

IACA World General Meeting

August 5th, 2006

**Vastervik Yacht Club
Sailcenter of Sweden**

AGENDA

Welcome

1. President Report
2. Secretary Report
3. Economic Report and presentation of accounts and budget – Proposals to allocate funds
4. National Association and Fleet Reports¹
5. Election of Officers and I.A.C.A. Committee
6. Membership Fees
7. Selection of venues for 2008 World and Continental Championships (Please send written proposal to IACA Secretary and to IACA President)
8. Hydrofoils Commission Report – Hydrofoils ruling
9. Constitution and Championship Rules Commission Report
10. Proposals, received by the Secretary from National Associations, ISAF or other institutions.
11. Regulatory and Technical Affairs (Alterations in the I.A.C.A. Constitution, Championship Rules, Ballots etc.)
12. Various

¹ Each National Association will be represented at the WGM by its President or President delegate as notified to I.A.C.A. in writing

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REPORT

PRESENT : Stefano Sirri (IACA President), Pieter Saarberg (IACA Secretary), Matthias Pribil (Austria), Steve Brewin (Australia), Yvonne Sheehan (Ireland), Jean Luois le Coq (France), Ben Hall (USA), Dieter Melcher (Switzerland), Chris Field (Great Britain), Marco Gaeti (Italy), Magnus Roberg (Sweden), Guido Schulte (Germany), Murray Philpott (NZL), Manuel Calavia Arias (Spain), Roger Wright (Brasil), Thomas Paasch (Denmark), PieterJan Dwarshuis (The Netherlands); Mini Adriano (San Marino)

Meeting Opened by Stefano Sirri 10.30 am.

Stefano thanks Goran Marstrom for his hospitality and for his kind offer of a meeting room suitable for the World General Meeting.

Stefano clarified the voting procedure for the meeting and how many votes each country will be entitled to on membership numbers.

- **POINT 1 – President Report:**

Since the last World Championships in France we have welcomed one new National Association to our ranks. Welcome to Denmark, well represented here in Sweden .

The past year has been a very busy year.

The activities of the IACA Committee and of the two IACA Commission have been dedicated to 3 main items : Hydrofoils, Constitution and Championship rules.

It is really very difficult to develop projects working with people from many Countries, but in this case I can say that this experience was really good. All the people involved have been working keeping the final goal in mind. They did so even if the discussions have not always been easy ones.

1 Hydrofoils :

Lot of discussion on the hydrofoil ruling. We must remember the reason this rule was brought in was to limit or restrict the introduction of a “foiler” class, ie. “One that lifts the hulls from the water and becomes a full hydrofoil boat.” We simply don’t want “flying boats”.

The Commission has worked hard, and I want personally to thank all members who take part in the discussion. I think that the solution found is a good one. It gives stability to the A Class and gives us more time to evaluate this matter.

I kindly ask Murray to report at the right time in this WGM the state of the art of this point.

2 Constitution :

During the WGM in France a sub committee has been formed to review the Constitution before being sent to a ballot. It was necessary because all trials to review the Constitution were unsuccessful. This was voted on and all agreed. A sub committee has been formed by Dieter Melcher (SUI - Team Leader), Ian Johnson (AUS), Stefano Sirri (ITA) and Patrick Balbo (FRA). The Committee has reworked the Constitution, a lot of discussion have been made but I think that the result is very good for the A Class.

I kindly ask Dieter to report at the right time in this WGM the state of the art of this point

3 Championship Rules :

At the completion of the WGM 2004 these rules, as agreed by the meeting, were distributed to all countries with the request for more feedback on some of the more controversial rules which were not changed due to disagreements. During WGM 2005 the same group in charge for review the Constitution has been appointed to complete the Championship Rules.

The work consisted on to establish a clear procedure to allocate places for World and Continental Championship, to create a format suitable to manage such a Championships and to clear all previous documents. Unfortunately the work on Championship Rules has been harder than expected and the work has not been completed before the date of the WGM, so we are able now to distribute an advanced draft only.

