

# **IACA World General Meeting**

**January, 2009**

## **Belmont 16 footers Sailing Club**

### **AGENDA**

Welcome

1. President Report
2. Secretary Report
3. Economic Report and presentation of accounts and budget – Proposals to allocate funds
4. Membership Fees
5. National Association and Fleet Reports<sup>1</sup>
6. Selection of venues for 2011 Worlds (Written proposals to IACA President and to IACA Secretary have been sent according to IACA Rules)
7. Hydrofoils Commission Report - by Andrew Landenberger
8. Proposals, received by the Secretary from National Associations, ISAF or other institutions.
9. Election of I.A.C.A. Committee Members
10. Regulatory and Technical Affairs (Alterations in the I.A.C.A. Constitution, Championship Rules, Ballots etc.)
  - a. Proposal of USACA – See attached
  - b. Proposal of SACA – See attached
  - c. Housekeeping rules
11. Various

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

# IACA World General Meeting

Thursday 8th January 19:00

Belmont 16 Footers Sailing Club  
QuarterDeck Room 1st Floor

## REPORT

Meeting opened at 19:20 by Piet Saarberg (in chair as President Stefano Sirri's delegate).

Present: Pieter Saarberg (Chairman & Secretary), John Goldsmith, Glenn Brown (Australia), Ken Erkhart (New Zealand), Klaus Raeb (Germany), Jean-Louis le Coq (France & Sweden), Pieter-Jan Dwahais (Netherlands), Clinio de Freitas (Brazil), Thomas Paasch (Denmark), Nigel Lovett (Great Britain), Yvonne Sheehan (Ireland), Eugenio Calabria (Italy), Manuel Calavia (Spain), Luc du Bois (Switzerland), Ian Johnson (minute secretary)

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

- **POINT 1 – President Report:**

Dear Presidents,

Unfortunately this year I can't be with you all, in this wonderful place.

First of all I want to thank the Australian A Class Association, Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Brown, and the Belmont 16 Footers Sailing Club for the organization of these events. I'm very happy to see that the 2008 Nationals and especially the 2009 Worlds is really a big event as everybody expected. I'm very proud to see an entry list of 100 competitors, 35 of which coming from overseas and with champions coming from other classes.

It means that despite of all discussions the most fun class around is still there and kicking.

The past year has been as usual a very busy year.

The activities of the IACA Committee and of the IACA Commission have been basically dedicated to the hydrofoils issue. This point has been a priority, so unfortunately there has been no time to work on the "housekeeping rules" as promised during the last World General Meeting. So I kindly ask you to withdraw this point from the Agenda.

## **1 Hydrofoils :**

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. But a fair and open debate is very important to focus the real problem, and I would like to thank all the members of the Hydrofoils Commission and all the people who gave their contribution

The WGM in 2007 was fixed as the deadline for checking the results of the new rule and it seemed to work in the right way.

In IACA's opinion there was no need for a formal approval of ISAF to apply this rule. Also because we are moving inside the "box rule", but in any case ISAF has been informed in writing by IACA Secretary in July 2008. Unfortunately Mr. Forbes, ISAF Secretariat, informed IACA that a formal approval according to ISAF procedure is required. The approval procedure re-started at the beginning of October 2008, and ISAF got the last version of the box rule and a Measurer Guide. In principle ISAF should have a 2 week consultation time but unfortunately we are still waiting for their final statement.

In any case all documents in the ISAF format are posted on IACA website.

At the 2008 Europeans in La Baule, a boat with curved centerboards seemed to have faster performance than "standard" ones. Curved centerboards were no news, because they have been used since the 2005 Worlds. But in this case started a new discussion about the compliance of this boat to Rule 8 "Hydrofoils are not permitted". So the Hydrofoils Commission started to work again. You all received many documents on this issue, so I think there's no need to spend more words. During the meeting there will be time enough to understand the problem and suggest a way to the Hydrofoils Commission to complete the work.

Mr. Andrew Landenberger will report about this work.

I only add the comments of my last e-mail on this subject.

