

INTERNATIONAL 420 CLASS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 2000 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LA ROCHELLE, FRANCE SUNDAY 16 JULY 2000

President: Michel Garnier
Vice President: Claire Lizin
Treasurer: Pierre Spilleboudt
General Secretary: Gail Nuttall
Technical Chairman: John Veldman

Member Nations in attendance

Argentina Bill Harriague President Paid
Australia Mark Patterson President Paid
Belgium Philip Mouleart President Paid
Brazil Gustavo Harada Representing President
France Clement Mizzi President Paid
Great Britain Catherine Dodds President Paid
Germany Wolfgang Stenz President Paid
Greece Nikifordis Takis Hellenic Y Fed Paid
Holland J P Van Cadsand President Paid
Ireland Ken Galvin President Paid
Israel Doron Rottenberg President Paid
Italy Giorgio Bazzini Secretary Paid
Sweden Lars Oberg Representative Paid
Switzerland Ivo Gonzenbach President Paid

Competing nations not represented

Czechia, Denmark, Spain, Hungary, Portugal, Singapore, United States.

Observers.

Josef de Smedt, Belgium, Liz Loday, France, Vice President, Germany, John Burgoine, Great Britain, Jan Bakker, Holland, Jean Paul Peyrot, Switzerland.

International Executive Committee.

Michel Garnier, Pierre Spilleboudt, Gail Nuttall, John Veldman.

Technical Committee

Jean Luc Hottot

During the meeting the Super Spar representatives and Alberto Portiglia of Nautivela entered the room.

At the commencement of the meeting, 13 voting members were present. The representative from Brazil joined at item 8. Some member nation representatives left the room prior to the end of the meeting. At all times a quorum for voting purposes was maintained.

Michel Garnier welcomed all to the meeting and apologised for the delay in starting but racing finished later than expected.

He then explained that there was a major problem under the Articles of

Association, as accepted at the General Assembly 1999. Only three nations, India, Singapore and Belgium had paid the association fee of \$15 by the due date, 1st April 2000. As only Belgium was represented at the meeting, it was put that with the agreement of Belgium, all the other nations present, who paid the fee before the meeting, would be able to vote and take a full part in the meeting.

Belgium agreed to this. All nations were asked to ensure payment of the due fee well before the due date, 1st April 2001, so that this problem would not occur again.

The meeting proceeded.

1. Election of Chairman

The election of a Chairman for the meeting was discussed. Michel Garnier was proposed by GBR and seconded by IRL.

He was duly accepted.

2. Report of the President

Michel Garnier read his prepared report which had been handed to all representatives. It is attached to these minutes.

3. Report from the Technical Committee

Chairman of the Technical Committee, John Veldman read his prepared report which had been handed to all representatives.

Clarification as to the granting of 'new' licenses to builders was requested and granted. His report was amended.

It is attached to these minutes

4. Presentation and acceptance of the Annual Accounts

Pierre Spilleboudt had prepared the accounts.

These were handed to all representatives.

They are attached.

He explained that in 1998/9 there had been some exceptional expenditure.

This was caused by travel costs to builders in China, Australia, travel to meet with ISAF and national representatives to ensure the selection of the 420 for the 2000 and future years ISAF World Youth Championships and the purchase of 50 trolleys to be loaned to the builder supplying boats for those championships. These trolleys remain an asset of the class.

He and the executive committee are well aware that the financial state of the class must be protected and felt that the coming year would be back in profit.

The only income is from the sale of boat numbers, part of which is paid as Royalty to the designer and part to the ISAF. The class receives £22.50 per boat.

Although we have licensed new builders, the cost to the association of sending a measurer to carry out prototype measurement is not recovered immediately. It was agreed that part of this expenditure should be marked as 'class promotion'.

PS also pointed out that many 'school' 420 are built but as they do not carry sail numbers, no fees are paid to the class.

It may be prudent in the future to increase the builders fee but the meeting urged care as this effectively means that the sailors will be paying more.

The other source of income is from the 10% fee from host nations who hold the world championships. This also is often not paid, hence the current system that the entry fee is paid to the International Class who then pass it to the host nation, less the 10%.

