



Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting 2011

International 6 Metre Association ISMA

Held at the Scandic Crown Grand Marina Hotel, Linnankatu 32, Helsinki, Finland, at 19:00 hours on August 8th 2011.

Present: Beat Furrer, President, ISMA; Stefan O'Reilly-Hyland, Hon. Secretary; Paul Smith, Committee Member of ISMA & Vice-President for GB, Thomas Kuhmann, Vice President for Southern Europe, Issuer of the Minutes of Meeting, and 21 members and associate members.

Guests of Honour: Bernt Høgberg, Commodore; Jan Klingeborg, Vice-Commodore, Nynäshamn Yachtclub, Nynäshamn, Sweden.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome

President Beat Furrer welcomed all participants to the 39th International 6 Metre Association's Annual General Meeting and invited ISMA Hon. Secretary Stefan O'Reilly-Hyland to act as secretary for the meeting and Thomas Kuhmann to take the Minutes of the Meeting.

2. In Memoriam

The meeting stood in silence in memory of those members, crews and friends who passed away during the year. These included Laurent Thierry-Mieg, owner of FRA 99 Vert Galant (Johann Anker, 1933)

3. Apologies for Absence

Tim Street, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Tim Russell, Honorary Treasurer, Ian Howlett, Chairman of the Technical Committee, Matt Cockburn, Chairman of the Classics Committee, Brian Pope and Robin Richardson of Great Britain had submitted their apologies for absence.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

As no comments have been received during the year, the Secretary proposes that their reading be waived.

The Minutes of the previous AGM in July 2010 in Brunnen were approved by the meeting and will be signed by the President.

5. Number of Votes per National Association based on 2010 dues paid

The voting numbers resulting from paid memberships in 2010 were prepared by the Honorary Treasurer, showing voting figures as follows:

Nation	Votes	Spokesman
Finland	7	Eero Lehtinen
France	8	Stefan O'Reilly-Hyland
Germany	4	Björn Storsberg
Great Britain	19	Paul Smith
Lake Konstanz	7	---
Sweden	5	Thomas Lundqvist
Switzerland	19	Beat Furrer
North America	16	Rainer Müller
Netherland	1	---
Total:	86	

6. 2010 Accounts/2012 ISMA Dues

In absence of Tim Russell, Stefan O'Reilly-Hyland presented the accounts on his behalf. With a surplus of € 2.714 earned over expenditures and cash at the bank in the amount of € 30.991, the financial situation of ISMA is sound; however, as outlined by the President, to a large extent resulting from income received from sail labels. ISMA presently has 105 full subscriptions and 4 associate memberships. 159 sail labels were sold.

The Financial Statement as of 19th July 2011 was circulated in the meeting room.

7. President's Report

Beat Furrer outlined that the President and Executive Committee's activities in the reported year consisted in keeping the class alive, improve the website, circulate the bulletins and keeping relationships with the individual National Class associations. The President thanked these individual associations and fleets for their contributions to the class.

The President also recalled on the great success of the Brunnen Europeans 2010, with relatively few participants, but a very good racing and social programme. The President further noted, that the local fleets focus very much on themselves and that for future international events more attention has to be paid esp. to cover the transport expenses by sponsors or otherwise.

420 issues of the bulletin have been circulated to members, clubs, etc. in the reported year.

8. Elections/Reminder

The President outlined that in 2012 mostly all posts have to be re-elected, and that the long-term Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Tim Street, has withdrawn from this function for next year. Henrik Andersin has declared his availability to act, from 2012 onwards, as the new Chairman of the Nominating Committee and has been elected by unanimous acclamation vote of the members.

Henrik Andersin will shortly start collecting proposals for candidates for 2012.

