

2024 WGM International A-Class Catamaran Association Minutes Punta Ala, Sept. 9th, 2024

Meeting opened at 19:10, closed at 20:55

Presents :

- Charles Bueche, IACA President and proxy for SUI
- Graeme Harbour, Yorick Kplipfel, International Measurers
- Bailey White, IACA Secretary
- Wim Plokker, NED
- Laurent Stephany, FRA
- Brent Harsant, NZL
- Michael Christensen, Mike Krantz, Chris Bolton, USA
- Marco Gaeti, Lamberto Cesari, ITA
- Abdón Ibáñez, ESP
- Rainer Bohrer, GER
- Ian Michie, John Dowling, Darren Bundock, AUS
- Owen Cox, proxy for GBR
- Ian Rodger, ARG
- Michał Kaszczuk, POL

1 President Report. Attached below.

2 Secretary Report. Attached below.

3 Technical Committee Report: it was a quiet year with no significant matters raised to review.

4 Finances: Class fortune is stable around 50,000 euro balance, account status on 8.9.2024 : €45'492. Budget for 2024 presented.

5 Country Reports :

- USA: about 100 members, Pensacola YC USA championships, propose 2026 for Worlds in Pensacola. Usage of a membership software called Clubspot building the membership. USA will send 10 sailors to NZL.
- NED : Hellecat is difficult to work with, 2 regattas in Hellewotsluis, 29 members. More details in appendix.
- ITA : about 60 members, 60% Classics, 40% Foilers, happy to organize the Euro in Riccione, coordination with close countries for the calendar.

- GER : loss of Mathias Dietz, re-organisation of the committee, 112 members, next year championship in Malcesine one week before the Euro of Riccione.
- AUS : 80-90 members, 3 regional championships, 30 boats per event, 2/3 Classics, always happy with the class.
- UK : 23 sailors on the National, mostly Classics, trying to get old boats to sail, presence on a dinghy show
- ESP : small decrease in membership, National cup was 30 boats, 10 foreigners, Classics are strong, but only 6 foilers left
- FRA : 70 members, only 5 foilers, rest are Classics, the age distribution is quite old, a few new young members on foilers, 3 clinics, one in each region to train, the class is helping, no National last year due to terrible storm, this year back in Maubuisson, next La Baule
- NZL : 25 members, half-half between disciplines, looking for to host the 2025 Worlds
- BEL : 23 members, 2 regattas, participation 10/event.

6 Election of Officers and IACA Committee

- Charles Bueche, Andrew Landenberger and Graeme Harbour : retiring.
- Bailey White elected as president.
- Chris Bolton elected as secretary.
- Lamberto Cesari, Mike Krantz, Darren Bundock elected as members.
- Rainer Bohrer and Paul Larsen continue as members.

Out of committee :

- Charles Bueche elected as deputy treasurer and bank contact.

7 Membership Fees. IACA proposes to rise the IACA fee to 20€ per member. The reasons to rise the IACA fee are:

- inflation. The existing fee was established about 10 years ago.
- rise the awareness of the class in the social media. Currently Mathilde Delaite does it for a ridiculous amount. That's not enough to keep her doing it for longer. We did it as a pilot project that now needs to be officialized. Some of her publications get 50k views.
- establish a CRM to manage competitors world wide, with rankings, votes, communication, measurement documents, etc.
- help to finance a liaison officer acting as an interface between competitors and the event.

Proposed to vote by the WGM, results:

- represented votes : 84

- yes votes : 53
- no votes : 18
- abstention : 13
- simple majority : 36
- decision : proposal accepted, fee is fixed at 20€.

8 Selection of Venues for World and Continental Championships

- 2025 : World in Milford NZL, Euro in Riccione ITA
- 2026 : Proposal for Pensacola Florida
- 2027 : Call for bids.

9 Proposals : none.

10. Regulatory and Technical Affairs discussion.

- Discussion initiated by Mike Christensen on registration fee (now max 300€), a proposal to rise the amount could be submitted and voted in an online WGM so NZL and USA would benefit already from it.
- Find a class sponsor, maybe an approach to help event financing.

11. Various

- Grand prix finishes to manage lapped boats. Currently tested at national level, no proposal yet.