I kindly ask Dieter to report at the right time in this WGM the state of the art of this point

As this is my first report as President I would like to thank Pieter Saarberg for his continued support and work as Secretary, all Full Members of the IACA Committee and the members of the two IACA Commissions. I would also like to thank and congratulate the respective National Representatives for the work they, and their Committees, have done to promote the A-Division within their own geographies, the Class is slowly growing in all parts of the World, due to local promotion.

A special thanks to Pieter-Jan Dwarshuis for his “on time” web site development and updates. This has certainly increased the exposure of the class to the World.

Congratulations to Magnus Roberg and to all the Swedish A Class Association for the organisation of this sunny World Championship.

- **POINT 2 - Secretary Report:**
- **POINT 3 - Economic Report and presentation of accounts and budget – Proposals to allocate funds:**
- **POINT 6 – Membership Fees:**

In 2006 we have 17 nations being member of the IACA. They account for 791 financial members. This is an increase of 23 since last year and shows the continuing grows of the class.

The balance of the A-class European bank account on 31st of December 2005 was € 26.026,99. The total balance on 10-07-2006 was € 27.539,43. The information of the still existing Australian account was not available at the moment of the meeting.

The details of the bank statements were seen by Dieter Melcher. He offered to help to make a full balance system to make it a more official documentation.

As the amount of money in the account is still growing and no budget is made to spend it, the IACA fee for next year will remain at € 4,00 per financial member.

The issue of the allocation of the places for the WC was raised as this has been a worry for the organisation of the WC. The allocation to the individual countries was given early in 2006 based on the number of financial members of last year. Each country was asked to let IACA know whether the number was accepted. Most countries accepted it and a lot asked for more places. A few countries let us know that they could not tell until their annual A-class meeting later. Very few countries returned places. This was until May 2006. First in June it was that a lot of countries started to return places, because the payment of the entry fee had to be done to the organisation in SWE.

This is far too late to be able to give other sailors the opportunity to enter the WC as most of them already had to fix their holidays. This way it was not possible to get the final allocation efficiently to the countries wanting more.

The main reason for this lies in the fact that sailors are asked whether they want to get the WC and not asked for immediate payment of the entry fee by the organisation in the individual countries. Only when it comes to payment they have to decide to participate in the WC or not. It is therefore strongly advised to change this. Payment should be asked directly when the sailor expresses his interest of participating in the WC by the organisation in his country. This will tell whether he is serious. It will give a better overview of the places used of the allocation. This way it will be easier to relocate places not used to countries needing more. Following this method it should be possible to have a clear indication as early as March which is a lot better to get a picture for the country which has the organisation for the WC what it can expect. Also it will give more dedicated sailors the opportunity to participate.

. Point 4 – National Associations and Fleet reports:

Chris Field (**UK**) – Class is increasing again after a bad period. 15 boats now and regattas with 10 boats

Gaeti (**Italy**): 80 active members on 150. Approx 30 boats at each race, with unfortunately a low participation at Nationals in Sicily. The level of the sailor is quite high (1st at French Nationals, 1st at Swiss Nationals) but costs are increasing and it is very difficult to attract young people. We are also suffering the competition of F18 class.

Dieter Melcher (**Switzerland**) - Approx 80 financial members, but a lot of people don't sail competitively. A big participation to Swiss Nationals with people from seven Countries. The Class intends to support the presentation at the Swiss Boat Show a boat suitable for young people. We are also organising a training camp.

Murray Philpott (**New Zealand**) – Approx 30 financial members, but a lot of people sailing who are not members. One of the main problems is that there are very few boats in NZ and it is difficult and expensive to buy a new one

Ben Hall (**USA**) - Successful year, 65 members. Some builders in the States building production boats. New fleets are appearing. Interest is very high in the Class. The World Championships 2007 will be held in Islamorada - Florida Keys, mid November 2007. Some problems with the availability of used boats. Hall invited everybody for the Winter Championship, south of Miami. A very familiar regatta with many boats, scheduled just before 2007 Worlds

Steve Brewin (**Australia**) - Approx 60 financial members, but a lot of people sailing who are not members. 50 boats attending our State Titles, the A Class is the most predominate Cat Class in Australia, Victoria is still the strongest State in numbers. The Australian Association supports development.