9. "Unloved Boats" 1965 – 1971

The President Beat Furrer reported on the decision taken in Brunnen for the so-called "unloved boats". He asked for the understanding of the class, that the decision taken to have them sail with the Classic Fleet for a trial period was revoked by him and the Executive Committee "by practical decision", more than a legal one. The President announced that a new proposal will be presented in the AGM 2012 for final voting, most likely suggesting that the semi-moderns sail with the Modern fleet and have their own trophy. Henrik Andersin noted that in total there are 14 boats concerned, seven made in wood and 7 in glass fibre. Hans Oen noted that despite the intensive discussion on this issue, none of the concerned owners has actively participated in it.

10. Technical Committee Annual Report

In the absence of the Chairman or any other representative there was no presentation.

11. Classic Committee Annual Report

In the absence of the Chairman or any substitute there was no presentation on the work of the Committee. Peter Hoffman noted that the President and the Executive Committee should assure that the class is informed about the activities of the Committee by an appropriate report. The President will follow-up on the matter.

12. Classic 6 Metre Newsletter

The President informed that the long-term editor of the Classic 6 Metre Newsletter, Basil Carmody, would like to discontinue and is looking for a new volunteer to take over the task. The President passed this request on to the members. No volunteer came up during the meeting.

13. Seven Questions to be Voted Upon

The following topics were touched and either decided or transmitted to the bodies concerned:

A) Championships

Europeans 2011 Nynäshamn, Sweden (decided 2010):

Thomas Lundqvist of Sweden, Jan Klingeborn/ Bernt Høgberg, Commodore/Vice-Commodore of the Nynäshamn Yacht-Club gave an extensive presentation on the Europeans 2012, being part of the official 100 year celebration of the Olympic Sailing Games in the same place in 1912. The 6 Metre Europeans will include an extensive sailing programme involving more classic boats with Olympic status back in 1912, and will be from July 20 to 27, 2012. Accommodation is available in the yacht-club itself or in the vicinity. The commodores suggested to make early bookings for lodging. For winter storage, for which there is a space problem, interested members should contact the Swedish Class Association.

Worlds 2013, Flensburg, Germany (decided 2009):

Björn Storsberg reported that the World Cup will take place in the beginning of July 2013 in the Flensburg Fjord, organized by a very experienced local sailing club. Berthing and boat services can be provided before or after the Flensburg event, e. a. by the Robbe & Berking Classic Shipyard.

Europeans 2014, Falmouth, UK (Bisma Bid 2011):

Paul Smith gave a short presentation on Falmouth in South-Western UK, offering very good sailing conditions both on the open sea as in protected waters. The bid was accepted unanimously.

Worlds 2015, France:

Stefan O'Reilly-Hyland gave an outline on the World Cup project 2015 in France, focussing on the elements of finding a sheltered place, offering good logistics, having an experienced race committee, offering some good ambience, while maintaining an acceptable budget. Special attention will be given by the choice of the dates, making it possible for most participants to come. Rainer Müller remarked that for the U.S. early dates (May or June) would be optimal, as boats would then be sent by March or April. This would enable North American boats not to miss the rest of the season.

Brunnen, Switzerland 2016 (SSMA Bid 2011):

Beat Furrer informed that the Regattaverein Brunnen has repeated its invitation to the class to hold the 2016 Europeans again at lake Uri. Beat Furrer offers to organize the event. The bid was accepted unanimously.

Worlds 2017:

The President informed that there is both a bid by NASMA (North American Six Metre Association), as also by FSMA for Hankø, Finland. The President pointed out that the Finish bid has come in later than the North American one and that in order to keep a balance between Europe and North America as well as the international ISAF status of the class, it is mandatory to bring the international regattas back to the U.S. this time. Rainer Müller outlined that the North American Class Association will consider the Puget Sound or Long Beach, San Diego, and San Francisco in California. NASMA will study the project in more detail if acclaimed by the AGM, including the choice of the dates, which could be October or November to give Europeans a full season before going to the U.S.

Consequently Eero Lehtinen proposed to consider moving the Hankø Bid to 2019, while the North American Bid was accepted unanimously. NASMA will present more detailed plans in the AGM 2012.

