

## **2023 WGM International A-Class Catamaran Association Minutes Toulon Yacht Club, Sept. 12 and Sept. 14, 2023**

Presents :

- Charles Bueche, IACA President and proxy for BRA
- Graeme Harbour, International Measurer
- Bailey White, IACA Secretary
- John Dowling, NZL
- Matthias Dietz and Rainer Bohrer, GER
- Jakub Surowiec, POL
- Tom Bøjland, DEN
- Pieter-Jan Dwarshuis, NED
- Chris Bolton and Mike Krantz, USA
- Ian Michie, AUS
- Michel Warlop, BEL
- Lars Wigerstedt, SWE
- Lamberto Cesari and Giuseppe Colombo, ITA
- Denis Brendel and Laurent Stephany, FRA
- Robin Maeder, SUI
- José Antonio Lopez, SPA

1 President Report. Would like to drive more participation with some qualifying described a suggested approach.

2 Secretary Report. Reported on trends over time in plaques and membership. Question: What percentage of boats built are by home builders? We don't know but is expected to be very low.

We discussed we don't know the breakdown by classic versus open boats and Charles has a proposal to discuss.

3 Technical Committee Report: The quietest it has been with no significant matters raised to review.

4 Finances: Class is relatively steady at roughly 50,000 euro balance with expenses generally meeting income if one World one event occurs per year. If two World events occur in one calendar year, the balance will be lower for that year. Account status on 1.9.2023 : €48'229.

5 Country Reports (more are attached as appendices) :

US Report: Mike Krantz reported for Bob Webbon. Classics and foilers still around 50/50. Highly recommend purchasing a container.

AUS Report: Ian reported. Healthy participation. Classics outnumbering foilers about 2:1. What can be done to help second hand market as the disparity between new and second hand is too wide?

FRA: 8 Open and the rest Classics in 70 members. This is an increase in the Open fleet from 3 or 4 to 8. Have a program to support young access to the class with the association helping pay entry fees.

GER: Mattias said same as previous year. Stable but lower membership. 38 or so active sailors (ratio Classic to Open is about 1 / 2). European Championship in 2022 together with the Italian Association worked well, thank you for the good cooperation also with IACA and participation! German Open in 2023 at Lake Garda was big success too with 60 competitors and will happen again in 2025.

NED: PJ reported about 35 members with a lot of variation in performance. About 50/50 in Open and Classic with Classic growing. Nationals in two weeks or so and expect about 30 boats.

ITA: Lamberto reported 2022 as good year with closed events like Lake Garda increasing participation. Joined championship with other nations like Germans and Swiss is good way to have high participation in regattas, and we see a different distribution of classic and open depending on the location (more classics on the sea and more open on the lakes - except Bracciano). Lake Garda event showed the venue can be more tactical and not just strong wind. 75 % Classics 25 % Open. Believes the Open boats should be promoted beyond the class as many Open sailors will eventually become Classic sailors.

BEL: Michel reported 3 Open sailors in a membership of 29 and biggest catamaran class in BEL. Steady growth in membership with sailors coming from other catamaran classes.

NZL: John reported the team there is planning to come to Punta Ala Worlds. Has 20 members with 18 sailing at the Nationals this year. Predominantly classic.

DEN: Tom reported they have 18 members with 17 at Nationals. All are Open. Some growth as well.

ESP: Jose reported 30 members for Abdón with a fleet of about 50 boats. 5 Flying boats.

SWE: 10 active boats and 6 paying members. All Classic.

SUI: Robin reported 5 classic and 15 open at a good recent event. About 50 members overall. Doing fewer smaller events and focusing on some bigger events.

#### 6 Election of Officers and IACA Committee

- Jaques Valente : retiring
- Rainer Bohrer : elected, interested in technical matters and class promotion and growth.

7 Membership Fees. IACA proposes to keep fees as is at 10 euros per member. Please pay on time as sometimes it comes too late to put it in the right year for our class accounting.

Discussion on regatta trackers and how they could be funded as it would require increasing membership fees likely by 100% unless there are less expensive options. Opti Class has had good success with a particular solution, MetaSail.

Discussion: what should we be doing to build momentum beyond trackers? Should we be raising more fees?

