



International Six Metre Association (ISMA)

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting

held at 1930 on Tuesday, 14 September 2021

in the clubhouse of the Real Club Nautico de Sanxenxo, Spain

Present:

Dirk Stolp	Vice-President (Racing)	DS
Tim Russell	Executive Secretary	XS

and 16 members of ISMA

The start of the meeting was delayed by one hour from the original advertised starting time (1830) because of the racing programme.

Action

1 Welcome

- 1.1 ISMA members were welcomed by Daniel Arosa, the Head of Sport at Sanxenxo City Council.

2 President's Introduction

- 2.1 Dirk Stolp took the chair and explained that the President was unable to be present, since he was preventing from travelling, on medical advice. He read a note from the President, the text of which is appended to these minutes.

3 Apologies for Absence

- 3.1 Apologies had been received from:
- David Elliott – Vice-President (Classics)
 - Ian Howlett – Vice-President (Technical)
 - Steve Kinsey - Vice-President (Open Division)
 - Thomas Kuhmann – Vice-President (Marketing)
 - Christian Teichmann – Treasurer
 - Andy Postle

XS also noted that many North American members were unable to be present.

3.2 XS had been asked to remember some of those who had died since the previous meeting in 2019:

- Henry Hill Anderson Junior ('Harry' Anderson) who died 12 May 2020 aged 98 – former Commodore of the New York yacht club, and inducted into the US Sailing Hall of fame. He sailed Sixes in his youth in the 1930s and 1940s, including on 'Jill' 'Swallow' and 'Goose'.
- Dr Alan 'Robin' Gordon Wallace who died 18 March 2021 – co-founder of sail Newport and the Principal race Officer for the 2009 six Metre World at Newport.
- Rees Martin – former secretary of BISMA and a principal mover behind the introduction of Appendix A of the Class Rule, who died 23 February 2021.

Post Meeting Note: At the end of the meeting Hugo Stenbeck reminded us that Peter Harrison KGCN CBE, the owner of Nada and St Francis IX, had died earlier in the year, on 18 June 2021.

4 **Number of Votes per National Association**

4.1 The Executive Secretary reported that, based on the subscriptions paid in the previous year, the votes available to each fleet were as follows:

Fleet	Votes	Represented by:
Finland	11	Ossi Paija
France	0	
Germany	4	Proxy held by XS
Great Britain	20	Tom Owen
North America	33	Adam Henley
Portugal	1	Patrick de Barros
Spain	10	Mauricio Sánchez-Bella
Sweden	4	Hol J Michael Larsson
Switzerland	26	Beat Furrer
Total	109	

XS asked the meeting to note that Louis Heckly was not disenfranchised by the lack of any subscriptions from the French fleet, since as a Swiss resident his subscription was paid through the Swiss fleet.

5 **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

5.1 The minutes of the 2019 AGM held in Hanko had been published on the Association's website before the meeting. The minutes were accepted unanimously as a true record of the meeting.

6 Treasurer's Report – 2020 Accounts and Budget for 2022

- 6.1 In the absence of the Treasurer, XS presented the report. He noted that the financial position had been maintained during the Covid crisis, thanks to members who had maintained their subscriptions despite a serious constraint on their ability to go sailing. Although the income from sail labels was significantly reduced, this was offset by the fact that there was no expenditure on PR or on the Secretary's travel. He reminded the meeting that although the income and expenditure on the Archive Project appear as items in the accounts, both are recorded separately and ring-fenced from the rest of ISMA's finances. They are kept in balance so that there is no burden on ISMA.
- 6.2 Mr Patrick de Barros queried the item shown as 'ISAF Subscription' in the accounts, and XS agreed that this item should read 'World Sailing subscription'.
- 6.3 The meeting agreed to accept the accounts for 2020 and the proposed budget for 2022 without dissent.

7 Executive Secretary's Report

- 7.1 XS noted that the Twelve Metre Class had negotiated with World Sailing to establish each of its divisions as a separate class. This enabled them to award a 'world champion' title to the winner of each division. Although this came with a cost, in that each new division had to pay a separate joining fee in the region of £1000 and then an annual subscription, it was something that members might wish to consider.
- 7.2 XS suggested that members had missed the opportunity for more relaxed debate which was afforded by a Winter or Spring meeting, and suggested that this should be a priority as soon as a relaxation in travel restrictions allowed.