*The hydrofoils issue has been heavily discussed within the class which is not good. We often forget that the best skippers win regattas not the best boats.*

*It is time however to sum up the work done in the last months by the Hydrofoils Commission and myself.*

*I inform you that the Hydrofoils Commission has not agreed on a final proposal yet. Views are different and that makes us understand that the problem is a political as well as a technical one.*

*There is no doubt on the fact that curved boards are a technical progress towards the aim of creating a vertical lift.*

*There are 3 possible guidelines for the commission in order to finalize their job:*

- 1. Allow hydrofoils development and ask for a new ballot "Hydrofoils are permitted"*
- 2. Accept the actual development level. In this case the attached proposal will be the basis for further work by the Commission.*
- 3. Stop hydrofoils development with strict rules (i.e. straight boards, distance >1.500 mm under water, etc)*

*During the meeting please evaluate the above 3 possible guidelines and decide which one among them will be given to the Commission to finalize the matter. The technical procedure will naturally follow.*

*In any case we must guarantee that boats that were measured before the issuing of the new rules are eligible*

Considering that we are a development class, I kindly ask you all to consider all possible plus and minus of every choice, and especially the risk of increasing boats cost. After the WGM and within the end of February all of you will receive a draft of the new rule, and your vote will be collected within the end of March via e-mail.

I hope this will help the A Class to improve its appeal and to be for the future the leading force of multihulls

## **2 Other Activities :**

Since the last WGM in Florida, IACA worked on :

- New IACA Website

The website is online since many months, and I would like to thank once more Pieterlan Dwarshuis for his “on time” web site development and updates. The idea is that the website requires a contribution from all over the World. I sent some e-mail dealing with this, but I got no answer. The website management is a voluntary work and cannot be done by one or two men only. I ask you one more time to find some people in each Continent who can help in filling the website with news and content. Pieterlan will explain you all the possibilities offered by the software.

- Tornado and Olympics

IACA fully supported the Tornado Class. I attach the answer sent by ITA President :

*“Thank you very much for your support letter and all the work you have done to help Multihull. Very much appreciated. The letter is very good.*

*Also good news to hear about Mr. Gaibisso as we were not counting on having him on side.*

*Good timing by the way, as we are finalising our presentation pack for the Mid years meeting and we fly to China this evening.*

*Once again thank you for your support.*

*We are looking forward to a good meeting in China.*

*Best regards,*

*Carolijn Brouwer  
ITA President”*

I hope Tornado will find a way to solve this problem. We will go on supporting, even if a more coordinated action is desirable

## **3 Future Activities :**

The program for the next year includes these main items:

- Organisation of 2009 Euro together with the Austrian A Class Association.
- Organisation of 2010 Worlds together with the Italian A Class Association.
- Publishing of the so called “housekeeping rules”, that includes the World Championship rotation, travel expenses for the President and for the ISAF Delegate, etc. These rules will be annexed to the Championship Rules.

I would like to thank Pieter Saarberg for his continued support and work as Secretary and all Full Members of the IACA Committee.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the respective National Representatives for the work they did together with their Committees 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 thank to Dieter Melcher from Switzerland for his help in preparing the Financial Report and for his “auditing” action on IACA procedure

Many thanks to all competitors.

I wish you all a fair wind.

International A Class Association



Stefano Sirri – President

Cesenatico, Italy  
January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

- **POINT 2 – Secretary Report:**



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

Pieter Saarberg reported we now have 900 members from 18 Nations.



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Discussion re spending some of the money for promotional videos of the championship to use to gain sponsorship for future events. Moved NED, seconded AUS to spend up to 5,000 Euros for promotional video – agreed.

A discussion was held on membership fees. It was agreed to leave at 4 Euros per member.

- **POINT 5 – National Fleet Reports:**

AUS - Increased numbers, especially younger members and people from outside the class attracted to Worlds. 18 members in Darwin NT which is a continued growth. Looking at regatta in July in Darwin and possible Nationals sometime in future. Revamped web site, professionally administered and updated regularly. Running some regattas with monohull classes to attract newer members. Unfortunately no inland waters regattas being run in Victoria due to the lakes drying up with the drought..

NZL - No real growth since New Plymouth Worlds. 30 enthusiastic sailors sailing regularly. Only a few new boats with lack of good second hand boats to attract new members.

GBR – Membership constant. Sailing with Hurricane class at regattas to increase exposure of class. Need good cheap second hand boats.

ITA – 150 sailors, hoping to increase numbers with 2010 Worlds. Uncertainty of Centreboard issue is making many people anxious.

IRL – 7 boats – one club – hoping some travel to Italian Worlds.

AUT – Currently running most of their regattas with the Germans to increase numbers.

SUI – Membership not increasing at this stage due to centreboard uncertainty.

FRA – Stable membership, 50 sailors in South-east and South- West. Northern France not seen as suitable for A-cat. Members are hesitant with centreboard issue.

GER – Stable membership – running championships as open regattas to increase numbers to 75. Attracting young people to class difficult due to lack of party atmosphere like the Hobies.