Meeting minutes by Charles Bueche, 19.9.2024

Miscellaneous : on September 11th, awards were descerned to :

- Piet Saarber, NED, for numerous contributions to the class
- Dieter Melcher, SUI 192, he wrote most of the IACA Constitution
- Ben Hall, USA, for numerous contributions to the class, especially in USA
- Graeme Harbour, AUS, for his incredible help on Charles' side in the IACA Committee (Class Rules and Championship Rules modernizations), and of course as International Measurer

Appendix : committee and country reports

President's report for the IACA World General Meeting 2024

Dear presidents and representatives of national associations,

The world championship held in Punta Ala in 2015 was my first participation to a major IACA event. I was elected president one year later in Medemblik 2016, with the blessing of Landy, Graeme, and an assembly who thought it was a good idea.

My plan was to be president for a period of 4 years, and then pass the seat. After the fantastic events in Sopot 2017, Warnemünde and Hervey Bay 2018, and lastly Weymouth 2019 came this stupid thing called COVID. Finding a successor for the IACA presidency in the middle of the global nonsense was impossible, so I proposed myself for another 4 years. During this time, we had to cancel and postpone a serie of carefully planned events. It was only in 2022 that we could again race together in Houston and in Garda, then last year we went to Toulon in south France.

After 8 major events during 8 years of presidency, it's time for me to retire from the Committee. In the process, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee and the Technical Committee, which have assisted me all the time during these 8 years. A special mention goes to Graeme Harbour, who was behind me, always ready for questions and assistance. Graeme is retiring as well, but will stay present as International Measurer. Thank you as well to Landy who was always helping in the back. It's much easier to be president with such smart people helping.

We will later present you a list of candidates who will succeed us at the Committee.

What else did we do during all these years ? Well, a few projects were started and implemented. The most visible is the creation of the Classic discipline, there are other less visible but nevertheless important achievements like the re-write of the Constitution, Class Rules and Championship Rules, allowance for the GPS devices, etc.

On-going projects :

The IACA Committee always try to establish a long-term plan for major championships. It's getting increasingly difficult to motivate organizers and clubs, besides in Italy from where we get numerous proposals all the time. I think the reason for this difference lies in the commercial approach dominating in Italy (clubs make a business by organizing regattas) vs the volunteer approach present in most other countries. Both ways are perfectly ok, however we end up in Italy for every 2nd major event. Everyone likes italian food and beaches, but if you are not from Italy and you want to host an IACA major event, feel free to contact the committee.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the committees and all presidents of national associations for their engagement and hard work to make our class successful.

Charles Bueche, IACA president, September 2024

2024 IACA Secretary's Report, Bailey White

Each year the secretary receives a count of plaques issued by World Sailing that is used in preparing our annual report for that entity. World Sailing issued plaques for the A-Class Catamaran:

37 in 2023
74 in 2022
44 in 2021
31 in 2020
61 in 2019

Something I have not mentioned before in my report but should add is the number of competitors at our World Championship events:

2022, Houston Yacht Club: 32 Classics and 35 Open, representing a total of 8 countries and three continents. This was a COVID recovery event with a lot of delays in 2020 and 2021. If a pandemic happens again, we learned there is a class advantage if the event can still happen.
2023, Toulon Yacht Club: 80 Classics, 46 Open. Both with 13 countries and 3 continents represented.

2024, Centro Velico Punta Ala Club: 89 Classics and 87 Open. 20 countries represented as follows:

ARG	3
AUS	14
BEL	8
CAN	1
CZE	1
DEN	6
ESP	13
FIN	1
FRA	14
GBR	4
GER	24
GRE	1
ISV	1
ITA	41
NED	9
NZL	2
POL	4
SUI	14
SWE	1
USA	14

Looking at our class member numbers, where we get reports with a 1 year delay, we see:

710 in 2023
712 in 2022
727 in 2021
Uncounted in 2020 due to COVID
763 in in 2019

Our largest countries as of early this year based on this payment above: GER,116 - USA,107 - AUS,83 - FRA,76 - ITA,60

Between the high quality of the performance and racing among both Classic and Open fleets and what generally seems to be a high availability of used Open boats built before 2020, I am hopeful we can see the membership numbers start to grow back to 900. I have said this for years though.

A best practice I have seen to drive membership is to adopt an online system to manage annual membership billing such as Clubspot or perhaps Manage2Sail or others. Such a system can do automated annual billing and has proven to make a big difference in membership number. I welcome discussion on increasing the number of active sailors during the WGM.

For my duties, as always, Charles and Graeme have been particularly helpful in keeping the records up to date and supporting the annual filings I make with World Sailing. It is going to be a big change to the class to lose their extraordinary support. Thank you to both of them.

best,
Bailey

Dutch A-division Catamarans Association – DACA, Annual Report of 2024, Sept 6th, 2024

Difficulties with the organization.

