

IACA World General Meeting

12 November, 2007

Islander Resort

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 2010 World and 2009 European Championships
(Written proposal to IACA Secretary and to IACA President has been sent according to IACA Rules)
8. Constitution Commission Report
9. Proposals, received by the Secretary from National Associations, ISAF or other institutions.
10. Regulatory and Technical Affairs (Alterations in the I.A.C.A. Constitution, Championship Rules, Ballots etc.)
11. 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)**, Dieter Melcher (Delegated by Austria), Graeme Harbour (Australia), Yvonne Sheehan (Ireland), Stefano Sirri (Delegated by France), Bob Hodges (USA), Dieter Melcher (Switzerland), Eugenio Calabria (Italy), Erik Andersson (Sweden), Stefano Sirri (Delegated by Germany), Angel Fernandez (Spain), Stefano Sirri (Delegated by Denmark), John Vincze (Canada)

Meeting opened by the President at 5.30 pm.

The President thanks Bob Hodges and USACA for his hospitality and for his kind offer of a meeting room suitable for the World General Meeting.

The President 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 Sweden we have welcomed one new National Association to our ranks. Welcome to Canada, well represented here in the USA.

The past year has been a very busy year.

The activities of the IACA Committee and of the IACA Commission have been dedicated to 2 main items : 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 :

The WGM in 2007 was fixed as the deadline for checking the results of the new rule.

During these last two years no more discussions has been made and the rule seems to work in the right way. So the rule will be in force and the IACA Committee will observe any further development. To apply this rule there is no need of a formal approval of ISAF also because we are moving inside the “box rule”. Anyway ISAF has been informed by IACA Secretary I think that the solution found is a good one and it will give stability to the A Class

2 New Constitution :

The new Constitution did not received the majority of the 2/3 of votes after the ballot procedure. This was basically due to the opposition of German sailors to the new voting system. IACA President and the Returning Officer spent much time in finding a solution on this point. It was also decided, and approved by all N.A: that a new ballot would have been only a time-consuming and expansive procedure. So, after the voting system has been fixed, the IACA Committee decided to apply a different procedure, asking for a new vote to all “NO” sailor and asking to all N.A. if there were some oppositions. The result was fully positive, and the new Constitution was approved.

The main guidelines of the document are:

- The possibility to have a faster and more clear decision system, in particular to alter and amend the Constitution as in fact the I.A.C.A is an association of National Associations and not directly of Financial National Fleet members
- IACA increases its importance v/s National Associations and vice versa
- More evidence in budgeting and accounting
- Responsibility of IACA Officers are better defined
- The official IACA website becomes the official info-point

So, starting from August 2007 all IACA affairs are regulated from the new Constitution. The document has been sent to all N.A. and it is available on the IACA website www.a-cat.org

3 Championship Rules :

Championship Rules have been approved and they are valid from April 1st 2007. The GPS issue has been defined by ISAF. No proposals of alteration have been done by N.A. in this WGM.

4 Future Activities :

The program for the next year includes this main items:

- Organisation of 2008 Euro together with the French A Class Association.
- Organisation of 2009 Worlds together with the Australian A Class Association.
- New IACA Website
- 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, all Full Members of the IACA Committee and the Ballot Returning Officer Dieter Melcher. 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 thanks to Pieter-Jan Dwarshuis for his “on time” web site development and updates and for the work he will do on the new website. This will certainly increase the exposure of the class to the World.

Congratulations and many thanks from all competitors to Bob Weddon and John Schieffer for all their efforts to organise such an outstanding event.

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

In 2007 we have 18 nations being member of the IACA. They account for 974 financial members. This is an increase of 183 since last year and shows the continuing grows of the class.

The total balance of the A-class European bank account on 31st of December 2006 was € 28.000,99.

