

Minutes of the ICA Executive Committee Meeting

Date: April 1, 2025

Attendees: John Seepe (Secretary), Mikael Bekkevold (Director), Niko Salomaa (Director), Fia Fjeldahl (Vice-president), Heiko Kröger (President), Bruce (TC Representative)

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Start Time: 12:00PM EST

End Time: 1:50PM EST

1. Opening Remarks

- **John Seepe** opened the meeting with informal greetings and acknowledged participants.
- **Heiko Kröger** assumed leadership once present, transitioning to formal agenda items.

2. Technical Committee (TC) Report (Bruce)

- **Overview:** Bruce provided a 15-minute TC update based on the meeting held 6 days prior.
- **Key Points:**
 - TC meetings are normally scheduled 6 days before EC meetings to allow preparation of minutes for EC review.
 - Next TC meeting delayed to May 7 due to Peter's availability, the next EC meeting is rescheduled to May 13th to accommodate TC/EC coordination.
 - Jon (Norway) participated in the last TC meeting as an invited non-voting member and will continue to be invited to monthly TC meetings along with Keith Gordon (GBR).
 - Norway is conducting measurement sessions (3 planned) and will provide videos/updates for instruction manuals.
 - Bruce is working on measurement sessions in Victoria and compiling material for instructional videos (e.g., buoyancy certification).
 - Class rule changes:
 - Buoyancy testing ballast can now use lifting weights (density of cast iron or greater) instead of lead for accessibility.
 - Upper batten approval for full-size batten submitted to World Sailing, awaiting approval (expected by June 15 or earlier).
 - Super 3 NOD prototype approved; production can begin with declarations.
 - Ontario Yachts' 2.4mR progress is slow due to winter sailing and shop priorities but expected to ramp up soon.

- NOR delay for World Championships noted (cross-referenced with EC discussions).
 - Measurement form (PDF version) needs an update due to an error identified by Norway.
 - IM Seminar for Thomas still pending; Bruce to follow up with David Sprague for dates.
 - NOD stickers: Bruce holds 20 stickers for quick distribution to expedite Ontario Yachts' builds.
 - **Action Items:**
 - Bruce to follow up with David Sprague on IM seminar dates for Thomas and Andrew.
 - Bruce to send 5 NOD stickers for old boats to Andrew Parish (USA) (no charge).
 - TC to continue buoyancy video project (still version first, then in-depth).
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3. 2027 World Championship Bid (Norway)

- **Discussion:**
 - John asked Mikael about Norway's interest in bidding for 2027.
 - Mikael noted the primary location is Tønsberg (outside Oslo) , where the clubhouse burned down but is being rebuilt for the European Championship, with Stavanger as a backup.
 - **Outcome:** No firm commitment; further discussion needed.
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4. Open vs. One-Design Class Discussion

- **Raised by:** Mikael, John
 - **Key Points:**
 - Mikael suggested visually distinguishing one-design (e.g., "N" on sails) from open-class boats to clarify racing.
 - John proposed separate starts for open and one-design boats (e.g., 5-minute delay) to avoid interference and strengthen both open and one-design participation.
 - Heiko noted limited pressure from new open-class designs (e.g., Megan's and a Swiss boat) but openness to sailor feedback.
 - **Outcome:** Agreed to table for the Mid-year Meeting to gather member input and avoid premature emailing of the agenda.
 - **Action Item:** John to include as a Mid-year Meeting topic.
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5. World Championships NOR and Registration Delay

- **Raised by:** John (implied from earlier email context)

- **Discussion:**
 - The 2025 Worlds name is updated on the yacht club's website, but the NOR is not posted, and registration is not open.
 - Bruce acknowledged TC's awareness of the delay.
 - **Outcome:** No resolution; EC to address urgency with Fraglia Yacht Club.
 - **Action Item:** John to draft follow-up email to Fraglia Yacht Club requesting NOR publication
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6. Email Management and Action for Europe (A4E) Correspondence

- **Raised by:** Fia, Niko, John, Heiko, Mikael
 - **Key Points:**
 - Fia expressed frustration with personal email bombardment affecting work, proposing Niko's automated response idea.
 - Niko's suggestion: "Thank you for your email. The EC has received it and will review it at the monthly meeting. Actions are in the minutes. Not all emails will lead to action."
 - Heiko discussed ongoing A4E email issues (e.g., Loic's mass emails, Hasse's replies), emphasizing the need for A4E to identify leadership and accept the ICA Constitution.
 - John supported a standardized formal response, noting A4E lacks official standing; suggested NCAs handle their requests.
 - Mikael proposed a committee at the next annual meeting to address ranking systems and diffuse A4E tensions.
 - **Outcome:**
 - EC agreed to adopt an automated response (John's refined version) for efficiency and to reduce personal email strain.
 - A4E dialogue deferred until they identify representatives and align with ICA governance.
 - **Action Items:**
 - John to implement automated email response.
 - Fia to coordinate with Virgil to redirect EC emails to a secondary address.
 - Mikael to refine committee proposal for the annual meeting.
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7. Banking and Finance

- **Raised by:** John, Mikael
- **Key Points:**
 - Paul's email (not seen by Mikael) suggested retaining the UK bank account with Simon's brother managing it for a fee.

- Heiko noted EU banking complexities; the UK option seems practical if a contract is feasible.
 - Mikael to liaise with Paul for details (e.g., fee structure, setup).
 - **Outcome:** Tentative approval pending clarification.
 - **Action Items:**
 - Virgile to add Mikael to EC email distribution for Paul's correspondence.
 - Mikael to contact Paul for banking specifics.
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8. World Championship Fees

- **Raised by:** Mikael
 - **Discussion:**
 - Mikael questioned high fees (€450-470) at Lake Garda compared to other classes (e.g., H-Boats paid €450 for a team).
 - Heiko noted Lake Garda's professional setup (no volunteers) drives costs; OK Dinghy faces similar fees.
 - **Outcome:** Heiko to discuss with Maria to curb annual increases.
 - **Action Item:** Heiko to follow up with Maria.
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9. Additional Items

- **2026 Dates:** Heiko confirmed Dutch date change aligns Keil Wocher and Sneek regattas with a one-week gap.
 - **John's Final Item:** Email to NCAs on dues, paid members, and 2026 Worlds dates.
 - **Action Items:**
 - John to send NCA email.
 - Mikael to seek Bruce's guidance as a new director.
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10. Closing

- **Heiko** concluded the meeting, noting all topics were covered.
 - **Adjourned:** Approx. 01:46:03
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Next Meeting: Monthly EC meeting May 13th; Midyear Meeting to include open vs. one-design discussion.

Minutes Prepared by: John Seepe (Secretary).