

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL 420 CLASS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2003
Sunday 20 July 2003,
Hayling Island Sailing Club, England

Present (As attendance list)

Trevor Neate	Australia	President
John Spinnewyn	Belgium	Class representative
Franjo Vujasin	Croatia	Class manager
Adam Pluon	R of Czechia	Class secretary
Jose	Spain	Coach
Tani Bassadone		Observer/translator
Muriel Bombray	France	Team manager
Durand		Team coach
Catherine Dodds	Great Britain	President
Gudrun Heindel-Gebert	Germany	
Nick Drougas	Greece	Class representative
Kikianis		Coach
Marco Lai	Italy	President
John Stallard	Ireland	President
Philip Lawton		Coach
Jose Massapina	Portugal	President
Anndreas Rangavis	Turkey	Class representative.
Larry Law	USA	Team manager

In attendance

Noel Allen (AUS)	Elected as Chairman
Steve Witty (GBR)	Event measurer
<u>Executive</u>	
Michel Garnier (FRA)	International Class President
Nino Shmueli (ISR)	International Vice President
Gail Nuttall (GBR)	International General Secretary
Jean Luc Hottot (FRA)	Chairman International Technical Committee
Apologies	
Pierre Spilleboudt (BEL)	International Class Treasurer

There were 11 voting national representatives at this meeting.

(There are 14 correctly paid up nations who could vote. At this championship only 1 nation, who could vote, did not send a representative). The other nations were not present.

1 Election of Chairman for the meeting

MG proposed Noel Allen, Jury member from, Australia to chair the meeting.

This was agreed.

2 Report from the President

The meeting was asked to stand for a minutes silence in remembrance of Danny Sheinin, from Israel, who last year had been elected to the International 420 Class Technical committee last year but sadly died shortly after. The class will miss him.

The President then read his report, which is attached to these minutes.

The report was read and duly accepted by the members present.

Michel stated that he will not be standing for the post of International President. He has worked very hard for the class during his time as President. Many improvements have been achieved and he steps down leaving the class in a very sound position.

The Chairman asked for queries and questions on the report.

Tani Bassadone suggested that it should be put to ISAF that own boats should be able to be used at the ISAF youth worlds. The class will ask again, but has found in the past, this not acceptable for fairness even if a charter fee is charged. Free equipment supply encourages the maximum number of nations to participate.

However, this situation needs to be checked by the Executive Committee and reported back to the members.

(Action EC)

GRE picked up that some builders as listed by the treasurer to have built none or few boats. Could this be that in past some builders do not use a new measurement form for each new boat? The President stated that a purpose of the new rules and measurement form should enable better and tighter control of boats built and the measurement of them.

3. Report from the Technical Committee

As written and attached

This report was read and duly accepted by the members present.

4. Presentation and acceptance of Annual Accounts

In the absence of Pierre Spilleboudt, Michel Garnier presented the accounts on his behalf. A copy of the accounts were with each delegate and are attached.

Michel explained that normally the accounts will be audited by an independent person during the world championship but as Pierre is not present, all papers will be brought to Great Britain to be audited, by an independent person, when he hands over to the new treasurer. Pierre will not be seeking re-election. He has held this post since 1996. The meeting records thanks for all his work and help to the class.

The accounts were accepted by the members present, subject to independent audit taking place as soon as possible.

5 Approval of next years subscription

Michel Garnier proposed that the Annual Subscription remain the same as for 2002/3, that is 15 Euro per member nation.

Tani Bassadone asked that this item be deferred to later in the meeting, after discussion of next item on sail buttons.

This amendment was agreed.

6. Proposals from the Executive Committee

Sail buttons

A proposal for the use of sail buttons to be fixed to all International 420 Class sails had been duly circulated to all member nations.

Nino Shmueli explained that this is to help raise further funds for the class in order that it could increase further development of the class. The cost would be around 10Euro per button.

The translator for the Spanish representative asked to understand why further funds are needed for this and if a budget had been prepared. They felt it difficult to agree to such additional cost for sailors on the cost of sails, when a budget for international class was not available.

A discussion took place regarding how the additional funds raised would be used. MG informed the meeting that class development by way of training camps for sailors and coaches in countries and regions just adopting the 420 was one plan. GER pointed out that class development was not stated as a reason on the proposal as written. GER stated that it is not evident how the cost of a sail button will aid the class development. JLH explained that class development and measurement issues are related. To improve event measurement, better control of builders etc, would in due course benefit the class. Tani Bassadone pointed out that the cost is far more than the basic 30 Euro, involving tax etc. They would prefer, if funds need to be raised that it be done via subscription, involving not tax payment. GBR asked how a button could help the 420 when they do not have sail measurement papers as the Optimist. Tani Bassadone does not object to collecting more funds but did not agree to collecting by buttons. He suggested that builders would like to pay but against a budget. IRL agreed that it is a good idea to have more control over sailmakers. Buttons will give us greater direct contact to sailmakers. Tani Bassadone said that sails are always checked anyway, would further control help? JLH explained that many sailors will be happy to accept buttons. USA asked for clarification that the aim is really revenue based to grow the association, as if so the Executive should prepare a budget based on setting up a plan for development and tighter measurement control. GBR stated that button numbers are of no interest to the sailor, who just wants to know that his sail is in class! The buttons make no difference to rule observance.

