

**International 29er Class Association
Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the World Council
January 1, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Vice President Scott Babbage at the Sorrento Sailing Club Boat Club, Melbourne, Australia.

Executive Committee members in attendance:

Scott Babbage, Vice President, Australasia	Australia
Barry Johnson, Chief Measurer	Australia
Julian Bethwaite, Builder's Representative	Australia
Jerelyn Biehl, Executive Director	

Representatives of the following National Associations;

Clyde Freeman	Australia
Tony Outteridge	Australia
Daryl Newell	Australia
Henrik Sogaard	Denmark
Torsten Lange	Germany
Aiko Saito	Japan
Ross Whitburn	New Zealand
Jamie Waters	South Africa
John Liebenberg	United States

Apologies for Absence:

Gerardo Seeliger, President	Spain
Paul Perera, Vice President, Europe	Great Britain
Dave Bernal, Vice President, North America	USA
Pepe Bettini, Member at Large	Argentina
Jen Morgan Glass, 29erXX Representative	USA
Ian Bruce, Builder's Representative	Canada

It was determined a proper quorum was established.

1. Minutes from the 8th World Council: Jamie Waters made a motion to accept the 2007 Minutes as presented, seconded by Ross Whitburn. Motion passed.

2. Old Business

- a. Administrative issues: The new on-line membership system was discussed. Membership numbers were distributed around the Council. The 29er website is up and running; similar to the 49er website and requests were made to send the 29er office information to post. ISAF Youth Worlds: an emergency submission was placed with ISAF to consider the 29er as an open class. 29erXX: a summary of the past years work toward the exhibition event in Hyeres was discussed as well as future plans.

- b. New Zealand: Ross Whitburn explained the current issues with the NZ association and asked for assistance to help straighten the situation.
- c. Tony Otteridge and Clyde Freeman wanted to discuss how the 2008 Worlds venue was decided. Julian Bethwaite and Jerelyn Biehl explained how the decision process was made for the event. Julian Bethwaite explained that a rotation schedule has been drafted and schedules are coordinated with the 49ers before decisions are made. **Action item:** an event selection guideline will be distributed including how to bid for events and to include regional input. This will be done prior to the end of the World Championship. **Follow-up:** Subsequent to this meeting, the enclosed proposal was circulated & passed with a majority vote by the World Council & Executive.

29er Event Selection Guidelines

Event Rotation

29er/49er events will follow the following rotation for World events as practical as possible:

- ❖ Europe-north
- ❖ Western Hemisphere – North America
- ❖ Australia/Africa/South America/Asia
- ❖ Europe-south

For continental events, a similar rotation should be considered within the continent or area to balance location & hosts to benefit all members within that region.

Regional Committees

Each region within the 29er Class is encouraged to form a regional committee headed by the Vice President of that region. Each country within that region with paid members is considered a member of the regional committee. Communication should flow from each country to their Vice President and from the Vice President to the Executive Director who will then circulate the information to the Executive Committee.

Major Event Bidding Process

When a major event is scheduled to be held in a region, the Executive Director will contact the Vice President of that region to solicit bids to hold the Championship from that region with a submission deadline. Bids completed using the official 29er Class Bid Form (available on the 29er website or from the Class office) and submitted to the Regional Vice President and the Executive Director by the stated deadline will be duly considered. Bids may be solicited from other areas within the region that the Executive Committee or Vice President may consider for Class growth & promotional purposes.

If a region has a strong preference of a specific bid/venue, it should be forwarded to the Executive Director duly noted.

Once received, the bids will be circulated among the 29er Executive Committee and coordinated with the 49er class (where appropriate) with the final decision to be made by the Executive Committee.

*Major events are considered as: World or continental championships.

- d. **Measurement & Rules:** Barry Johnson discussed a re-write of the class rules in the coming year. The original class rules were written by ISAF. Class rule submissions need to go through an ISAF subcommittee and decisions take too long. The goal for the new rules would be September 2008 (after Olympics). Barry would like to model the 29ers off the 49ers. Discussion of parts & durability was discussed with feedback given to the builders to fix. Youth classes are considered the same as Olympic, so we must follow the ISAF rules. Barry will draft a memo to circulate among the 29er International measurers and national secretaries requesting input.

3. Finance

- a. Financial statements were distributed for the year ending 12/11/07. Questions arose over the increase in compensation for One Design Management. A motion was presented by Julian Bethwaite to approve the 2007 financial statements. Seconded by Ross Whitburn. Motion approved.
- b. The budget for 2008 was presented for consideration. Questions arose over the increase in compensation for One Design Management. Julian Bethwaite made a motion to approve the budget as presented with a separate motion made to provide additional information on the justification of increase for contract labor. Motion was seconded by Ross Whitburn. Motion passed.
Follow-up: Subsequent to the meeting, a document & ballot was circulated and the 2008 Budget was passed as presented.

4. Submissions from National Class Associations

a. *Establish a European Council which decides upon the EC, the EuroCups, WC in Europe and all other European related decisions. This council should be formed out of at least four large nationals (fleets) in Europe.*

Discussion was held on the authority of the International class vs. regional committees. Julian Bethwaite suggested that the 29er Class consider that regional Vice Presidents coordinate communication and liaise with the International Class about the recommendations of international events in their region. The International Class acknowledges and encourages regional areas to elect members to the Executive and respects their opinion of venues for consideration. The motion was tabled. The action item included earlier in the meeting will incorporate the idea as submitted by Germany.

5. Nominations

- a. **Member at Large:** Silja Lehtinen was proposed as Member at Large. Pending contact, this position will be voted upon via e-mail.
- b. **Australasian representative:** Scott Babbage has expressed his desire to stand aside should the newly formed Australasian committee present another name for consideration.
- c. **Chief Measurer:** Barry Johnson and Arther Allen's names were put forward. Julian Bethwaite motioned for Barry Johnson to be Chief Measurer. Motion seconded by Tony Outteridge. Motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Reports from Countries:

New Zealand: 29 boats have been tracked down with 21 registered. A current conflict exists within the country that will be solved shortly. A new website is coming on line shortly. The nationals are scheduled on March 15.

Australia: The class is going well with numbers increasing over the past several years. The fleets are growing in WA, NSW with Victoria numbers increasing. The numbers of youth boats are increasing as well as all female crews. Yachting Australia is also supporting the class.

Germany: The class is very strong. A German Championship will be held next year October 3-5 in Berlin. There are 2 major fleets; 1 in the north and 1 in the south. We are having difficulty organizing training and coaches. The international schedule, discussed earlier, has been a problem that we hope to solve.

South Africa: 8 boats are registered with 10 actively competing, collected in 1 club in Cape Town. Growth is static at the moment with 10 new boats being built. The 4.7 Laser Worlds are currently being held in RSA which pulled some of the youth into training. No second hand boats are available, so boats must be bought new. A new website was unveiled this year. RSA would like to look at 2013 to possibly host a World Championship. RSA would like to have international coaches on their shores with 2 sessions prior to big regattas.

Denmark: The ISAF Youth Worlds will be held in Aarhus and many youth are going toward the 29er. Currently there are 6-7 boats training for the Youth Worlds with 2 excellent coaches. The 49er class is strong and a good relationship exists. Training camps are being held in the autumn with 49er and 29er boats.

USA: the Bay area has held a continuous progression of clinics drawing more youth to the class. Southern California and the east coast are also increasing in membership.

Japan: the youth of Japan only sail the boats for the ISAF selection trials, borrowing them. There are no new boats for the past 3 years and only 4 boats were in the Nationals for 2007. Current 29er owners are being encouraged to come back and encourage parents to create new fleets and purchase new boats. The 49er class is very helpful and we hope to hold some youth clinics in the coming year. The nationals are planned for November with a summer camp planned for July/August. A promotional regatta is being planned for May to try the 29er.

7. 29er XX Representative: The 29erXX has come a long way and seen a lot of action in 2007. In April we were part of an ISAF Women's High Performance Dinghy test event where ISAF officials watched 6 different skiffs sailed by women. The event was plagued by light winds, but was successful overall. Many sailors from around the world sailed the XX and had a great time. New skiff teams were able to sail the boat and enjoy the new challenge. Every skiff design at the test event received a lot of great feedback about the boat that we were all able to take forward and help improve design with women in mind.

The 29erXX has boats sailing in 12 countries around the world, including USA, Canada, UK, Finland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and Germany.

As we continue to sail the boat the design also continues to improve. Julian's latest rig is a little bit taller and features a square-top main and taller jib. He is also looking into lengthening the spinnaker pole and adding molding to the aft end of the rails to replace the carbon tube rack extensions.

While a part of the 29erXX movement was stalled with ISAF's decision not to include a women's high performance dinghy in the 2012 Olympics, women (and men) around the world still want to sail the 29erXX. The class continues to work to put together events that will bring top 29erXX teams together. The challenge of bringing sailors together from around the world for a high-quality event that is affordable and timed to allow those sailing other Olympic classes to attend has been difficult to overcome. Thanks to those countries who requested ISAF reconsider their 2012 event selection. Keep your fingers crossed!

8. Member at Large: Argentina after the worlds is growing really fast!! Now in Rosario we have 5 boats and they are waiting for another 3, Mendoza asked to buy 5 more, and now I am coaching the first 29er Clinic in Uruguay! Here there is one 29er and they order 5 more, with a possibility to build a fleet of 12 boats in the next 3 months. Brazil bought 2 boats and they are starting as well. After the worlds in Argentina, our class grew a lot!! It was really nice for us to have the event.

9. Schedule for the next 5 years: after consultation with the 49er Class, the proposed schedule will be discussed at the Open Forum to be held during this Championship.

10. Marketing Consortium:

- a. Coaches Clinic/Manual: the first coaches clinic was held in Denia, Spain with the first EuroCup event scheduled right after. Mark Kennedy (first 29er World Champion) led the clinic and produced a manual for the Class. A more in-depth coaches manual is currently in the works with the final product due no later than March 2008.
- b. Website: the new website is up and now has on-line registration, merchandise for sale and will have video links in the coming year.

11. Date & Venue for 2009 World Council Meeting: Riva, Italy; date to be decided closer to the event.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm