

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – December 10th, 2024

Present: President Heiko, Bruce, Niko, and John

Summary:

The meeting covered a range of topics including discussions about various sailing events and championships. The committee addressed organizational issues such as communication within the European Union, financial support for events, and potential changes to boat specifications. We explored strategies for promoting the sailing class, allocating funds, and improving participation in future meetings and events. Heiko shared his plans for the annual letter, intending to include more details about the progress made in marketing and communication. We also discussed the need for finalizing and publishing the videos from their recent events. John expressed his disappointment about the delay in publishing these videos and changing the way the minutes are written and formatted.

EU Communication and Financial Support

Heiko and John discussed the lack of communication and the need for better communication among the National Class Associations (NCAs). John highlighted the issue of financial support for event organizers and the lack of responsiveness from some NCAs. We also discussed the recent line squall in Melbourne, which resulted in three boats being written off. Bruce mentioned that he was expecting a report from Peter, which would likely be ready by the end of the day.

Mid-Year Meeting and TC Work Discussion

Bruce and Heiko discussed the need for confirmation on the last meeting minutes and the possibility of changing the top batten of the main sail. We agreed that the top batten should allow use of a full one, which could be a costly but beneficial change. We discussed the idea of having a mid-year meeting to increase participation and engagement, and the need for voting on certain TC work and class rules. Bruce expressed disappointment at the lack of participation in the previous mid-year meeting and suggested that more needs to be done to encourage attendance. The EC agreed to put the idea of a mid-year meeting on the agenda for the next year.

Brian Harding's Boat Project Update

In the meeting, Bruce discussed the progress of Brian Harding's boat project. Keith had measured the boat and found it to be 179.9kg, very close to the target of 1.81kg. The team is addressing minor issues and is close to finalizing the boat. The team is waiting for Brian to provide a price list for the boats. There was also a discussion about the potential for Brian to distribute and handle sales in Europe, with Thomas being a potential resource for this. Lastly, Bruce mentioned that Ontario Yachts is planning to build a couple of prototype boats, with their slow time being during the summer.

Funding Allocation and Regatta Planning

Bruce and Heiko discussed the allocation of funds for the next year, considering the budget and potential strategies for promoting the class. They discussed the idea of allocating a certain amount of money each year for specific purposes, such as supporting sailors and transportation of boats, and possibly extending the reduced annual dues into the next year. The EC also considered the idea of having a long-term plan for spending money and collecting ideas from the team. The EC agreed to send their ideas to Bruce for further discussion and planning. The EC recognized the need for a central point of contact for the 2025 and 2026 worlds regattas.

2026 World Sailing Championships Discussion

John, Heiko, and Niko discussed the potential for hosting the 2026 World Sailing Championships in Sneek Netherlands. The EC considered the challenges of participation and the need for a formal application from Sneek. Heiko planned to contact Maria to discuss the formal application process. Also discussed was the possibility of combining the Open Worlds and the Para Worlds in Poland, which could be a more cost-effective option. The EC agreed to check the dates of the proposed event in Poland to avoid any overlap with other events.

Direct Dialogue and Italy Event Plans

John and Heiko discussed the importance of direct dialogue after expressing high points or recommendations in an email received. The EC recognized the need for quick action regarding plans for our Worlds event in Italy, with Heiko agreeing to contact Antonio and a sailing devotee for more information. The team also discussed the challenges of parking in Italy, particularly in the summer season, and the need to check for adequate parking at the venue for sailors. Niko suggested reaching out to the hotels directly for more information.

World Championships Logistics and Support

In the meeting, John, Heiko, and Niko discussed the need for a central contact person to address concerns and gather information for the sailors attending the world championships. Heiko agreed to reach out to Christina for her knowledge and English-speaking skills. The EC also discussed the need for a representative to speak at the AGM about the world championships. The deadline for nominations was set as Christmas Day, with a goal of sending out information by the 20th of December. Also discussed was the logistics of transporting boats, with a focus on a 40-foot high-cube container that could hold at least 8 boats coming from North America. The conversation ended with the announcement that Clagett would be supporting more than one sailor for the championships. John discussed the lack of any NCA confirming they have Charter boats currently which may be available for Lake Garda and the need for more information from the 2 nearest NCAs, Italy and Austria.

Next EC Meeting will be January 7th 2025