Matthias Pribil (**Austria**) - 50 boats attending our National Titles but only 17 from Austria. Normally 7 to 10 boats are active in regattas. People are used to train and to race with Germans.

Thomas Paasch (**Denmark**) – The Class is active since Novembre 2005 and counts 6 members in Copenhagen. Nationals scheduled end of August 2006.

Yvonne Seehan (**Ireland**) - 5 boats all in Cork and all financial members. A training and test boat available. Interested in organising trailers to participate in major events.

Guido Schulte (**Germany**) – 150 members. 15 to 20 boats are active in regattas. 37 boats attending our National Titles

Rob Wright (**Brasil**) – The class counts now 5 boats and 3 more are incoming within the end of the year. We are working to have a boat produced in Brasil with a cost of about 8.000 € to allow more people to enter the class.

Manuel Calavia (**Spain**) – 51 boats, about 20 regular sailing. Boats are located in Valencia (20), Barcelona and Galicia. Euro 2007 will take place in Murcia, from June 10 to June 17. A web site of the organisation will come soon. There is also the possibility to book a boat to see the final trials of Americas Cup (Contact Manuel Calavia for more details)

Roberg Magnus (**Sweden**) – The class is increasing in number, but only about 12 boats usually are present at regattas. It is very difficult to find used boats to allow new people to enter. We are quite happy about the World Championship here in Sweden. A good number of boats have come, we expected a little bit more but it's fine.

Jean-Louis Le Coq (**France**) - 50 to 60 regular sailors, a good fleet in the South and a smaller one on the Atlantic. The AFCCA apologize for such a low presence in Sweden but we took part in a lot of competitions in Italy and Switzerland.

Pieter-Jan Dwarshuis (**Netherlands**) – 48 members, about 20 normally active in regattas. 40 boats at the Nationals, many coming from F18 and Tornado.

- **POINT 5 – Election of Officers and IACA Committee:**

Stefano Sirri declared all the Committee positions vacant and asked for nominations.

Switzerland proposed Stefano Sirri

All voted in favour of this proposal, **Stefano Sirri is confirmed as President**

Stefano Sirri nominated Pieter Saarberg as Secretary, even if at the last WGM in 2005 Saarberg said he agreed to take the office for only 1 year.

Saarberg was happy to continue his work, and accepted the nomination. All voted in favour of this proposal, **Pieter Saarberg is confirmed as Secretary** According to the new Constitution Stefano Sirri asked Pieter Saarberg if he wanted to continue his work as treasurer. Pieter Saarberg accepted.

Stefano Sirri noticed to the meeting that, according to the new Constitution the offices of President and Secretary are a four years terms. All in favour.

Stefano Sirri then called for ISAF Representative nominations. Switzerland proposed Pieter Saarberg, asking for a more active management of ISAF affairs. All voted in favour of this proposal, **Pieter Saarberg is nominated as ISAF Representative** He will replace Ian Johnson. He will be also be entrusted with all current affairs by Johnson Stefano Sirri thanks a lot Ian Johnson for the very important work he did during all these years.

Nominations called for 3 IACA Committee Members : Stefano Sirri nominated John Schieffer (USA), Steve Brewin nominated Gavin Vize (Australia) and Manuel Calavia nominated Angel Fernandez (Spain)
All in favour, the motion was passed

- **POINT 7 – Selection of venues for 2008 World and European Championship:**

EUROPEANS 2008

Three nominations have been received officially.

