

International Albacore Association Bi-Annual Meeting

Minutes: IAA Meeting

Date: Thursday July 24, 2009

Location: Largs, Scotland

In attendance:

Jean Simmons, David Byron, Barney Harris, Andrew Callum (Treasurer Elect) Cathyann White (Carrying proxy for Raines Koby), Crawford Reid, Jerry Rook and Peter Duncan via Webcam

Call to Order : 7:45pm

Agenda for the meeting:

Look at the Treasurer's report
Discussion on Executive Slate
Vote on next International Venue
Discussion about Rules Development
Class Promotion

1) Treasurers Report

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Crawford Reid, Seconded by Peter Duncan- no discussion. Motion passed

2) Venue for 2011 Internationals

Motion to approve Toronto as the venue for the next International's Competition by Teresa Miolla (previous to meeting) Seconded by Crawford Reid- no discussion, unanimous motion passed

3) Election of Officers for 2010-2011

Proposed Slate:

Teresa Miolla – President
TBD UK Delegate – Vice President
Andrew Callum- Treasurer
David Byron- Secretary

Action: NAA to put forward a name before December 31, 2009 for the vacant Vice President position

Motion to accept the proposed slate of officers by Crawford Reid, Seconded by Barney Harris- motion passed

4) Class Promotion

Discussion:

Some ways to promote the class include:

Encouraging Builders

Promoting the Class via dinghy shows

Ovington has had an RYA building license issued and will be supplying hulls. Both Ovington boats that were brought to the Internationals in Largs by Chris Turner have been sold.

Other builders have been interested in composites

5) Class Rule Revision

Rules Discussion:

History of the issues (1-2 page summary) are contained in an email from Peter Duncan to the IAA in summary-

- In 2005 the RYA told the class to change the rules to comply with ISAF standard format or lose National status in UK
- The NAA wanted to retain National status. IAA instructed IRC to undertake a re-drafting of class rules preserving the rules and practices in effect at this time. This re-write was completed and submitted to the RYA in September 2006.

- There was some back and forth between the RYA and the IAA/ NAA and the RYA did not accept the re-written version.

Points of difference include:

- the RYA desires “closed rules” versus the preference of the Albacore Class to retain a more open approach
- The RYA also refuses to have any discussion with any body other than the NAA – thereby ignoring or

discounting the IAA and subsequently the CAA and USAA

In recent months Michael McNamara, the class rep to the RYA, has attempted to resolve differences with RYA. The exchanges has brought to light several continuing issues in the relationship between the Albacore class and the RYA.

- The RYA 's annoyance about royalty payments may have complicated this issue
- Mike McNamara has been recruiting and training measurers for the Class and the RYA discounted all but three of them
- The RYA complained that the Class used the term "Worlds" on the website as they feel they have the ownership or exclusive rights for this name
- The RYA took a long time to approve the Ovington building license and this process was expensive
- Mike McNamara s angry and feeling that the RYA is not supporting the Class
- The RYA has been collecting fees for several years and now is not recognizing any of these related technical standards

A discussion around 4 possible future approaches:

1. Accept the RYA demands a stated – the RYA and the NAA will have a relationship and the RYA will have full administration. No provision for USA or CAN to have input to the rules and the likely result will be the class will effectively be split (2 sets of rules)
2. Accept the RYA demands and set up an organization to include the CAA, USAA (i.e. IAA) in decision making. In this approach the NAA will only put forward information to the RYA on behalf of the IAA, CAA and USAA- the concern is that the RYA may still continue to make unilateral decisions despite their promise to work with the NAA
3. Try to become an ISAF Class- may be difficult to work with the ISAF although in this option the IAA would continue to operate as the International Association

4. