

International 29er Class Association
Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the World Council
January 23, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 5:08pm by Vice-President Paul Perera at the Club Nautico San Isidro, Buenos Aires Argentina. Mr. Perera welcomed all in attendance.

Executive Committee members in attendance:

Paul Perera	Great Britain
Pepe Bettini	Argentina
Jerelyn Biehl	Executive Director

Apologies for absence:

Gerardo Seeliger	Spain
Dave Bernal	USA
Scott Babbage	Australia
Barry Johnson	Chief Measurer
Jen Morgan Glass	29erXX Representative
Julian Bethwaite	Builder's Representative
Ian Bruce	Builder's Representative

Representatives of the following National Associations:

Pepe Bettini	Argentina
Steve Hopper	Great Britain
Malcolm Hall	South Africa
Rhys O'Cain	New Zealand
Nathalie Keller	Switzerland
Alex Bernal	United States
Ron Rose	Australia
Cristian Herman	Chile

It was determined a proper quorum was established.

2 Minutes from 7th World Council. Malcolm Hall made a motion to accept the 2006 Minutes as presented, seconded by Rhys O'Cain. Motion passed.

3. Old Business:

a. Administrative Issues: International dues status issue was discussed and explained. All representatives are asked to convey the importance of dues collection.

b. Measurement & Rules: no report

4. Financial Statements were distributed for December 31, 2006. Steve Hopper made a motion to accept the financial statements as provided. Seconded by Pepe Bettini. Motion

passed unanimously. A motion was made to pass the 2007 Budget by Steve Hopper, Alex Bernal seconded. Budget passed unanimously.

5. Submissions:

Thwart Modifications: The following proposal was submitted by Chief Measurer Barry Johnson:

Modification to hulls with an ISAF Plaque number less than 1100.
The horizontal underside of the mast partner may be reinforced provided that such reinforcement does not exceed 50mm in width when measured at right angles from the aft flange of the partner, in addition the aft flange including that attached to the cockpit wall may be similarly reinforced. Reinforcement shall only be glass fibercloth and polyester or vinyl ester resin. The use of exotic materials (carbon, Kevlar etc) are prohibited. A foam or coremat stringer not exceeding 25mm x 25mm may be placed under the glass laminate at the corner formed by the flange and the partner's horizontal surface.

A discussion of new boats with older ISAF plaques (issued in blocks) would affect the proposal on the table. Malcolm Page made the following motion: "In the future (from X date) all boats built must conform to the thwart modification. All boats built prior to that date may choose to have that modification at any time." Seconded by Ron Rose. Motion passed unanimously.

Sails:

The following proposal was submitted by Chief Measurer Barry Johnson:

In accordance with the International 29er Class sail evaluation working party, the class shall adopt the Neil Pryde/Ian MacDairmid sail design and supply option as the official class legal sails.
Further that only these sails will be class legal for GOLD fleet racing after July 1st 2007 in World, Continental and Euro Cup racing.

Malcolm Page suggested to re-examine the choice of a single supplier for sails. Import duties in certain countries make the cost of sails exorbitant. RSA has been forced to use illegal sails to compete locally, then having to purchase new sails for Championships. Question to Julian Bethwaite re: license and ability to produce in many countries. Can the sails be brought in un-finished (battens, 29er logo, etc.) and then "finish" them in the country?

The World Council members in attendance questioned the 2004 promise of Neil Pryde being a less expensive sail and would like Julian Bethwaite to research the cost of sails. The cost has been more expensive and a shorter life.

The World Council members did not want to vote on the proposal based upon the above reason. *In further thought, this motion was passed in 2004 and will be forwarded to ISAF for approval.*

6. Nominations:

The current slate of officers was presented.

President	Gerardo Seeliger
Vice President-Europe	Paul Perera
Vice President-Australasia	Scott Babbage
Vice President-No. America	Dave Bernal
Member at Large	Pepe Bettini
29erXX Rep.	Jen Morgan-Glass
Builders Rep.	Ian Bruce
Builders Rep.	Julian Bethwaite
Chief Measurer	Barry Johnson
Executive Director	Jerelyn Biehl

A motion to accept the slate as proposed by Ron Rose, seconded by Steve Hopper.

Motion passed.

