

INTERNATIONAL 505 CLASS YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Thursday, 16th October 2008 at Club Canottieri Roggero di Lauria, Palermo, Sicily.

The meeting started at 19h00

In attendance:

Officers

President: Pip Pearson

Secretary: Peter Roos

Treasurer: Stephen Burwood

Rules Committee Chairman: Rob Napier

Members: Approximately 140 members signed the attendance record.

1. Approval of Minutes of 2007 AGM (previously circulated to National Association Secretaries and posted on Website)

1.1. Proposed SJ Lake, Seconded T Bojland, Approved *nem con**

2. President's Report (Pip Pearson)

After 54 successful years of steady growth it is my view, that as a Class, the time has come for us to re-examine our class rules and possibly commence a process of making the 505 Class more restricted in rigging and layout. There is no doubt the last 54 years of development, innovation and experimentation has seen the 505 develop into possibly the most sophisticated racing dinghy yet designed.

Compared to the simplicity of the boats I first sailed back in the early 60's the boat is hardly recognizable.

Whilst we have always enjoyed the flexibility of being a development class and have benefited enormously from the opportunity for innovation that a development class provides, in recent years this development has resulted in significant complexity to both construction and rigging and a corresponding dramatic increase in cost.

To the extent that, I believe the present complexity and cost of being seriously competitive in a 505 at International level is working as a detriment to our future growth.

In the last three years our new registrations have dropped to:-

27 - 2006

24 - 2007

22- 2008 (to date)

Compared to the era of the 60's and 70's and 80's these numbers should be alarming and I believe is giving us a message, which we can ignore at our peril. Whilst I acknowledge we are living in vastly different times to the 60's, 70's and 80's, I believe that is just the point. We ARE living in vastly different times and we need to respond to the needs of our time. There is no doubt, these days more people are more affluent than in times past, BUT, they are "Time Poor".

Mr. Average sailing enthusiast does not have the time to spend 3 nights a week in his garage fiddling with his boat and then spend 3 years of competition before he feels capable of being reasonably competitive. In recent years it seems the One Design classes are meeting the requirements of the sailing public more than a development class.

I question whether we have now developed to a degree of sophistication that is actually working against us for future growth and the capacity to attract the "new age" younger sailor who has less time to spend tuning to achieve a satisfactory result in a competitive fleet than was possible a generation ago.

This is the challenge for our Executive, Rules Committee and members alike to address for the future.

During the last two years I have discussed this topic and sought the opinions of many of you throughout our International fleets and I have been surprised by the similar concerns that so many of you share. I have my own personal views on some areas of "rules revision" which may be appropriate and could be a starting point for a revision, but this meeting is certainly not the forum for discussing detail.

Our International Website site is presently in desperate need of "revision and overhaul" and we need to again enjoy an active "Members Only" forum. It will be my goal in this term of office to regenerate our website to its former active, healthy source of information and debate. To this end, I have arranged a proposal and outline for this meeting from one of our new members who is a specialist in this field.

Earlier this year Jean-Baptiste Dupont from France, our Vice President - resigned his position due to business and family pressures - and I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Jean-Baptiste for his past involvement and service to the class.

At this our 54th Worlds I would like to publicly acknowledge the contribution by Marco Giraldi in his endeavors at being the principal "Mover & Shaker" for hosting this year's Worlds here in Palermo. It has been a huge undertaking for such a small, young, Italian fleet. Some of you may not be aware that Marco is not a local, he is from Milan in Italy and there is a significant cultural difference between being an Italian and a Sicilian. Marco has had some frustrations along the way which have made his job much more difficult than had he been a local, here on the ground, at the site of the event. Marco, you need to know, we all recognise and appreciate your efforts in making this year's Worlds happen.

This closes my report for 2008.

Thank you.

M. A. "Pip" Pearson

3. Secretary's Report (Peter Roos)

Short report. Annual dues will be invoiced shortly, and fleet numbers are required. With a boat that has developed over 54 years, the administration has been stuck in the '50s. It is my intention to streamline the administration to reflect the development of the boat, and the first steps in that direction are the rule changes proposed today.

Peter

4. Treasurer's Report (Stephen Burwood)

The treasurer indicated that his report could not be audited, as the auditor has been *incommunicado*. The banking will be moved to an Internet based system shortly which should facilitate payment of accounts and subs. There are a number of fleets that are in arrears with their payments and these were identified during the IGC meeting. The report was then discussed by the members.

