

# **INTERNATIONAL 505 CLASS YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION**

Minutes the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at the Société des Régates Rochelaises, La Rochelle, France.

## **Present**

Mr. Malcom 'Pip' Pearson, President; Mr Simon Lake, Vice President; Mr Stephen Burwood, Treasurer; and about 75 members.

Apologies were received for the absence of Andreas Jungclaus Chairman IRC; and the Secretary, Peter Roos

## **1. Approval of Minutes of 2011 AGM**

The minutes of the 2011 AGM had been circulated and posted on the International web site. Peter Alarie, (USA) moved that the minutes be taken as read. Seconded by Michael Quirk (AUS) and carried nem con.

## **2. President's Report**

This year's report is written "Pre-Worlds" and "Post-Worlds" to incorporate comments to include this years Worlds at La Rochelle.

Since the World Championships last year in Hamilton Island, I have attended as many major events as possible to keep in personal contact with the Members and their National Associations. I have attended the 2011 French Nationals here at La Rochelle, the European Championships at Malcesine in Italy, the North Americans in New York in October, an open meeting in the Seattle region in the USA and the Australian Nationals in Perth, Western Australia over the Easter period.

Part of the purpose of this is to provide me the opportunity of being able to meet and have discussions with Members at their own local level and not just the members who we regularly see at World Championships.

I make it quite clear that this travel is at my own personal expense and is not in any way at the expense of the International Association.

Further to my 3 previous President's Reports I again re-iterate my view that as an International Class we need to review some of our Class rules and I again suggest the IRC should take up the challenge to do this. .

Without wishing to repeat previous comments I am even more convinced today than 3 years ago that we need to do some serious analysis of our rules which may help to prevent the ever widening gap between the front of the fleet and the back of the fleet.

I am still concerned by the regular reports I hear from younger sailors who aspire to racing a 505 but are intimidated by the apparent complexity of the latest boats and the cost.

Many of you know I have had philosophical discussions with you on this topic and I recognize it is indeed a double edged sword. My major concern is the difficulty that we have as a Class in attracting younger sailors to the Fleet compared to 30 - 40 years ago.

Despite these comments it is very encouraging indeed to see the resurgence in numbers of the French Fleet in the lead up to these World Championships, and I would like to acknowledge the energy and enthusiasm of Holger Jess in the part he has played in assisting the French in their rebuilding program. Whilst I recognize Holger has a commercial interest in his involvement, I'm prepared to acknowledge that the 5O5 Class would do well to have a Holger Jess in every country.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize the return of the Parker family back into 5O5 production after an absence of many years. Parkers were the main driving force in 5O5 building through the 50', 60's and 70's and no doubt it will be a benefit to the Class to again have the Parker 5O5 back in production.

"Post World comments"..

With 188 entries this is the largest Fleet we have ever assembled at a World Championship

Which would suggest, on the face of it, the Class is in an extremely healthy situation. However what concerns me is the diminishing number of entries we see around the World at National Championships. (With only one or two exceptions. )

Full credit must go to the La Rochelle Yacht Club in staging a spectacular event. Arguably, not another venue in the World could accommodate such a large fleet with the ease of La Rochelle. It's been 13 years since the Class had its last World championship in France at Quiberon and with such a large fleet re-establishing itself in France I hope the Worlds can return to France again in much than another 13 years.

Congratulations to Jan Saugmann and Martin Gorge on their 2012 World Title.

The 2nd title Jan and the 1st for Martin.

After having suffered the sudden and tragic loss of Morton Ramsbaek, Jan's long time friend and crew shortly after the Europeans at Malcesine, last year, this win would have a special meaning for Jan.

I must comment on the Class Rules and Guidelines for conducting a World Championship.

Local Organising Committees for a World Championship have an obligation to adhere to the Class Rules which have been established over many years and must acknowledge their obligations in this regard in order to maintain the high standard of the event and to attract the maximum entries to a World Championship. There were

aspects of this year's organisation that were ignored - and have still not been resolved in regard to basic requirements that should be met by the Local Organising Committee.

2012 saw the retirement from the Class of Rob Napier. And La Rochelle was also a farewell to racing from Jim Berry. I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution to the Class both Rob Napier and Jim Berry have made over such a long period.

Their presence on the race course will be missed.

The 2013 Worlds in Barbados next April promises to be an exciting venue and with the enormous and continued support of SAP, the 505 World Championships have become a major event on the international Yachting calendar.

M. A. "Pip" Pearson

President.

### **3. Secretary's Report**

The President read from the Secretary's report contained in an email.

The Secretary reports that a national association has been formed in the Netherlands and that another was in the process of being formed in Austria, these bringing the total of new associations formed in the last few years to three.