8 Election of Officers

- 8.1.1 The meeting adopted President-elect Louis Heckly as the President of the Association, with acclamation.
- 8.1.2 Mr Patrick de Barros observed that the Association owed a debt of gratitude to the retiring President Sir Robert Owen, and wished him a speedy recovery.
- 8.2.1 The meeting noted that there was no candidate at the time for the post of Vice-President (Technical). This awaited the outcome of Agenda Item 9 to amend the constitution of the Technical Committee, and would be subject to a mail vote later in the year.

8.2.2 Candidates for the following posts were elected with acclamation:

Vice-President (Marketing) – Ossi Paija
Vice-President (Classics) – Tom Owen
Vice-President (Open Division) – Peter Wealick
Vice-President (Racing) – Violeta Alvarez
Treasurer – Christian Teichmann

8.3 The meeting considered Mr Patrick de Barros' proposal to require a signed commitment from each elected officer to allow their e-mail address and telephone number to be publicised to ISMA members for ISMA business only. Although it was clearly the intention that such data should be kept out of the public domain, it was very apparent that opinions were mixed. Some members were happy to reveal their e-mail address, particularly if they had a dedicated address for the purpose, with others taking a more guarded approach. It was noted that some alternative methods might be available to enable members to contact ISMA officers directly, such as the provision of dedicated e-mail addresses. XS agreed to investigate this possibility further. XS

9 Governance – Technical Committee

9.1.1 There was general agreement to the over-riding principle of the proposal, that the constitution of the Technical Committee should be re-defined, with the committee being chaired by Vice-President (Technical) with the President, Vice-Presidents (Open Division and Classics) and XS being members ex officio, and with the power to co-opt technical experts at its discretion. It was emphasised that there was no intention to discard those technical advisers who had served the Association so well in the past.

9.1.2 There was also general agreement on the proposals that the Technical Committee should have over-riding authority over the appointment of a class measurer.

9.1.3 There was less common ground when discussion turned to whether the class measurer should be a member, ex officio, of the technical committee, with a lively debate on the precise meaning of the term 'ex officio'.

9.2 The debate embraced discussion on Mr Patrick de Barros' alternative proposal, with members continuing the debate on the relative conflicts and alignments between the terms 'statutory' and 'ex officio', and with no common ground being achieved.

9.3 The Chairman called for formal vote on the initial three proposals, with the results as follows:
Option 1 – agreed unanimously
Option 2 – agreed unanimously
Option 3 – agreed, with all fleets voting in favour except the Spanish (10 votes) and the Portuguese (one vote).

With the matter thus resolved, there was no vote on the alternative proposal.

10 Review of ISMA Regatta Venues

- 10.1 It was noted that the proposals for 2022 and 2023 had already been agreed:
- 2022 World Championships - RCN Sanxenxo, confirmed at the AGM in La Trinité and postponed from 2021.
 - 2022 European Championships - Clube Navale de Cascais, selected by mail vote after the AGM in Hanko.
 - 2023 World Championship – Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes, confirmed at the AGM in Hanko in 2019.

10.2 Looking ahead to 2024, XS noted that in previous meetings French representatives had highlighted that 2024 would be the centenary year of the Paris Olympics in 1924, and there had been a suggestion that an event in Le Havre (the Olympic venue for the yachting events) would be appropriate. Although the French fleet president had been in contact with the Société des Régates du Havre, there had been no follow up, and there appeared to be little enthusiasm for the venue. In a contribution from the floor, the President suggested that he and Michel Teweles were confident that they could bring forward a proposal to hold an event in Hyères. It was agreed that the Association would await a submission which was anticipated in two or three weeks.

President

10.3 Speaking on behalf of the North American fleet, Adam Henley confirmed that North America would wish to come forward with a proposal for 2025. It was suggested that a venue on the East Coast would be more attractive to European fleets than one on the West Coast.