As the amount of money in the account is still growing and no budget has been made to spend it, the IACA Committee proposes that the IACA fee for next year will remain at € 4,00 per financial member. **All in favour, the motion was passed**

The IACA Committee also proposes to close the still existing Australian account. If necessary it will be re-opened in the future. The Secretary will follow this issue. **All in favour, the motion was passed.**

. Point 4 – National Associations and Fleet reports:

Eugenio Calabria (**Italy**): 80 active members on 150. Approx 30 boats at each race, with a good participation at Nationals in Lago d'Orta, more than 60 boat. The level of the sailor is not bad but costs are increasing and it is very difficult to attract young people. The Class does not grow at the moment.

Dieter Melcher (**Switzerland**) – We are quite happy of the new Scheurer Swiss boat. It is a good one. Approx 80 financial members, but a lot of people don't sail competitively. A good participation to Swiss Nationals but unfortunately the weather was really bad. The Class intends to support young people but fleet is not growing.

Bob Hodges (**USA**) - Successful year, and a big jump in participation since 2002. Number of members are increasing a lot. Builders in the States now produce new boats, like XJ and A2/A3, so there is less need to import boats from Europe or Australia. Interest is very high in the Class and after the World Championships 2007 we expect more than 60 boats at the Mid-winter Championship in Islamorada - Florida Keys, mid January 2008.

Graeme Harbour (**Australia**) - Approx 60 financial members, but a lot of people sailing who are not members. The Class is also very active thanks to Glenn and to all top Australian sailors. Now we are getting organised for the next Worlds. A web site will be created with all the informations required. The hosting Club is a very big one, 120 km North from Sidney, and the 1st priority of the Club is sailing!!!!!! The Worlds will start January 2nd 2009, in a nice period of vacation, so it will be possible for many overseas sailor to participate at this event.

Yvonne Seehan (**Ireland**) - 5 boats all in Cork and all financial members. A training and test boat available.

Angel Fernandez (**Spain**) – There is a new President, Mr. Abdon Ibañez. Many thanks to Manuel Calavia for the works he did in the last years. The 2007 European Championship held in Murcia has been a very good event, 70 boats. We are quite happy about the growing of the class also because in 3 years the number of sailors doubled, but the most important thing is that there are many young sailors. Boats are located in Catalunya (Valencia and Barcelona), Murcia, and Andalucia

Erik Andersson (**Sweden**) – The class is increasing in number, 30 boats at the moment. About 20 boats usually are present at regattas. 4 boats here at the Worlds

John Vincze (**Canada**) – The Class has been re-founded in 2007 with its own Constitution. We work strictly connected to USACA. This year the increase was of 3 new boats

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

The President explained that the last election has been made with the rules of the old Constitution and that all the Committee positions are vacant and asked for nominations.

Switzerland proposed Stefano Sirri

All voted in favour of this proposal, **Stefano Sirri is confirmed as President until the WGM 2011**

Australia expresses his worries about the fact that some IACA Officer may have principal commercial interests in the Class and that some actions may not be fair. IACA has to manage this problem, just to avoid situation of conflict of interest

Switzerland says that every Country knows who may have an interest in the class and that every Country has the possibility to alarm against eventual personal misconduct.

President says that this point has been debated for a long time during the Constitution review. The decision taken, considering that sometimes it is very difficult to find IACA Officers without commercial interest in the class, was to establish at points 6.2 and 6.7 of the new Constitution a strong possibility for all N.A. to control the activity of IACA Officers. It is strongly recommended a continuous check on all IACA activities in order to prevent unfair actions.

Secretary says that if the WGM does not trust him, he has no problem to stop his activity as Secretary, but it is a decision of N.A.

Switzerland proposed Pieter Saarberg as Secretary.

The President asked if there are some other candidates for the position. If not, the nomination is accepted.

All voted in favour of this proposal, **Pieter Saarberg is confirmed as Secretary until the WGM 2011**

According to the Constitution the President asked Pieter Saarberg if he wanted to continue his work as treasurer. **Pieter Saarberg accepted.**

The President asked Pieter Saarberg if he wanted to continue his work as ISAF Representative. **Pieter Saarberg accepted.**

Nominations called for 3 new IACA Committee Members : Stefano Sirri nominated Patrick Balbo (France), Graeme Harbour nominated Glenn Brown (Australia) and John Vincze nominated Bob Hodges (USA)

All in favour, the motion was passed

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

EUROPEANS 2009

One nomination has been received, Austria with Bodensee.