#### 8 Selection of Venues for World and Continental Championships

- 2024 : World in Italy with national races likely the week before.
- 2025 : World in New Zealand
- 2026 : 2027: Call for Worlds Bids
- 2025 : Call for Europeans Bids.

Review of NZL World bid: similar water to Takapuna with America's Cup leaders involved in the Manly club.

ITA would like to propose Europeans in a coming year but nothing finalized yet.

#### 9 Proposal Voting

Not all countries listed were present all the time during the 2 days of the WGM, so a few representative missed the voting process. As the present votes were unanimous these absences do not represent an issue.

- 9.1 AUS, changes to Constitution §11.1 to specify Class Rules changes of administrative nature need a WGM-vote only. PASSED.
- 9.2 AUS, change to Class Rules C.7.1 : Event Technical Committee handle replacement of lost or damaged equipment. PASSED.
- 9.3 AUS, change to Class Rules C.5.2 : As permitted by RRS 50.1(c) any trapeze harness to be used is not required to be of a quick release type. PASSED.

First three proposals from Australia pass.

Reword requested on the 6.3 in the Championship Rules. The WGM met again on Thursday, 14, September at 0900 and passed a modified re-word.

Proposed revision to :

6.3. The Championship event for both Open & Classic disciplines must be sailed separately without the other discipline on the course.

The same course can be utilised if Closed championship format (Rule 3.4) is used.

If 100 boats or less are entered in a discipline, the entire discipline shall be raced together.

For any discipline with more than 100 boats, two fleets should be utilized for that discipline at concurrent times.

Championship is not to be held on the same time and venue as any other event unless approved by the I.A.C.A. Committee.

10. Regulatory and Technical Affairs discussion.

10.1. Lots of compliance issues being found in spot measurements. Need to get countries and sailors to work more on this beforehand.

10.2. Identification for the Classic boats with red circle on the sail appears to be effective. Will not be in our class rules but is a good approach and is expected to continue in regattas.

## 11. Various

11.1 Global Calendar. Charles can explain how to feed a country calendar to the global calendar.

Scales : we have scales in USA and Australia, but none in Europe, the committee will discuss the opportunity to buy scales and calibration weight and so have them ready for Punta Ala next year.

Other discussions:

- Grand prix finishes or other process to manage lapped boats. Could test at some point but maybe difficult to manage for the RC. Another option is to reduce the finishing window to 20 minutes or a smaller number.
- Should we have a separate finishing area so the races can be set up more quickly. All these ideas could be looked at by the Technical Committee.
- Get an official statement on rescues where the sailor is separated from the boat. Is the sailor still eligible to race or must he or she withdraw from that race? Some venues have allowed sailors to continue and some don't. Request by ITA/Lamberto : we ask for an official interpretation by World Sailing of rule 41 whenever a boat is capsized and the sailor cannot swim to the boat. If we consider it person in danger, then the sailor shall be allowed to continue racing when receiving outside help.
- How do we manage cost and performance for the Open fleet's future development? Can the discussion continue from last year? What are our goals for this?

## Appendix : country reports

### Report to IACA 2023 Annual General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup>

#### September 2023

#### **From the Australian International A-Division Catamaran Association Inc - (AIADCA)**

- **2022-23 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club, Paynesville Victoria. January 7-14<sup>th</sup> January 2023. 28 Classic and 21 Open (Flying) with Ritchie Howells and Adam Beattie respective champions. Andrew Landenberger and Darren Bundock were 2<sup>nd</sup> in each fleet

The 2023-24 Australian Championships are scheduled for the 6-13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Sunshine (Lake Macquarie) New South Wales

- **2023 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- Victoria – 12-14<sup>th</sup> March. St Leonards Yacht Club, St Leonards VIC. 19 Classic, 11 flying, with Richard Howell and Adam Beattie respective champions.
- New South Wales – 18-19<sup>th</sup> March. Speers Point SC NSW. X Classic and Y Flying. X and Y respective champions.
- Queensland – Easter Weekend 7-9<sup>th</sup> April. Hervey Bay Sailing Club Hervey Bay QLD, 14 Classic, 6 Flying with Andrew Landenberger and Adam Beattie respective champions.

- **2023 AIADCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

This meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at Gippsland Lakes YC, during the National Championship.