- Austria with Attersee lake. A wonderful lake in the mountains of Austria, not far than 15 km from the motorway and about 50 km East from Salzburg. The period proposed was between June and July. Austria said that it is a very long time that a European Championship is not held in the Country. It will be very important, to promote the class, to have such a possibility.
- France with La Baule – South Bretagne, north of France, Atlantic ocean. A nice place located 150km north from La Rochelle. A good sandy beach, thermal breeze and many possibilities of accommodation. The period proposed was end of June.
- Italy with Cesenatico – north east of Italy, Adriatic See. A very famous place on the north of Adriatic See, where has been sailed the 2000 World. Sandy beach, thermal breeze from 6 to 10 Kn and all possibilities of accommodation due to the fact it is one of the most popular holyday zones in Europe. The period proposed was mid of July

Germany says that it is very difficult to decide about such an important matter without time to discuss inside the National Association. An application should be submitted to all Nations to be discussed in order to let the President or his delegate vote for the best choice.

Stefano Sirri and Dieter Melcher said that with the new Consitution and Championship Rules this situation will not happen again. Proposal shall be submitted to the IACA Committee 6 weeks prior the WGM, while the Agenda will be posted to all N.A. at least 4 weeks before the WGM.

For the future late applications will be no more accepted.

Applications are voted :

	Austria - Atterse	France – La Baule	Italy - Cesenatico
AUS	X - 6		
AUT	X		
DEN		X - 1	
GER		X - 15	
BRA			X - 1
FRA		X	
SUI		X - 8	
ESP			X - 5
SWE			X - 2
NZL			X - 4
NED	X - 5		
USA			X - 6
IRL		X	
GBR	X		
SMR			
ITA			X

Pieter Saarberg explains that, as we are in the habit of doing according to the old Constitution voting system, votes of the National Association who present an application are not counted. With the new voting system all N.A. will have the same rights of voting. The result is :

	Austria - Atterse	<u>France – La Baule</u>	Italy - Cesenatico
Votes	11	<u>24</u>	18

Congratulations to France – La Baule and to the AFCCA. Good luck for the organisation of 2008 European Championship

WORLDS 2008

The World Championships 2008 is proposed to be held in Australia. Two locations are available.

Belmont (Sidney), a very important Club with many facilities or Melbourne. The Australian Association will communicate locations, date and details A.S.A.P.

The main problem is that the 2007 World is placed mid-November in the USA, while the 2008 World is placed mid-January 2008 in Australia. There are many difficulties to allow people to participate .

The WGM decided that the 2008 World will be held mid-January 2009 and that the World Championship will be in Europe again in 2010.

POINT 8 - Hydrofoils Commission Report – Hydrofoils ruling:

Murray Philpott :

The technical committee has found that it is impossible to define what an hydrofoil is. The Committee talked at length about the so called rule phrase "designed to lift both hulls clear of the water" and its lucky that it never came in, imagine how hard it would be to police whether a boat is skimming along the top of the water on foils or airborne.

However it is much easier to describe what affects they can have on an A-Cat and therefore limit their use.

Simply we don't want foils to lift the boat. But canted centreboards and rudders can do this, so lets limit their use and in so doing we will stop any further use of hydrofoils.

To do this we thought to introduce a simple rule for a clear period, just to observe the situation and understand something more (Box rule + 1,5 m underwater).

No change to any other area is intended. The current rules do not mention rudders, tiller extensions, etc. So we haven't changed anything in relation to them.

Another proposal of this work was to create a smaller Hydrofoils Commission just to observe the situation a to report to IACA Committee.

Stefano suggested a smaller sub committee be formed to review these changes, to observe the situation and to report to IACA Committee. The commission will remain in office until the end of 2007. This was voted on and all agreed a sub committee will be formed and they will be : Murray Philpott (NZL), Guido Schulte (GER), Andrew Landenberger (AUS), Pieter Saarberg (NED). This Committee will report to the President and Secretary. All members agreed.

• POINT 9 – Constitution and Championship Rules Commission report

Dieter Melcher about Constitution:

After repeated efforts (2002/2004/2005) to approve the text of updated versions of the I.A.C.A. Constitution from Sept. 1997 at the WGMs, the WGM 2005 in France decided to form an international commission in order to refotmulate the I.A.C.A. Constitution and organise the still required Ballot to the all Financial National Members.