Q) Why is there so much money in the account, could we reduce fees, what is it earmarked for?

A) Funds are reserved to promote growth if suitable projects are identified, and fees will remain static in the interim.

4.1. Proposed I Greg, Seconded B Franks, Approved *nem con**

5. Appointment of Auditor

5.1. Due to the unavailability of the current auditor, a new auditor must be elected

5.2. B Franks (AUS) was proposed and has accepted the position.

6. Report from International Rules Committee (Rob Napier)

The Chairman of the IRC gave a brief report. He thanked his IRC members for their support and contribution during the past year. He mentioned that the ISAF Rules Committee are proposing a change to B11.1., and that we should anticipate this change in our own rules.

7. Election of:

International President: current office holder: Pip Pearson (AUS)

International Vice President: current office holder: JB Dupont (FRA)

The current President has indicated his willingness to continue.

A nomination to appoint Simon Lake (GBR) to the position of Vice-President had been received from the UK Association as required by Rule A 7.2.

7.1. Approved *nem con*.

8. Rule changes:

Minor changes – proposed by the IRC

8.1. Proposal to change Class rule B 1.4 to ERS 2009-2012

The ISAF Equipment Rules of Sailing ~~2005-2008~~ **2009 – 2012** (ERS) apply, except as varied by these **class rules** (these Rules”). Except where used in headings, when a term is printed in **"bold"** the definition in the ERS applies and when a term is printed in "italics" the definition in the racing rules of sailing (RRS) applies

(This done to comply with the updated RRS for the period 2009-2012)

Proposed IRC, seconded SJ Lake, approved *nem con*.

8.2. proposal to change Class rule B 4.1 as follows:

4.1 An approved measurer is either an **official measurer**, or a person appointed by the International Association to carry out **certification control**. The **certification authority** is the International Association. **An ISAF Member National Authority may appoint one or more persons at a sailmaker as an approved sail measurer to measure and certify sails produced by that manufacturer in accordance with the ISAF In-house Certification Guidelines.**

(This done to allow IHC (in House Certification) on sails)

Proposed IRC, seconded P von Grey, approved *nem con*.

8.3. Proposal to change the following rules by removing the word 'postal' and replacing with the word 'verifiable'; A5.3, A5.3.5, A7.3, A11.2

(This done to allow the use of technology in future ballots, provided such ballots cast can be tested for validity)

Proposed IRC, seconded T Bojland, approved *nem con*.

8.4. Proposal to change the following rules by removing the word 'papers' and replacing with the word 'results': A15.3, A15.5

(This done to allow the use of technology in future ballots, provided such ballots cast can be tested for validity)

Proposed IRC, seconded T Bojland, approved *nem con*.

8.5. Proposal to change rule B9.3.1 'for such period from ~~the 1st January next following~~ **ISAF approval and** as may be prescribed being not less than 1 year nor more than 3 years when it shall lapse unless renewed by the procedure in Rule B-9.21'

(This done to allow quicker implementation of rule changes decided by balloting procedure)

Proposed IRC, seconded A Stenger, approved *nem con*.

8.6. Proposal to change B11.1 to anticipate a change to Rule 42.3 by ISAF

Proposed IRC, seconded M Gorse, approved *nem con*.

9. World Championships 2009 San Francisco. Update presented by M Holt.

10. World Championships 2010 – Aarhus, Denmark. Presentation by Tom Bojland.

10.1. Approved *nem con*

11. World Championship 2011 – Thailand presented by SJ Lake

- Hamilton Island, Queensland, Australia presented by C Jackson.

Decision to be made at San Francisco, although an overwhelming support has already been shown for Hamilton Island.

12. World Championship 2012 –La Rochelle presented by M Boirot.

General discussion

Eligibility of competitors for Europeans and Worlds to be clarified in the NoR. Can European Championships include all entrants? This point was discussed and debated.

A discussion ensued on holding Europeans and Worlds together. Asked and answered.

Discussion on website. Presentation done by J Ross (AUS). Site to be developed.

Discussion on 505 branding and logo. Proposed that the 505 logo with the elevated '5's not be adapted or distorted by event organisers. Discussion to be pursued.

Close of meeting – 21h00

PJM Roos - International Secretary – 4 December 2008