On questioning he explained that the presentation format of the accounts was historic but will be happy to prepare a full balance sheet, showing the previous years accounts for next year.

With regard to auditing of these accounts, the custom of asking one person was questioned.

NED proposed that 2 person, from nations differing from the treasurer and president should do this job.

The meeting agreed to this. (Such persons would be elected under item 12)

The meeting duly approved accounts.

5. Approval of next years subscription fee.

After discussion, it was agreed to keep this fee at \$15. The treasurer will accept any currency and was willing to take the fee for 2001 during this event.

The due date remains 1st April

6. Proposals from the Executive Committee

Michel Garnier explained that the proposal presented by the Executive Committee relates to changes to the class rules. He explained that this was a very large task as modifications in the past and since the 'new generation' had caused some confusion and anomalies. These have been corrected.

They were as sent out in May but a 2 further minor amendments and a new proposal due to the difficulties that had been found during this event measurement have been included..

The first amendment relates to the drawings on page 5 of our class measurement booklet. These will remain as altered. (Previously it was to be deleted)

A new rule to clarify measurement of the transome has been written.

The new addition relates to the measurement method of the mast rigging.

The meeting asked for explanation of the need for this change. It was shown that the current rule does not define the exact position of the measurement point, (Rule 11.8). When using a jig and method as described in the IYRU measurement manual and in accordance with the ISAF measurement rules, to measure this item, a large number of the masts presented were found to be out of measurement. In order to avoid such problems in the future, more detail has been added to this rule.

Some nations expressed strong views that they were not in agreement with the way this whole problem had been handled by the measurement team and the International Class.

MG explained that incorrect measurements could not be ignored or left.

Grand-fathering of these masts was suggested but the measurers or class executive do not have the powers to grant this or dispensation.

It was pointed out that the championship had now started and that the rules should be followed.

But that fact that many of these masts had been presented at event measurement in the past without difficulty was hard for some to accept. The question as to whether or not all masts of the same manufacture should now be altered was raised.

The meeting was informed that they should be.

It was proposed that this rule should be taken as a separate vote from the rest of the proposals.

This was agreed.

John Veldman suggested that one way to solve the situation could be to increase the tolerances for this item as this would avoid grand-fathering existing stock.

This was not accepted as such action could lead to always altering to cover mistakes and is not a good way to manage class rules.

A vote was taken for the proposed amendments to rule 8.11 to be included in the ISAF submission.

8 votes for, 6 against.

The proposal was accepted.

The other proposed rules for the ISAF submission were accepted.

The submission will be made to ISAF by the due date 30 July 2000.

7. Proposals from member nations

The only proposal received was from Great Britain. This was received in due time, (15 April). It was handed to representatives.

It is attached.

Catherine Dodds, President GBR, explained the reasoning behind this proposal that the World Championship should be truly 'open' event.

An open event would give greater profile to the 420, allow the 19/20 year old sailors to compete more easily, (attending specific selection events for their countries can be very difficult with this age group), other classes hold very successful open championship and it could greatly help finances of the events.

The meeting found this idea interesting. SUI, although not against, said that smaller nations could not host such events due to lack of facilities. Also the stronger 420 nations could 'flood' the championship. It may lessen the status and quality of the event and cause safety issues. GBR stated that competency can be controlled and that a cut off of entries per nation could be agreed.

However, for distant championship venues, it would be beneficial as numbers would improve. The suggestion that such a format be tried for one or two years was made or that the idea be given more thought and brought up again next year.

After more discussion it was finally agreed to vote on the proposal as presented.

4 votes for, 9 against.

The proposal was rejected.

8. To Agree Future Championship Venues 2001

Gail Nuttall explained the meeting the problem for next year. It had been hoped to have this finalised shortly after the 1999 GA but due to many factors, the situation had changed little.

As at the start of the meeting, no venue had been agreed. Neither Israel or Portugal were able to host and Brazil, who had made a further attempt to find a host club, had failed the week before this meeting.

On the table was a tentative enquiry from Largs, Scotland. Last week a proposal from Italy was received. At this event, a tentative offer was made by Australia.

After discussion it was agreed to vote, first for a championship outside Europe or in Europe. This was agreed and a vote taken.