2024 was a challenging year for DACA, particularly in terms of its cooperation with Hellecat. DACA has been hosted by Hellecat for over 20 years for its class events and Dutch Nationals. During this time, all registration fees have gone to Hellecat. However, in 2024, Hellecat's contributions have decreased due to a reduced number of members. With fewer members, there is significantly less income and far fewer volunteers willing to help organize the competitions.

Therefore, in 2024, DACA had to organize the races itself for the first time, paying to Hellecat for the use of the starting boat and the accommodation. For events, there are also costs associated with hiring the race officer and using the RIBs during the competitions. As a result, a three-day event like the National Championships in August operated on a budget of €2,000. The races scheduled for Friday were canceled due to strong winds exceeding 25 knots. This setback turned out to be a stroke of luck, as the costs were significantly reduced, which was necessary given there were only 19 registrations. In 2024, it took a very long time to reach an agreement with Hellecat for the organization of the regattas. As a result, the calendar was published very late in the year, with only two regattas scheduled. On other dates, no race officers or volunteers were available. During the year, DACA member Wiro Zijlmans joined the Hellecat board and helped improve the situation for DACA. Thanks to his efforts, we hope for better cooperation with Hellecat in 2025.

Regatta in May

The number of registrations in May was disappointing, as only 5 Classics and 8 Foilers appeared at the start. Unfortunately, with 13 registrations, the costs were higher than the benefits.

Dutch Nationals in August

The number of registrations in August for the Dutch Nationals was also disappointing. Although 6 Classics registered, only 3 actually started. Similarly, 11 Foilers were registered, but due to the heavy winds over the Nationals weekend, only 7 participated. Five sailors had already withdrawn before the weekend for various reasons, including injuries and illness. Additionally, some sailors choose not to attend due to the World Championships in Punta Ala, Italy. Naturally, the event in Italy, with over 180 boats and beautiful weather attracts more sailors.

No races were held on Friday, and only one race took place on Saturday, but five races were completed on Sunday. Despite this, conditions on Sunday were still challenging, resulting in only three Foilers starting the 6th race.

In none of the races during the Nationals were there 15 starters, which means the championship is not recognized by the Watersportverbond as an official championship but rather as a class event. As a result, the prizes and the champion's pennant must be returned. However, DACA will compensate the winners with a very nice bottle of wine.

Members

At the end of August 2024 29 members were registered: 26 male and 3 female. There are 17 members with a foiler; 12 members with a classic. The number of members is slowly decreasing.

Board

Rutger Krijger is still chairman since late 2016. Kees Krijger (uncle of Rutger) is secretary and the treasurer is Wim Plokker.

Media

<http://www.a-catned.nl> plus Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dutchaclass?ref=hl>

Facebook is very successful with 1652 followers.

Last August with the promotion of the Nationals and the introduction of the "DN-Mast" by DNA gave an incredible amount of more than 8700 viewers.

Conclusion

2024 proved to be a disappointing year for DACA with only two regattas, on which money had to be deposited.

2025 must be better than 2024 because we need more entries at our regattas to break even.

2025 will also be used to investigate the possibilities to organize the European Championships in the Netherlands, whether in Medemblik or Hellevoetsluis.

If so, we will offer our bidbook in the general annual meeting of IACA in 2025.

Greetings,

Rutger Krijger / Kees Krijger / Wim Plokker

NED 14 / NED 15/ NED 93

German A-division Catamarans Association 29.8.2024

„The extremely drastic event of this season was the loss of our dear member and president, Matthias Dietz, at the German Open in Schwerin. We miss Matthias. We thank the A-CAT community for the great sympathy! The German Open in Schwerin was won by Thomas Paasch (DEN). German champion 2024 became Alexander Meister (Open).

We are looking for a solution for the replacement of the president, while we discuss, among other things, a board structure to better distribute responsibilities. As interim president, Alexander Zylka has made himself available until May 2025. Rainer Bohrer remains the contact person for international affairs.

Our membership numbers are quite constant, there has been a slight decrease so far this season from 116 (in 2022, 2023) to 112. Of the very active sailors who regularly participate in regattas, there are about 30 foilers and 20 classics (a few doing both disciplines or swapped).

For the next German Open, 2025 we invite you again to Malcesine/Garda ITA, FVM. The regatta will take place on the last weekend of May and thus a week before the European Championship in Riccione. We are looking forward to see you! Register in time, the space on the club area is limited.“

Rainer Bohrer