Paul Neeskens, Michael Kopp and Stuart Scott were returned as President, Secretary and Treasurer.

John Dowling was re- elected as the continuing National Measurer.

- **ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION -**

**Refer to motions to be put at General Meeting re Constitution and Rules.**

- **OVERALL**

Interest in A Class catamaran racing remains strong with about 50/50 Classic vs Flying competitors. The AIADCA is proud again to have conducted a National Championship and 3 State Championships despite the challenges of distance. Of note is that several sailors have participated in all 4 A Class Championships over the past year despite the 2000km between Hervey Bay QLD and St Leonards VIC.

Paul Neeskens

AUS 954

President AIADCA

**From the NZ A Class President – Brent Harsant**

## **2022-23 Season Recap**

We had an active season despite the challenging conditions due to the la Nina cycle meaning some events were cancelled due to extreme weather.

The events that did go ahead were well represented and the camaraderie of the fleet is at an all-time high.

Kai Iwi Lakes Regatta is one of the highlights of the season, this had to be cancelled due to weather but has been rescheduled to early in the upcoming season.

### **Rotorua Sprints Regatta**

The season started off with this Regatta where 12 quick fire races are run over two days. Twelve A Class participated in the event with only two points separating first and third place.

Andrew Johnson was first, Brent Harsant second and Dave Aarons came third.

### **Double Trouble Regatta**

The weekend was squally and wet which made sailing very challenging for the various catamaran classes sailing at this event. Unfortunately, Hamish one of the A Class sailors broke his mast in a major capsize but he already enough points to win the series.

Foilers: Hamish Hall-Smith first, David Haylock second, Ed Crook third

Classics: Tom Block first, Dave Aarons second, Brent Harsant third

### **Auckland Championships**

The weekend finally brought fantastic sailing conditions for the three multihull divisions sailing at this regatta, biggest numbers were the A Class fleet.

Nicholas one of our A Class sailors had made a new A Class sail and was trying it out at this regatta. It proved very fast and he had some excellent placings with this. John Kennett sailed very consistently to have a near perfect score card for the event though a capsize and DNF in one race keep him working hard until the end.

John Kennet first, David Haylock second, Nicholas Gardiner third

### **NZ Championships**

These were held at Turangi on the shores of Lake Taupo which is in the middle of the North Island and is a very large lake. The lake threw up a large range of conditions making it a very interesting and closely fought regatta right to the end. The title came down to the last race and eventually was a tie for first place. Hamish Hall-Smith was crowned National Champion on count back with John Kennett second place.

Foilers: Hamish Hall-Smith first, David Haylock second, Ed Crook third

Classic: John Kennett first, Tom Block second, Peter Lyall third

## **Preview of upcoming Season 2023-24**

We have one regatta scheduled every month around the North Island. The NZ Championships will be held at the top of the South Island in the beautiful Nelson Bay.

### **Worlds 2025 Update**

A Trial event is scheduled for November 2023. At this both Harold Bennett and John Parish who are both World class Race Officers will formulate the Worlds 2025 race format at the venue at which it is being held. This will allow us to get a feel for the layout and schedule which will work two years ahead of time. This event is bringing a new energy to the New Zealand fleet and will help the class build its strength into the future.

### **Worlds 2024 – Punta Ala, Italy**

The New Zealand fleet have targeted this as a venue that we would aim to get a full container of boats to. We are working on costings and planning to make this a reality.

Best regards  
Brent Harsant  
NZADCA President

---

## President's report for the IACA World General Meeting 2023

Dear presidents and representatives of national associations,

Starting with some history : 2022 was an entertaining sailing year, we did have 2 major events in Houston and Garda. Having a closed European championship in Italy had people realize they had to qualify, so it generated renewed interest in local regattas to qualify. I had a few people complain about not being able to qualify, and if we would have made some more pressure, we could have accomodated 15 to 20 more boats, but at the end I think having a closed championships from time to time isn't a bad thing for the class.