ESP – 80-90 members. 30-40 at regattas. Waiting for centreboard issue to be resolved. A-Cat still seen as expensive boat for young people.

NED – Stable membership of 45. 30-40 at Nationals. Difficult to recruit new members but some have come from F18 recently. Only 3 cat classes in Ned seen as speed machines, so need to promote more to get new sailors.

DEN – 12 members, all keen sailors. Articles after each regatta have helped to lift class profile. Ran recent Nationals with 505 and concentrating on joining mixed fleet regattas. Move to organise a Nordic cup circuit with SWE & GER.

BRA – 18 boats. Trying to build local boat to reduce the price of imports. 10 boats at Nationals, 3 at Worlds.

- **POINT 6 – Future Events:**

**2009 Europeans – AUT 31<sup>st</sup> May.**

**2010 Worlds – ITA – Cesenatico – hoping to organise best ever.**

**2011 Worlds:-**

Presentations given by GER and DEN to hold 2011 Worlds.

GER – End Aug/Sep. Baltic Sea, Scharbeutz, Lubeck Bay, 80 km from Hamburg. Large beach access to water. Club has previously organised European Championships for Dart & Topcat. Bid supported by City Council. Camping available at club – other accommodation also available as school holiday period has ended. See proposal on IACA website.

DEN – Beginning Aug. Aarhus, Bay of Aarhus, protected waters. Consortium of 5 sailing clubs. Kalovig Sailing Centre. Harbour, slipway and beach access. Clubs have run ISAF Youth Worlds in past. Large container port nearby. Plenty accommodation as holidays have finished. City council has pledged 65,000 Euros to hold event. See proposal on IACA website.

ESP – Earlier offer now withdrawn.

Voting in favour of DEN 50 (AUS, ESP, DEN, SWE, ITA, IRL, GBR, FRA, SUI) votes to 26 (NED, AUT, BRA, NZL, GER). 2011 Worlds will be held in DENMARK.

- **POINT 7 – Hydrofoils Commission Report:**

Presentation by Andrew Landenberger (chairman of hydrofoil committee).

A report was circulated to meeting. The committee was unable to come to any conclusive agreement. Clearly flying boats are not wanted and the box rule was seen as one way to reduce this. A suggestion is to hold a survey on the web for members to give their opinions – Mike Drummond spoke of the types of questions that could be used in the survey. Cost of playing with hydrofoils was seen as a major deterrent by most sailors.

Piet Saarberg reminded the meeting that any changes to class rules would require a ballot of all members. Piet then asked Andrew Landenberger to put forward a proposal for a ballot to restrict lifting boats out of the water.

Landenberger suggested the hydrofoil committee should be increased. Proposed and agreed the following people. Andrew Landenberger (chairman), Murray Philpott, John Goldsmith, Thomas Paasch, Mike Drummond, Luc de Bois, PeterJan Dwahais.



- **POINT 9 – Election of IACA Committee Members:**

President : Stefano Sirri

Secretary: Pieter Saarberg

Committee: Thomas Paasch, Bob Hodges, Ian Johnson

Pieter Saarberg thanked Glenn Brown for his contribution over the past two years and the organisation of the 2009 Worlds.

- **POINT 8 – Proposals:**

Pieter Saarberg distributed a report from SUI. The box rule has been dealt with and alterations made to the class rules to clarify the measurements.

Proposal to lengthen the timing for allocations for WC. – Agreed by all to leave as current and adhere to rule. Any Nations not adhering in time frame will forfeit places. It was noted there is only 5 months to the start of the 2009 Europeans.

- **POINT 10 – Regulatory and Technical Affairs:**

### **Championship Rules**

Ian Johnson reported there had been a few anomalies develop in the championship rules. Some are contradictions. This was pointed out by the Jury and PRO. IJ to review with help from Jury members and send proposed changes to Stefano.

### **Website.**

PeterJan has changed the format to allow National Associations with a password to update reports directly, also pictures.

The password is with Stefano . Presidents (or delegate) to contact Stefano for password so they can access website directly.

There was a recommendation that PJ send the passwords directly to all Presidents to be pro-active.

Meeting closed : 22:05

**Pieter Saarberg – IACA Secretary**

**World Championship report: Belmont, Lake MacQuarie, Australia.**

**Entries: 96**

**Nations: 13**

**Continents: 3**

**World Champion:** Glenn Ashby (AUS)

**Junior Champion:** Nathan Outteridge (AUS)

**Masters Champion:** Bob Baier (GER)

**Grand Masters Champion:** Scott Anderson (AUS)

**Great Grand Masters Champion:** Graeme Parker (AUS)