The organizing club will be “Yacht-Club Rheindelta”, which is famous for arranging big events in a very professional way.

The Racing Area is Lake Constance (Bodensee), with 536 km² one of the largest lakes in Europe. Lake Constance is located between Germany, Switzerland and Austria, right in the heart of Europe.

The base is at Campsite “Salzmann”, a very nice place in a nature reserve.

The event is planned from the 29th of May to the 06th of June 2009.

All in favour, the motion was passed

Congratulations to the Austrian A Class Association and to “Yacht-Club Rheindelta”.

Good luck for the organisation of 2009 European Championship that comes back to Austria after many years.

WORLDS 2010

Two nominations have been received.

- Spain with Murcia, – in the south of Spain, a lagoon on the Mediterranean shores. The **MAR MENOR** is a salt-water lake separated from the Mediterranean Sea by a narrow sand arm (called **La Manga del Mar Menor**) and connected with it by a navigable channel. Winds are thermal breeze, from 4 to 18 kn. There are many places of interest in the area, like Cartagena (old roman city), Murcia, Lorca, Alicante, La Manga, etc. The period proposed is mid of July
- Italy with Cesenatico – north east of Italy, on the Adriatic See. A very famous place on the north Adriatic See, where the 2000 World has been sailed. Sandy beaches, thermal breeze from 6 to 15 Kn and all possibilities of accommodation due to the fact it is one of the most popular holyday area in Europe. The period proposed is mid of July

After a short report about these applications done by Angel Fernandez (Spain) and Giovanni Calabria (Italy), applications are voted :

	Spain – Murcia	Italy - Cesenatico
AUS	X - 7	
AUT		X - 7
DEN		X - 2
GER		X - 15
FRA		X - 8
SUI		X - 10
ESP	X - 7	
SWE		X - 4
USA		X - 9
IRL	X - 1	
ITA		X - 15
CAN	X - 1	

The result is :

	Spain – Murcia	Italy - Cesenatico
Votes	16	<u>70</u>

Congratulations to the Italian A Class Association and to “Congrega Velisti Cesenatico”. Good luck for the organisation of 2010 World Championship that comes back to Italy after 10 years.

Switzerland suggested to speed up the procedure to demand application for the 2011 Worlds in Europe. It is always more difficult to find Clubs available for such events. Costs and complexity are very high, and a longer lead time may help the organising committees. The IACA Committee is in favour of this suggestion, and applications will be required before the 2009 Worlds in Australia

- **POINT 8 – Constitution and Championship Rules Commission report**

Dieter Melcher about Constitution:

The main point was that the Constitution did not reach 2/3 of “YES” votes.

The Constitution Commission was all aware that the German Fleet Members did not basically approve the new Article 8.1 with the change of “Voting rights”.

The Commission decided to suggest the following procedure:

1. Stefano Sirri took direct contact with the VDAC Committee of Germany in order to find an agreement for Art. 8.1 “Voting Rights”, whereas the concept to give more weight to small National I.A.C.A. should be respected.
2. After such an agreement with the VDAC Committee, they had to hold an internal German voting to find out if their members accept now the altered Constitution. A lead time of 2 weeks for receiving an answer from their Fleet Members is suggested.

3. The same agreement about Art. 8.1 would be submitted by the Returning Officer at the same time to the 4 negative votes from the other nations.
4. If a 2/3 approval is reached from Germany and from the other 4 members, the updated I.A.C.A. Constitution would be approved.

This procedure has been evaluated by the IACA Committee and was asked all N.A. to express their approval or not.