Let's deep a little bit more into this topic. The place where I sail in Switzerland – called Bevaix, near Neuchâtel - has one of the largest A-Cat fleet in Europe. We have 18 A-Cat, about 10 of them are actively sailing. However, my friends are sometimes lazy to load their boats and travel, despite the short distances we have, being located in the geographical center of Europe. As such, we have declining participation in local regattas – unless in 2022 when they had to

qualify to enter in Garda. Now the close future is paved with open events, there is no need of qualification anymore, the place has returned to «sail here only», because there is no incentive.

Here is an idea to solve this issue : The participation to an IACA World or Continental Championship would require participation to 4 official A-Cat regattas during the previous 12 or 18 months. National Associations would need to adopt this rule, and then verify its application. We might need to allow for a few wildcards per country to allow super-busy professional sailors which we want to see again, but haven't the resources to qualify. We could study the best way to implement this idea, and then add an article to the Championship Rules, which National Associations would then apply within their respective countries. If anyone wants to work on this idea, get in touch with me during the week.

On-going projects :

Now that the COVID is behind us, we are again trying to establish a long-term plan for major championships. I will talk about it in a few minutes.

We will soon have some votes on 4 proposals, 3 from Australia, as well to nail the Classic Discipline into the Championship Rules.

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, August 2023

## **2023 IACA Secretary's Report**

Each year the secretary receives a count of plaques issued by World Sailing that is used in preparing our annual report for that entity. I went through my prior reports where World Sailing provided this count and want to note them for the class:

World Sailing issued plaques for the A-Class Catamaran:

- 74 in 2022
- 44 in 2021
- 31 in 2020
- 61 in 2019

Looking at our class member numbers, we see:

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

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 member numbers start to grow rather than decline. A best practice I have seen to drive membership is to adopt an online system to manage annual membership billing such as Ireland based Clubspot or perhaps Manage2Sail or others. 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. Thank you to both of them.

Best,  
Bailey White

**WGM 2023, Yacht Club Toulon, 12.9.2023 and 14.9.2023**

Country	Representative	present	31.12.2022	votes	9.1 Amendment to the Constitution Item 11						
					yes	no	abst	CY	CN	CA	
Argentina				5	1				0	0	0
Australia				62	9	1			9	0	0
Austria				15	3				0	0	0
Belgium				22	4	1			4	0	0
Brazil				6	2	1			2	0	0
Canada				15	3				0	0	0
Denmark				12	3	1			3	0	0
France				63	9	1			9	0	0
Germany				114	13	1			13	0	0
Great Britain				24	4				0	0	0
Ireland				4	1				0	0	0
Italy				60	8	1			8	0	0
New Zealand	Suellen Hurling			20	4	1			4	0	0
Netherlands				29	5	1			5	0	0
Poland				15	3				0	0	0
Spain				61	8	1			8	0	0
Sweden				6	2	1			2	0	0
Switzerland	Robin Maeder			54	8	1			8	0	0
USA				122	14	1			14	0	0
				709	104	13	0	0	89	0	0
				<b>votes</b>	<b>104</b>						
				<b>2/3 of votes</b>	<b>69.33333</b>	Result : PASSED					

9.2 Class Rule C.7 : replacement of damaged equipment process						
yes	no	abst	CY	CN	CA	
				0	0	0
1				9	0	0
				0	0	0
1				4	0	0
1				2	0	0
				0	0	0
1				3	0	0
1				9	0	0
1				13	0	0
				0	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				4	0	0
1				5	0	0
				0	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				2	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				14	0	0
13	0	0		89	0	0
Result : PASSED						

9.3 Class Rule C.5 : Quick release trapeze harness optional.						
yes	no	abst	CY	CN	CA	
				0	0	0
1				9	0	0
				0	0	0
1				4	0	0
1				2	0	0
				0	0	0
1				3	0	0
1				9	0	0
1				13	0	0
				0	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				4	0	0
1				5	0	0
				0	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				2	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				14	0	0
13	0	0		89	0	0
Result : PASSED						

9.4 Championship Rules : include Classics						
yes	no	abst	CY	CN	CA	
				0	0	0
1				9	0	0
				0	0	0
				0	0	0
1				2	0	0
				0	0	0
				0	0	0
1				9	0	0
1				13	0	0
1				4	0	0
				0	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				4	0	0
1				5	0	0
				0	0	0
				0	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				2	0	0
1				8	0	0
1				14	0	0
11	0	0		78	0	0
Result : PASSED						