The main guidelines were:

- There was the general need to have a faster and more clear decision system, in particular to change the alteration and amendement procedure for the Constitution as in fact the I.A.C.A is an association of the National Association and not directly of the Financial National Fleet members
- IACA increased its importance V/S National Associations and vice versa
- There was the need to give more evidence to the budget and accounting
- Responsibility of IACA Officers needed to be clearly defined
- The official IACA website have to be the info-point

The respective Ballot is underway. By the 30. September 2006 all votes will be collected and after that the result posted to all N.A. and published on IACA website.

Germany says that they don't agree with the procedure followed. Better would have been to submit the draft first to the Committees of the National Association for an internal discussion.

Melcher answers that the e above decision was taken in France and that the spirit of the ballot is precisely to give voice to all financial members. It is an heavy decision system, but this is the actual rule defined by the current Constitution. With the new one all N.A. will have the right to debate about such a points.

Dieter Melcher about Championship Rules:

At this stage there is only a draft available which was discussed in length and the text finalized.

The major issues were :

- Fleet splitting : the proposal has been rejected once but this is the only solution to have a Championship with 100 boats in small lakes. Australia proposed to allow the fleet splitting, but it shall be clearly specified in the application. Proposal agreed.
- Races per day : there different proposal, from 1 to 3 races per day. After a discussion the WGM decided to sail 2 races per day
- Number of days : there is a proposal to reduce the number of days. After a discussion the WGM decided to allow the Organisation to establish a number of day from 6 to 8. It shall be specified in the application
- Continental Champion : after a discussion the WGM establish that the overall winner will be entitled as Continental Champion
- Wind speed : top wind speed 22 Knots
- To determine finally the attribution of Wild Cards.
- The proposal for prizes for the first female competitors were naturally approved.
- A last still open point led to an intensive discussion about the use of electronic navigation and tactic devices as e.g. GPS while racing. No agreement could be found and the WGM decided that Pieter Saarberg, new ISAF Delegate will contact the ISAF so that their actual ruling would be also used for the I.A.C.A. Championship Rules.

The Championship Rule Commission will complete A.S.A.P. the final text .

The final draft will be sent to all N.A. for their evaluation. After 30 days all comments will be reworked by the Commission in order to have the new Championship Rules valid from January, 1st 2007 on.

- **POINT 10 – Proposals received by the Secretary from National Associations, ISAF or other institution**

Nothing to report about this point

- **POINT 11 – Regulatory and Technical Affairs (Alteration in the IACA Constitution, Championship Rules, Ballots, etc.**

1. In the evaluation of further development steps of the A-Cat Switzerland issued a “Swiss Ballot” to its members with the proposal to reduce the minimum weight of the complete boat to 70 kg from today 75 kg. The majority of the returned “Swiss Ballot” votes gave a positive answer to this proposal. The Swiss A Class therefore entered an application to the I.A.C.A.

The discussion pointed out 3 main problems :

- a. there are no records that give evidence of an average weight reduction in the A class. In the last main Championship, Italy 2004 and France 2005 the medium weight was around 76/77 kg
- b. the boat builders says that it is difficult to reach and to maintain a 70 kg standard
- c. the actual level gives confidence in boats durability and safety. It is possible to sail almost in every conditions.

After a discussion the proposal was voted. All voted against, Switzerland in favour.
The motion was rejected.

The Hydrofoil Commission is in charge to investigate this problem for possible changements in the future

2. Germany pointed out the problem of GPS system while sailing. Are they allowed or not?
IACA was asked to express a clear position to all NA.
Sirri and Saarberg said that this point is under an ISAF regulation and there are no needs to express an IACA position. Anyway the ISAF Delegate, Saarberg; is in charge to better investigate this problem. News will be immediately communicated to all N.A.

POINT 12 – Various

Nothing to report about this point

The meeting ended at 15.30.
Many thanks to all Representatives

Signed :

Stefano Sirri
IACA President

Pieter Saarberg
IACA Secretary