

Meeting Minutes: 2.4mR Class Executive Committee Meeting Date: July 7, 2025

Time: 12:10 PM - 2:04 PM (Eastern Standard Time)

Location: Virtual (Zoom, ID: 818 6106 7858)

Attendees: Bruce, John Seepe, Heiko, Francisco, Mikael, Niko, others (Fia had scheduling conflicts)

Recorder: John Seepe

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting commenced with discussions on the production and promotion of 2.4-meter sailboats, particularly in South America, and transitioned into class administration, certification processes, and upcoming race events. John Seepe noted disruptions due to local flooding in North Carolina, impacting his participation.

2. 2.4mR Sailboat Production in South America

Discussion

- **Francisco's Presentation:** Francisco outlined his boat-building operation in Argentina, capable of producing 2.4mR sailboats for an affordable cost, including mast, fiberglass hull, and dolly. He highlighted challenges with high import costs for components (e.g., masts costing \$6,000 USD due to import duties) and the Argentine Federation's initial focus on boats for people with disabilities, which limited broader adoption of the class.
- **Cost Comparison:** Francisco noted that boats from Europe (e.g., OD from England at £13,000 or ~\$18,000 USD) become prohibitively expensive in South America, reaching \$30,000 USD with import costs.
- **Production Capabilities:** Francisco has produced approximately 35 boats, primarily in Buenos Aires, with smaller fleets in Mendoza, Chile, and Uruguay. None have been exported outside South America.
- **Certification Concerns:** Bruce and John emphasized the need for compliance with 2.4mR class rules, including aluminum spars and measurement certification. Francisco proposed shipping unassembled hulls to Europe for final assembly to reduce costs.
- **Legitimacy and Visibility:** The group expressed initial skepticism about Francisco's operation due to his unorthodox communication and use of uncredited images on his website. Francisco agreed to replace borrowed images with his own and provide documentation (photos, weight specifications) to validate his claims.

- **National Class Association (NCA):** John suggested Francisco organize an NCA in Argentina to gain international recognition. Francisco has contacted the Argentine Federation but noted slow responses.

Action Items

- **Francisco:** Send photos and documentation of existing 2.4mR boats in Argentina to validate operations.
- **Francisco:** Replace borrowed website images with original photos.
- **Francisco:** Reconnect with the Argentine Federation to pursue a certified measurer and explore NCA formation.
- **Bruce:** Report to the Technical Committee (TC) on Francisco's operation, outlining certification steps and questions for Francisco.
- **Technical Committee:** Develop guidelines for boat measurement certification for Francisco's operation.
- **Bruce/John Finch/David Foscarini:** Conduct final measurement check at Ontario Yachts for prototype #2.

3. Boat Building and Supply Updates

Discussion

- **Ontario Yachts:** Progressing well with prototype #1 going well and prototype #2 commencing shortly. Bruce and John Finch assisted with measurement setup. Delays occurred due to miscommunication about spar delivery, but Peter Norwood is delivering two masts.
- **Super 3 Project:** Stalled due to Brian's surgery and lack of pricing/marketing information. Keith reported no orders, attributed to insufficient data on the boat.
- **Measurement Challenges:** Only one international measurer exists in Argentina, complicating certification. Options include measuring boats in the US or Europe or shipping a hull for inspection.

Action Items

- **Ontario Yachts:** Complete prototype #2 and prepare for measurement certification.
- **Bruce:** Convince David Foscarini to apply as an International Measurer through the Canadian NCA, with applications due by September 1, 2025.

4. 2.4mR Worlds and Race Event Planning

Discussion

- **2025 Worlds (Italy):** Only 18 entries received to date, attributed to late Notice of Race (NOR) distribution, immediate payment requirements, and high costs. Heiko noted World Sailing's outdated requirements for international officials, causing delays. Social event details remain unclear, hindering promotion.
- **2026 Worlds (Sneek, Netherlands):** The group emphasized early NOR completion to attract participants with lower costs. Discussions included logistics for container shipping from Ontario Yachts and potential Kiel Week participation.
- **Kiel Week 2026:** Organizers require at least 20 boats, but only 16 participated this year. The group discussed how we can make Kiel more attractive.

Action Items

- **Heiko:** Contact Maria and Netherlands organizers to complete NOR documentation by Christmas 2025 for the 2026 Worlds.
- **Heiko:** Follow up with Carlotta for detailed social event information for the 2025 Worlds.
- **Heiko:** Contact Kiel Week organizers to confirm or cancel the 2026 event.
- **Heiko:** Coordinate with the US team on container logistics and Kiel arrangements.
- **John:** Follow up with Peter Russell on NOR requirements for the 2026 Worlds.
- **John:** Send meeting minutes and reach out to Kia regarding her absence.

5. Class Administration and Banking

Discussion

- **Banking Options:** Bruce proposed redistributing excess funds (keeping €15,000 in a master account) to NCAs for promotion. Mikael suggested Liechtenstein as a banking hub for tax advantages. The group agreed to consult a lawyer for legal structure options.
- **Administrative Needs:** Niko emphasized the need for paid staff to handle class administration, citing the limitations of volunteer efforts. Bruce mentioned a San Diego-based sailing administration company as a potential solution.
- **Funding Request:** Bruce requested €600 to cover travel expenses for himself, John Finch, and David Foscarini to Ontario Yachts, which was approved.

Action Items

- **Heiko:** Follow up with the lawyer on banking options and report to the EC.
- **Bruce:** Send banking details for the €600 official measures support transfer.
- **Bruce:** Research the San Diego sailing administration company for class administration solutions.

6. Class Rules and Technical Updates

Discussion

- **Class Rules:** Published with the upper batten rule clarified (full or partial batten optional). No further changes planned until the February 2026 AGM.
- **Mainsail Batten Clarification:** John addressed confusion from sailors interpreting the top batten as mandatory full-length. The TC confirmed it is optional.

Action Items

- **Technical Committee:** Review and issue a letter of advice clarifying mainsail batten requirements.

7. Paralympics 2032 Discussions

Discussion

- **Requirements:** World Sailing proposed shortening 2.4mR races to 15 minutes for TV/social media, registering sailors with IDs, and listing regattas on the World Sailing calendar. The group expressed concerns about feasibility and costs, especially for international travel.
- **Para Worlds:** Heiko opposed holding Para Worlds in distant locations (e.g., Rio, Singapore) due to shipping costs, suggesting integration with open Worlds and coordination with Shinka for logistics.

Action Items

- **John:** Attend the follow-up meeting on Friday, July 11, 2025, regarding Paralympics 2032 discussions.

8. Closing and Next Steps

- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for August 4, 2025.
- **Action Item:** Team to attend the next meeting.

9. Additional Notes

- John Seepe reported severe local flooding, impacting his ability to fully engage in the meeting.

- The group expressed gratitude to Bruce for facilitating the meeting and ensuring Francisco's participation.