JLH pointed out that the Optimist and 470 classes finds the income for buttons most essential to maintain the measuring network.

GBR pointed out that as predominately a youth class, this is a cost increase. NS informed the meeting that 30Euro per set of sails is small to the overall cost of the set.

The Chairman closed the discussion

The proposal was put to the meeting

5 in favour

6 against

The proposal was defeated.

ACTION The executive will prepare a budget for future consideration and thoughts on amount of funds to be raised for class development and control.

Returning to item 5 Annual Class Fee

Tani Bassadone would like to make a proposal for the class to be able to collect more funds for class development but not by buttons. They would be happy to increase the annual fee.

GBR made the point we could hold a discussion at this meeting but AUS did not agree that this discussion could take place under the agenda.

The Chairman suggested that such an informal discussion could take place outside this meeting.

11 members felt that a further informal meeting, later during the championship should be held.

GRN explained the origin of the low annual fee. The class fee was approved at the General assembly in 1999, at the same time that the current Articles of Association were adopted. The purpose of the class fee is for registration. Some of our member nations require formal documentation to confirm that they are fully paid up members of the international class association. The fee was not intended to be fund raising for the class, so was set at the low level of 15Euros. It has also helped us keep more accurate records of our class contacts around the world.

The Chairman requested we return approval of the annual fee.

The Class President proposed that the annual fee remain as 15 Euros per member nation for 2003/2004.

ESP seconded

Carried 11

7 Proposals from member nations, submitted 3 months before the General Assembly date

No proposals had been received.

8 To agree Championship Venues

Nino reported that for the 2003 Junior European Championship, a 21 nation, 90 boat entry is the highest for many years. He also reported that at the ISAF Youth Worlds there were 26 nations sailing the 420 in the boys and 20 nations in the girls double handed discipline.

2004 Worlds Melbourne 2 – 11 January 2004 (Following the AUS nationals)

Trevor Neate presented this event. Presentation packs had been handed to all delegates. The 420 Worlds will be part of Sail Melbourne. Delegates enjoyed a video. Help can be given with transport arrangements etc

Trevor also informed the meeting that the Australian Nationals will be taking place immediately prior to the Worlds and visitors will be most welcome. A great training event!

Accommodation is difficult as it's a popular holiday venue and will need to be booked as soon as possible. The club has located a 5* business college, 95 rooms, with all facilities included but a minimum of 50 people will be required for them to open up! The organisers will set up a shuttle bus for transport. Members of the team will be available for detailed information anytime during the week.

Nino Shmueli informed the meeting that the International Class is working to try to work out charter boats. Trevor Neate stated that bringing own boats could be easier than thought and definitely cheaper.

A form will be prepared for 'intention to attend' number of boats and charter critical or not.

2004 IRL Junior Europeans 6 –13 August 2004 www.rsgyc.ie

Philip Lawton presented this venue. He has the Preliminary Notice of Race and this was handed out.

Accommodation can be booked in a university, self catering but numbers are needed. As for Melbourne, a questionnaire will be handed to all nations to complete.

This club has hosted the 470 Europeans and Disability Sailing recently. The web site will be up and running in September 2003, after Junior Europeans in Greece, to avoid confusion. He assured all that this club is experienced in running large international events and all will be given a very warm welcome.

2004 Europeans, Zadar Croatia. 23 –30 July 2004

A presentation pack with the Preliminary Notice of Race was handed to all delegates. Again accommodation reservations must be made early. The website is available. www.uskok.biz.hr

Sailors are invited to join in the Open Croatian Championship, 10-12 October 2003, details in back of Preliminary Notice of Race.

NS pointed out that due to the ISAF Youth World dates set for 8 – 17 July 2004 in Gydnia, Poland, all dates have been squeezed.

2005 Worlds Venue Proposals

ARG had sent a letter for consideration as a representative could not attend. The letter was read to the meeting.

FRA has made a proposal, presented by Michel Garnier, for Brest. This is a very experienced sailing location with one of the 3 major clubs taking the lead, involving the French Olympic Sailing organisation. In 2003 they hosted the 470 Europeans. The budget is around 77,000 Euros. A presentation pack should be with each nation before the end of the championship.

The two proposals were put to the meeting

ARG and France

FRA received the support of the meeting due to the possible uncertainty of funding for an event in Argentina. The executive will discuss a future event with the Argentineans.