7. New Business:

Australia: Ron Rose reported the class is growing hand-over-fist. The Class Association is disappointed over the decision over the 2008 Worlds venue. The nationals are being discussed right now with Sail Melbourne to be held right before the 2008 worlds.

Great Britain: Steve Hopper reported the class is very strong. The UK starts very young with 29ers and as the ISAF Youth Worlds boat for the next 2 years their numbers are increasing. The UK circuit is getting stronger. Only downside is they can't build new boats fast enough. Very happy with the quality of the boats being produced.

South Africa: Malcolm Page reported that class has been there for 8 years with struggled growth. A local boat builder makes a very good boat. The challenge is not from the supply, but the cost of the boat. A boat is ¼ of the annual salary. Not many youth sailors are involved; most are late 20's. The 29er is more expensive than a 420 in RSA.

Malcolm Page expressed interest to host the 2009 or 2010 Worlds in South Africa.

New Zealand: Rhys O'Cain reported the 29er is trying to re-build in New Zealand.

Argentina: Pepe Bettini reported that the class is active especially because of the Worlds. 14-15 boats in the 2006 Nationals. This year there were 10 new boats (to 26). A youth team is in place and they are working on a girls team. There is a lot of interest with younger sailors to get into the 29er. Argentina is coordinating a clinic with the Chilean fleet. All charter boats from these Worlds have been sold.

Chile: Christian Hernan reported that sailing in Chile is very traditional, and they view the 29er as new. Christian has tried to work with the Chilean Federation to accept the 29er. Many people are excited about the 29erXX.

United States: Alex Bernal reported a new generation jumping into the 29er. The 29er has been established on the west coast with strength. A circuit has been established. The Youth Worlds is a good sign for growth. The 29erXX also has a lot of interest. Clinics are scheduled in Florida, New England. More regattas will be scheduled for the east coast.

Switzerland: Nathalie Keller reported that they are always trying to spread the boats among the lakes. The ISAF Youth Worlds have not affected the youth in Switzerland. Most kids sail for fun rather than competition.

Report from 29erXX: Jen Morgan Glass

Rigs - Lots of great improvements have been made and more testing still continues. Improvements include larger/redesigned spinnaker sock, redesigned mast butt, and there has been a lot of work done on the stiffness of the mast and positioning of the vang, as well as discussion of the shape of the bottom of the main. Very exciting, I think everyone who sailed in England will be quite pleased with the direction of the discussion this fall as well as the changes made. Your voices were heard!

Teams Sailing - My count includes 3 boats in the UK, 2 in Germany, 1 in Switzerland, 1 in Finland, 1 in France, 2 in the US, 3 in Canada, and at least 2 in Australia. There are orders for more all over the world but waiting on masts at this point.

Events - 2007 will bring a few events in Europe and at least one in North America - CORK. Tentative schedule has been posted on 29erxx.org and includes:

CORK, August 2007, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Europeans, September 2007, Marsala, Italy

Other events also suggested:

Swiss Eurocup, July 2007, Sisikon, Lake Uri

Italian Eurocup, October 2007, Riva/Lake Garda

German Nationals, October 2007, Chiemsee, Germany

Observation Trials - To be held in April in Hyeres, France. My current understanding of the dates has us before the Olympic week, which will be great as many teams will be in town training and we'll be able to show off and get them out on the boat as well.

Press - A few different brochures and movies were made and have been distributed to ISAF representatives as well as local clubs and sailors around the world. The word is getting out, and we can continue to do more here.

What's Needed - More masts, more fleet cohesion, and training/racing events. This is difficult with small numbers spread around the world. Please have any XX owners send me an email with their contact information and location I'm working on a fleet member list so that we can join people together regionally and encourage more sailing, as well as create a mailing list for information spreading.

World Council comments: try to cap the cost of the rig to keep it affordable.

Marketing Consortium:

The concept of the new Marketing Consortium was explained and a summary of new projects was outlined:

Coaches clinic: first one scheduled for Denia, Spain in March, 2007.

Website: a new website will be priority for 2007

New Business:

Spinnakers: Ron Rose suggested that a different color be used in 1 panel of the spinnaker for spectating purposes. Discussion of the various cloth characteristics with regards to stretch and deterioration were discussed.

Date and Venue for 2008 World Council Meeting: Melbourne, Australia, January 2008.

Meeting was adjourned at 18:41.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jerelyn Biehl
Executive Director