

MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL 29er CLASS ASSOCIATION

The meeting was held in the Hotel Chesa Margun, Sils, Switzerland on Sunday
22nd August 2004, commencing at 1800 hrs.

Present:

The Vice President of the Class, Magnus Gravare, supported by the following Executive Committee members, chaired the meeting:

Martin Billoch.	Argentina
Julian Bethwaite	proxy for Ian Bruce.
John Reed.	Executive Secretary.

Representatives of the following National Class Associations:

Australia	Scott Babbage
Denmark	Hans-Peder Hansen
Finland	Tapio Lehtinen
Germany	Fabian Schreiner
Italy.	Michele Giorgini
New Zealand	Scott Graham
Switzerland	Joëlle Mueller
UK	Mike Jones
USA	Sean Brehl

In attendance:

Arthur Allen Class Measurer.

1. Apologies:

Gerardo Seeliger	President
David Bernall	
Jenni Bonnitcha	
Ian Bruce	
David Ovington	

2. Minutes of the 4th World Council Meeting.

These minutes, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising.

1. New Sail manufacturer. Julian Bethwaite updated the Council, reporting that the bidding procedure had been completed and that agreement had been reached with Neil Pryde. They would be the sole 29er sail manufacturer.

Although Julian Bethwaite stated that ISAF had given their approval for this change, the Chairman was of the opinion that this approval should be given to the Class in writing.

Following discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- To give 29er Class Association approval for the introduction of the new sails.
- No more sail labels would be issued to the existing sailmakers.
- On the introduction of the new sails (in 3 months time) the Class would offer to purchase back any unused sail labels from the existing sailmakers.

2. Mast step modification. This has not been progressed by the builders and in the ensuing discussion it became apparent that there may be some illegal modifications around with the aim of stiffening the mast. This gave rise to a general belief that there were areas of measurement and technical uncertainty in the Class and that an investigation into these would be beneficial.

Accordingly, the Council asked Barry Johnson and Arthur Allen to carry out a survey, using the Internet, into those items that were causing concern, with a view to issuing interpretations or promoting rule changes.

4. Finance.

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2003 (15 month accounting period) and the budget for the year ending 31st December 2004 were circulated and approved unanimously.

It was noted that membership was growing steadily, which was excellent, but that this represented only about 25% of the number of boats in existence. National Associations were urged to try and increase the numbers of members.

There was a suggestion that associated fees should be increased so that membership fees might be abolished. However this was not considered practicable as not only was it contrary to our constitution, but also would put increased costs onto new boats and international competitors.

5. Class Rule Submissions.

No submissions had been tabled.

Both the Chairman and Chief Measurer urged NCAs to make submissions to the World Council. It was obvious that there were several technical items that were causing concerns and the correct way to resolve these was by the procedures laid down in the constitution.

6. Nominations for office,

The Council noted the resignation of Jenni Bonnitcha on the grounds that her family had progressed to other classes. Council wished to record their appreciation to Jenni who had done sterling service to the International Class,

especially during the organisation of the 2002 Worlds in Sydney, and in developing the Australian 29er Class.

Scott Babbage AUS was proposed and seconded for membership of the 29er Executive representing Australasia and this was carried unanimously.

The Chairman asked that member NCAs should give consideration to nominating new members of the Executive at the next World Council meeting.

The Executive Committee is confirmed as follows:

Gerardo Seeliger ESP	President
Magnus Gravare SWE	Vice President. Europe
Scott Babbage AUS	Australasia
David Bernall USA	North America
Martin Billoch ARG	South America
Ian Bruce	Manufacturer's representative
David Ovington	Manufacturer's representative
John Reed	Executive Secretary.

7. World Council 2005.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the World Council on the evening of the first day of measurement at the 2005 World Championship in San Francisco (provisionally this will be Sunday 3rd July 2005)

8. General Discussion.

- There was disappointment that the 29er had not been selected as the ISAF Youth Championship double hander. This should be a primary objective of all members of the World Council, who should be lobbying their National Authorities.
- Championship dates were confirmed:
Worlds 2005. San Francisco 3rd to 10th July
Europeans 2005 Vallensbæk, Denmark 8th to 14th August
Bids were being sought for events in 2006 and onwards.
- There was a view that the Europeans should be held prior to the World each year. However this was not always possible or practicable.
- The Eurocup 2004 was a very good success story. It was organised by a group of individuals, largely using existing events and put on with a minimum of cost and bureaucracy. The 29er office had looked after the scoring system. This format was widely approved and should be continued for 2005.
- It was noted that there would be a class for 29ers at Kiel in 2005.
- Requiring those with charter boats at World Championships to change the sail numbers on their own sails, to coincide with the charter boat number in accordance with the Class Rules, had caused some frustration. It was decided that a simple NoR would overcome this problem.

- On the subject of charter boats, it was recorded that the costs seem to be very high. This was no doubt due to the fact that, unless there is an availability of private owned charters, pressures on new charter boats from a manufacturer dictate a commercial cost. This was a strong reason to try and find hosts for our championships from countries with large, strong fleets. There was no evidence that giving a championship to a country with few boats had any effect on encouraging growth.
- It was thought that there should be efforts to hold an open competitor meeting at world championships. This would give the opportunity for the sailors to get their views aired. (subsequently a meeting was organised under the chairmanship of Julian Bethwaite at Silvaplana)

There being no further business, the meeting then ended.