2005 Junior European Championship

ITA Lake Garda, Luciano made a short presentation for the host club, Riva de Garda. This major club in this area runs many major events including Optimist in 2002 with 600 boats. In 2003 they hosted the World Laser Championship. Plenty of accommodation in the region but as normal, there is a need to book early as this is a beautiful holiday area. The sailing conditions are excellent. The wind is thermal and can be strong!

The Chairman asked that this proposal be accepted as it is the only one for this event.

This was agreed. Full details will be available in due course.

2006

Worlds

ESP La Palmas de Grand Canaria, Real Club Nautico presented details of the club that is asking to host an event (Worlds). Conditions for sailing the 420 are good. The hospitality would be friendly and not expensive. Shipping is not difficult and the club has, in the past, helped with shipping boats in containers.

USA would like to put to the meeting that in due course, may be 2006 or later, they would be putting in a bid for a major championship on the west coast. This area could support a large event with excellent sailing conditions on open ocean or behind sea walls if weather dictates.

Junior European

POR made a proposal to host this event.

Proposals for 2006 will be presented in more detail at the 2004 General Assembly

9 ISAF

Gail Nuttall reported that we attend the ISAF Annual Meetings each year. It is essential that as a class we are well represented as we need to attend a number of the committee meetings and be able to talk to as many member nations as possible to ensure that the 420 is seen as a very active and positive class in world sailing. We do a great deal of lobbying to keep the 420 as the chosen boat for the double handed discipline at the ISAF Youth World Championship. We also can find out how other classes are developing and check that we are in line with other international classes. We can also speak with officers from other classes whose sailors move up to us, such as the Optimist and Cadet and also work with the 470, as many of our sailors move on to this Olympic boat.

We had a problem with the President of ISAF over the most unfortunate clash of dates with this championship and the ISAF Youth World Championship. We have always explained that this was not intentional and we have already taken steps to keep clear of the date now fixed for ISAF, 10 days from the second Thursday in July, even though this will cause us great difficulty in some years.

We also have been defending the right of our class to hold a Ladies World Championship and hope that we may be granted World Championship for the Francis Mouvet team race event.

There has also been discussion on age limits of sailors taking part in world events. We do attempt to keep in regular contact with ISAF.

Team Racing format

MG reported to the meeting that he had had a discussion with USA, GBR, IRL and CZE about our 420 team Racing format. These nations would like to present a demonstration of team racing that closely follows the ISAF teams racing with no spinnakers or trapezes. Normally team racing takes place in boats that are rather slower than the 420 to allow the skills of the sailors to win rather than boat skills.

In the past 2 events, the ISAF Teams Racing has been in the 420. USA pointed out that when racing at slower speeds, damage is less likely.

Approval for the demonstration was agreed. It was also agreed to hold an informal meeting on this with the coaches later this week.

Rule 42

The Executive would like to hear the opinion of adopting as the 470 do and Finn is about to. The use of this rule allows that when the wind goes above a certain level, pumping etc is allowed.

GRE suggested that in the 470 the sailors are usually bigger and fitter and the health and development of younger sailors must be considered. ITA ask for 10knots.

A further meeting will be held with coaches to discuss this more fully.

The meeting asked that a proposal be made to the ISAF to fix the ISAF youth worlds from 1st Thursday of July and not the 2nd and this causes great problems with national regattas being fitted into the time slot available.

ACTION The Executive will prepare a submission, which has to be submitted by 1 August 2003.

Annual General Assembly 2004

MG asked the meeting that as the World Championship will be in January 2004, less than six months from now, that the GA be held in Croatia, not in Melbourne.

This was agreed.

An informal meeting will be held in Melbourne.

10 Election of members of the Executive Committee

In accordance with the Articles of Association proposals have to be received three months before the date of the meeting. The General Secretary apologised for not sending, early in the year, a letter informing all nations of the stepping down of Michel Garnier, after 5 years as President.

The Executive Committee proposed that Nino Shmueli be proposed as President, MG as Vice President and Catherine Dodds as Treasurer.

There were no further nominations. All were duly confirmed as elected.

11 Election of members of the Technical Committee

In accordance with the Articles of Association, members of the technical committee must be elected, in rotation, every two years. This year Barry Johnson and Don O'Donnell are due for re-election. Both have been correctly proposed by their national class associations.

Reinhold Karl has not proposed by GER for re-election.

Barry and Don were duly elected.

Due to the death of Danny Shienin, shortly after his election, the Technical is down to 3 members again. The class now only has 3 active ISAF 420 measurers but it is hoped that Dimitri Dimou (GRE) will be confirmed at the 2003 ISAF Annual Meetings.

12 Election of Auditor

It was proposed that the Croatian delegate locate a suitable person to audit the accounts in Zadar, at the European Championship in 2004.

This was agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.45pm.