No negative comments have been received within the fixed deadline, so the procedure started by dispatching by e-mail or postal-mail on 06.07.07 “

No” Voters 2006	53
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Return as mail-address unknown *	1
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Returned with post-stamp 03.08.07, not valid	1
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Remaining potential valid voters	51
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Returned within time-limit (Last dispatch 31.07.2007)

- Votes “YES”	9
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- Votes “NO”	0
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i.e. 100 % of returned votes approved the final version of the I.A.C.A. Constitution

The main remark is that 43 members did not respond!

*Some e-mail addresses were not correct and I mailed thus the voting form to those Fleet Members by postal-mail.

So, starting from August 2007 all IACA affairs are regulated from the new Constitution and the work of the Commission is closed.

Many thanks to all members, Patrick Balbo, Ian Johnson and Stefano Sirri

- **POINT 9 – Proposals received from National Associations, ISAF or other institution**

Nothing to report about this point

- **POINT 10 – Regulatory and Technical Affairs (Alteration in the IACA Constitution, Championship Rules, Ballots, etc.**

Nothing to report about this point

POINT 11 – Various

The President proposes to invest 3.000 € to review IACA Website according to a project prepared by PieterJan Dwarshuis. The system proposed is easy to use, state of the art and freeware. Every upgrade is possible for the future .

All people who get a password can enter the web-based content management system and can update the site .

The design of the site will be modern , and can be changed and upgraded over the years.

The layout is strict and cannot be messed up by the people who update the site, only by the webmaster.

The site will have search engine , and a feature that all items on the site related to the subject are automatically linked to this .

In any case the webmaster strongly requests active assistance from a few others who get a password. It would be really very nice to have one man in every Continent responsible for the contents. All N.A. will be contacted when the website will be ready.

Canada offers his help and the template of the website.

Sweden ask for more information about the company who will develop the website. The webmaster will give all information required.

All in favour, the motion was passed

Spain expresses his concerns about safety during the Worlds or Europeans. The Championship Rules consider 1 rescue boat every 15 A Cat. The Organising Committees, both in Sweden in 2006 and in the USA did not comply with this standard. We will be quite lucky if the weather conditions are fine, but in case of strong wind with many boats requiring for assistance there may be some problems.

Switzerland says that when a N.A. and a Club are voted for International Events it must be clear that it is under their responsibility the compliance with IACA Rules.

The IACA Committee will take care of this point for the next events, and at the next WGM a point “Safety” and “Insurance” will be fixed in the Agenda.

All in favour.

USA propose to cancel the limit of 100 boats on the entries. The responsibility of entry is of the sailor, not of the N.A.

Australia and Sweden agrees. The Clubs should state how many boats they can handle.

Switzerland says that every Country has a qualification system and the Swiss A Class thinks that only the best sailors should be admitted in the Worlds/Europeans.

National Representatives debated the point.

IACA President says that rules are fixed and that no proposal have been received to change the rules within the fixed deadline. This point was not in the Agenda and all National Representatives have not had the time to discuss the matter within the Country. So this issue can not be discussed and it is postponed since it was not on the Agenda. The Constitution states at point 12 how to change Championship Rules. The alteration may be voted before the WGM by all N.A. via e-mail.

USA offers to present a proposal within the end of the year.

Sweden propose to fix the weight of a boat without sail, in order to allow producers to release “certified boats”.

Switzerland disagree

IACA Secretary says that we are under ISAF Measurement Rules and that on the A-Cat to many parts may be changed (mast, rudders, daggerboards, blocks, etc). It would be impossible to control the conformity of a boat.

All against, the motion was not passed

USA and Sweden say that there is very bad news for the multihulls world. Multihulls are out of Olympics. Tornado is no more on the list of the Olympic Classes.

USA and Sweden suggest IACA supports the protest against this decision.

IACA President says that the IACA Committee will evaluate ASAP all documents, and will write a formal note to the ISAF and to the IOC

All in favour.

The meeting ended at 20.30.
Many thanks to all Representatives

Signed :

Stefano Sirri
IACA President

Pieter Saarberg
IACA Secretary