Further to proposals originating from Finland, questions B), C), D), E) and F):

B) Measurement certificates

After intensive discussion it was unanimously decided :

- to extend the validity period for measurement certificates from two to four years, expressly subject to ISAF's agreement,
- any boat that has undergone a change that could affect its measurement certificate will be required an instant renewal of her certificate.

C) GPS

Use of GPS: Based on a presentation by Eero Lehtinen and an intensive discussion it was decided by 49 majority votes that the use of GPSs during racing shall remain banned. Use of GPS is however permitted until warning signal of race is given.

D) ISMA Bulletin

Based on a proposal made by Eero Lehtinen, an intense discussion took place. The main comments then made were:

- in all cases, there should be first an alternative approved by an AGM before discontinuing the existing Bulletin or combining electronic communication and printed material,
- it appears crucial that whatever is done will contribute to promoting the class towards clubs, friends, sponsors, people...,
- any future approved route and package will have to be linked to a commitment from a group ready to do the work for a minimum initial period of several years,
- financial back up of any new route should be clearly established beforehand.

It was decided not to vote on the proposal published in the AGM's Agenda, but to study in more detail the entire future communication package of the class, including printed or electronic newsletters and/or an annual "class book" qualified for internal but also external communication. An instant committee was composed with Thomas Lundqvist, Eero Lehtinen and Björn Storsberg. A proposal shall be presented to ISMA sufficiently ahead of time to be reviewed in order to have a vote at the AGM 2012.

E) Sail Label Fees

It was decided by 55 majority votes to keep the sail label fees at the present € 100 level.

F) Gold Cup

Based on a presentation by Eero Lehtinen it was decided not to vote on the issue, but to attribute the task to Eero Lehtinen to find out about the possibilities to bring the Gold Cup-Trophy back to the class. Final vote on this shall be made at the 2012 AGM.

14. Questions for Discussion

A) 50 mm flotation allowance for the Classic Fleet:

The issue was transferred to the Technical Committee to study the matter and review potential alternatives.

B) Gentlemen's Agreement Policy for Replicas

After intensive discussion, the matter was transferred to the Technical Committee to study the issue and come up with a new proposal, if any.

C) Occasional skype telephone-conferences

The President noted that this is a viable technical tool which can be used in the future.

D) Financial contribution by ISMA to the national associations

The discussion showed that there seems to be no possibility/readiness that ISMA contributes to national associations organizing a championship. Henrik Andersin outlined that the present event in Helsinki is self-financed by 3 main sponsors with other sponsors providing services, the Finish class and the sailing club and that even a profit is made. Thomas Lundqvist contributed that ISMA should start to negotiate deals with sponsors, especially for transportation cost, leading to a much better financial situation for each upcoming event.

Outside of the agenda: During the discussion other topics such as the class' general future, attracting young sailors, having boat pools for interested 6 Metre class members and increasing the number of international events per year came up, however, were not discussed in detail.

15. Jean-Pierre Otero Trophy

The President outlined that the trophy should this year be given to Tim Russell for his eminent efforts for the class, in doing the accounting, looking after the financial health of the class, but also being extremely helpful in any other context. The AGM acclaimed unanimously this decision.

16. Other Business

Peter Hoffman noted that the trophy originally presented by the Puget Sound Class has lost some parts and became damaged over the years, and that the President/Executive Committee should be better stewards of this trophy and should make sure that it comes back from its temporary holders intact.

Paul Smith proposed that all the trophies shall be insured and given out to holders against a receipt kept by the Secretary, thereby contributing to a better maintenance. The matter will be studied by the Committee further.

During the discussion it became also obvious, that the Djinn Trophy and the KSSS Trophy had been/are missing (in the case of the KSSS trophy since 2003). The President noted the problem, but said that the President himself and the Committee cannot assure the orderly treatment of the trophies.

The meeting was closed at 21:30 hours.

Thomas Kuhmann
Vice-President Southern Europe

19th August 2011