2023. We are concerned that there are currently no readily available compliant trapeze harnesses and that there may not be by January 2023. We are also unable to identify the specifications of ISO 10862 (\$109 required to access), and note that the standard

- A. Seek extension from World Sailing to extend the date of effect.
  - B. Amend the A-Cat Class Rules to permit trapeze harnesses that are not of the quick release variety.
- Comment Both of these options would require substantial effort. We flag this issue for discussion in due course by IACA and National Associations, with perhaps some formal discussion and action at a possible Special World General Meeting in August 2022 at Garda.

5. **OVERALL** Interest in A Class catamaran racing remains strong with about 50/50 Classic vs Flying competitors. The AIADCA is proud to have yet conducted a National Championship and 3 State Championships despite the challenges of COVID 19 travel restrictions and COVID 19 infections.

Paul Neeskens, AUS 954, President AIADCA

## **Dutch A-division Catamarans Association – DACA Annual Report of 2021**

### Events

In 2021 all Dutch events were organised by Hellecat in Hellevoetsluis, but were limited to only two due to corona. The events of May and June had to be cancelled, but fortunately we had two good events in July and August.

### July

Therefore the first event was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of July with 15 registrations, divided into 10 foilers and 5 classics

Mischa Heemskerk wins overall foilers after 8 races with 8 bullets; Philippe Muijzers wins overall classics with 6 bullets.

Results: <https://www.a-catned.nl/Media/171821.png>

### August

The second event was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> up to the 29<sup>th</sup> of August with 36 registrations, divided into 27 foilers and 9 classics. Due to heavy weather some sailors withdrew their registration or did not start.

After the Worlds in Weymouth it was the first competition between Mischa Heemskerk and Kuba Surowiec. Kuba won in the foiler fleet because he scored 10 bullets and Mischa only 2. Mischa scored second overall, but was the first Dutch sailor in the ranking.

<https://www.a-catned.nl/Media/ONK%202021%20Foiling.pdf>

The classics had a female winner with Astrid Janssens, who scored only two bullets in 12 races. The first Dutch sailor was Frank Mauritz.

<https://www.a-catned.nl/Media/ONK%202021%20Classic.pdf>

### October

Hellecat organized the Ronde Tiengemetten on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, which is a long distance race open for all types of catamarans, including some A-cats.

Only 17 catamarans out of over 60 catamarans finished due to lack of wind. Most of them finished even after sunset in the dark. Mischa Heemskerk finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

Results: <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://hellecat.nl/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/Sailwave-results-for-RTG-2021-at-2021.pdf>

### Members

At the end of 2021 34 members were registered: 31 male and 3 female. There are 23 members with a foiler; 11 members with a classic. No contribution requested in 2021 due to corona.

### Board

Rutger Krijger is chairman since late 2016. Kees Krijger (uncle of Rutger) is secretary

and the treasurer is Wim Plokker.

#### Media

<http://www.a-catned.nl> plus Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dutchaclass?ref=hl>

Facebook is very successful with 1509 followers.

#### Conclusion

2021 proved the Dutch fleet is still active, despite corona

Rutger Krijger / Kees Krijger / Wim Plokker

NED 14 / NED 15/ NED 93