6 votes for a championship outside Europe, 7 votes for Europe.

Europe accepted, so it was then agreed to vote between Italy and Largs.

7 votes for Italy, 6 for Largs.
Italy was accepted

The championship has been agreed for Italy, Ravenna, under the Italian 420 class. Giorgio Bazzini, representing the class has presented information on this event.

2001 Junior Europeans

The only proposal on the table was from Versoix in Switzerland. Their representatives were present and the meeting agreed to their continuing to prepare for this championship.

2002

The offer on the table, as presented last year is for Travera in Portugal. Unfortunately there were no representatives from Portugal present to give further information. A request will be made to ensure a full presentation and information are available next year, at the world championship.

As there are no other proposals, only a vote for confirmation was necessary.

10 votes for.

2002 Junior Europeans

Belgium has been agreed by the GA in 1998. The Belgium representatives confirmed that all was in order.

It was requested that full details be available next year at the championship.

2003

Great Britain's representatives confirmed that they were already working on this championship. As it has been previously granted, in 1998, no vote was needed.

A presentation will be made next year.

2003 Junior Europeans

There were no proposals on the table. The representative of the Hellenic Yachting Federation informed the meeting that Greece would be happy to host. This proposal was put to the meeting and accepted. A formal proposal will be sent to the Executive Committee.

A presentation will be made next year.

2004

Australia wished to have the opportunity to make a presentation for 2004 next year. This was welcomed.

(The International guidelines for these events, giving information for proposals and full details of requirements for our championships are in each nations membership file. This file should be in the possession of national class presidents.)

9. Information from the International Sailing Federation (ISAF)

Gail Nuttall explained that it is most important for our class to keep in contact with ISAF. We need to ensure that the International 420 is chosen as the double handed discipline for the World Youth Championship for many years to come. At present it is established for 2000,1,2 and 3.

We will continue to closely monitor this situation and lobby at the ISAF Annual meetings.

We have contact over our rules but sometimes that relationship is poor as response is slow.

The ISAF President has been asked if he could attend our world championship but to date, he has been unable.

10. Election of members to the Executive Committee

As some members had left the meeting, it was requested that numbers be checked to ensure a quorum for voting. Under the Articles of Association, 1/3 of members must be present. 10 voting members were remaining so the votes could take place.

Under the Articles of Association, the Treasurer and General Secretary are due for election in even years.

Gail Nuttall had been duly proposed for the position of General Secretary by GBR. A vote was taken.

10 votes for.

Pierre Spilleboudt had been duly proposed for the position of Treasurer by BEL. A vote was taken.

10 votes for.

The position of Chairman of the Technical Committee shall also be elected in even years.

John Veldman, Chairman since 1996 had stated, by letter, that he was not available for re-election.

The representative of Greece asked if he would change his mind but he said no.

A proposal that Jean Luc Hottot be elected Chairman had been duly made by France.

This was put to the vote.

6 votes for, 1 against, 4 abstentions.

It was asked about the position of Vice President for the Executive Committee. No proposals had been received so no vote could be taken. The meeting was requested to give serious thought to candidates for positions on our committees.

11. Election of members of the Technical Committee

Proposals had been duly received for Don O'Donnell, made by GBR and Barry Johnson made by AUS.

There were no other proposals duly received. These candidates were voted.

Don O'Donnell, 11 votes for. Barry Johnson 9

The meeting was then asked to consider a late proposal for a member for the Technical Committee.

A vote was requested on this and duly taken.

3 votes for, 5 against, 2 abstentions.

Therefore no further action was taken on this.

12. Election of Auditor

This matter had been raised earlier in the meeting. Clement Mizzi, President of the French 420 Class Association had audited the accounts presented to this meeting. Thanks were expressed to him.

NED representatives proposed that in the interests of the Treasurer, Auditor and Class that it would be better to have two auditors, chosen from nations not connected with the treasurer and president.

A vote was taken.

8 votes for.

After discussion it was agreed that for next year, at the Championship in Italy, a suitable person from NED and GBR be requested to audit the accounts.

The meeting closed at 12.00 midnight.

Thank you to all who attended.

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