NA fleet

11 Deed of Gift

11.1 The meeting considered the impact of the decision, already accepted, that the Djinn Trophy should be restricted to those classic boats which competed without taking advantage of the flotation concessions set out in Appendix A of the Class Rule. There remains the issue of whether to seek to align the Deed of Gift for the President Woodrow Wilson Trophy so that both World and European classic divisions were contested on the same basis. The meeting agreed that it would wish to see such a change, and XS was directed to open discussions with the Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub (KDY – the Royal Danish Yacht Club) to agree an amendment to the Deed of Gift.

XS

12 Class Rule Changes – Rule 37

12.1 The proposal to delete that part of Class Rule 37 which bans the use of GPS-enabled devices led to a lively debate. On the one hand some members saw it as an inevitable consequence of technical development. Others would wish to see the essence of competition pursued without electronic aids. The

situation was somewhat clouded by the difficulty of ensuring compliance with the existing rule.

12.2 The original proposal had included a measure to encourage compliance. In presenting an alternative proposal, Mr Patrick de Barros advocated a harder line, though some members pointed out that the event technical committee (the event measurer) already had the right, as a provision of the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, to board boats to verify compliance. Louis Heckly felt strongly that rule compliance should be a fundamental principle adopted by all those who sailed in the class and he regretted the departure from a traditional Corinthian sporting approach.

12.3 The first question, whether or not to amend the rule to allow the use of GPS-enabled devices, was put to a vote. The proposal was agreed by 41 votes to 37. Votes in favour were cast by Finland (11), Great Britain (20) and Spain (10). Votes against were cast by North America (33) and Sweden (4). Portugal (1) and Switzerland (26) abstained, and XS did not exercise the proxy (4) held on behalf of the German fleet. XS

12.4 With the first part of the proposal agreed, no vote was necessary on the various measures proposed to improve enforcement.

12.5 XS reminded the meeting that the Class Rule provided that a rule change could only be enacted with 12 months' notice, so the rule change would not be in force for the World Championship in Sanxenxo in 2022 or for the European Championship in Cascais later that year.

13 Archive Project

13.1 Members noted the report which had been circulated before the meeting. Violeta Alvarez, speaking as the instigator of the project, was delighted with its progress but expressed a little disappointment that members had not been able to provide more financial support.

14 Subjects for Discussion at Future Meetings

14.1 Louis Heckly offered to facilitate a Winter Meeting at the Yacht Club de France, with a suggested time being in early December 2021. XS was tasked to follow up this offer XS

The meeting closed at 2037.

Post-Meeting Note

At the European Championships Prize-Giving held on Saturday 18 September 2021, the Association President Louis Heckly awarded the

Jean-Pierre Trophy to his predecessor Sir Robert Owen in recognition of his wise and diplomatic guidance of the Class through some difficult times.

T J Russell
Executive Secretary
24 September 2021

Appendix: Text of the Retiring President's Message to the Meeting

Appendix

Text of the Retiring President's Message to the Meeting

It is with very great regret that I must give my apologies to the meeting. It is particularly disappointing as it would have been my last meeting as your President. But in early August I had the misfortune to suffer a stroke, and although I have largely made a good recovery, I was advised by my consultant neurologist that I must not fly for a period of at least 6 weeks because of the risk of a further ischaemic episode.

But in parting I would simply like to thank ISMA for the support that I have received from all during my term of office, and to say how much I have enjoyed my involvement with the 6mr class. I would like in particular to thank the Vice-Presidents with whom I have had the pleasure of working, and most importantly of all the Executive Secretary, Tim Russell. His knowledge of the class, technical and historical, is second to none, and his advice to me and to the Vice-Presidents is invariably sound, and in the best interests of the class. We are massively in his debt for the amount of work, largely unseen, that he does on our behalf to ensure the smooth running of ISMA.

I am confident that if those who have been proposed as President and Vice-Presidents, are elected, ISMA will be in the best of hands. They will, I know, uphold the values of the class, and most importantly the commitment to the highest standards of sportsmanship on and off the water. I wish you well for the future.

Sir Robert Owen
6 September 2021