There is some issues with the receipt of subscriptions from member associations, (the Belgian association having been brought up to date at La Rochelle), and confusion as to the state of contributions from the US association.

The secretary noted that sail numbers are not being allocated in build sequence.

The secretary raised his concerns again regarding the World Championships in Barbados in 2013.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

*To be provided by Stephen.*

Paul Von Grey (USA) proposed that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Angela Stenger (GER) and carried nem con.

### **5. Appointment of Auditor**

The Treasurer reported some difficulties working with the Auditor on the other side of the world. The President asked for nominations for Auditor from the meeting but there were none. Action: IEC to pursue this.

## 6. Report from International Rules Committee

The report from IRC has been posted on the International Web site and was taken as read, carried nem con.

Action: The IRC was asked to clarify:

- What is measured in sailing weight (e.g. buoyancy aids, paddles & tow ropes required by sailing instructions) – Jean Baptiste Dupont (FRA)
- What constitutes a “set of spars” – Jean Baptiste Dupont (FRA)

Action: The meeting also asked the IRC to ensure that the latest rules and rulings are available on the international web site.

## 7. Election of Officers:

No nominations had been received in accordance with rule 7.2 of the constitution so the incumbents continue in office:

International President: Malcolm “Pip” Pearson  
International Vice President: Simon Lake

## 8. National Espoirs Scheme – France

Elizabeth Neidhart and Aline Martin described the National Espoirs Scheme which has been in place for seven years, and is designed to attract sailors under 25 to the class.

The scheme involves members loaning their boat to young sailors and coaching them prior to an annual championships. It was found that this creates competition between coaches as well as the sailors. The championship was held initially at Le Havre and more recently at Troyes.

This scheme has been successful at attracting younger sailors to the class and other countries are encouraged to see if a similar scheme could be beneficial.

## 9. Rule changes:

The following proposals were put to the meeting:

### 9.1 Change 11.5 to:

11.5 Approximately 5 seconds prior to the starting signal:

- (a) the Pathfinder will begin a close-hauled port tack course from the {Port Limit Mark} {close to the stern of the race committee boat}.
- (b) the Gate Launch will keep station close astern of the Pathfinder.
- (c) the starting line will be open and boats may start once the Gate Launch has cleared the Port Limit Mark, regardless of the starting signal. RRS 29.2, Individual Recall, shall not apply.

There was an amendment proposed that 11.5 should read:

11.5 Within 10 seconds after the starting signal being made:

- (a) the Pathfinder will begin a close-hauled port tack course from the {Port Limit Mark} {close to the stern of the race committee boat}.
- (b) the Gate Launch will keep station close astern of the Pathfinder.
- (c) the starting line will be open and boats may start once the Gate Launch has cleared the Port Limit Mark, regardless of the starting signal. RRS 29.2, Individual Recall, shall not apply.

The amendment to rule change was carried by a large majority with only one vote against.

#### 9.2 Change 11.7 to:

11.7 All boats (except for the Pathfinder) shall start on starboard tack

Both rule changes, as amended above, were carried by a large majority

### **10. World Championship 2013 – Barbados**

Plans for the World Championship to be held at the Barbados Yacht Club from April 22nd to May 3rd 2013 are on track.

The Barbados Tourist board and other sponsors hosted an evening event early in the La Rochelle pre-worlds regatta to give a flavour of the forthcoming event. Unfortunately the majority of sailors had not arrived at this point.

A shipping deal for USA, AUS and RSA on the same basis as for Europe is in progress.

### **11. World Championship 2014 Kiel – Germany**

A full report for the 2014 World Championships will be made in Barbados. The schedule will be a two day pre-worlds regatta (which will not be the German National Championships) followed by the World Championship Regatta.

The World Championship events will take place in mid to late August 2014

### **12. World Championship 2015 Port Elizabeth - South Africa**

The meeting moved into the SRR club house and Peter Funke presented the proposal for the 2015 World championships in Port Elizabeth, RSA.

The presentation was very informative and covered all the points required by the championship guidelines.

A vote was held and there were 32 votes in favour and none against.

### **13. General Business**

A proposal was made to remove the lay day from the World Championships program – a vote was held and this proposal was defeated by a majority of 3:1.

Carter Jackson (AUS) proposed that we should have a set of standard sailing instructions for all regattas – the meeting agreed that this is a good idea. Action: IRC to investigate.

Paul Von Grey (USA) brought to the meetings attention that there was an issue in La Rochelle regarding the local costs related to demurrage and transportation. This is clearly covered in our championship guidelines and it would be useful for the Association to remind the organising authority of their responsibilities.

There being no other business, the President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed.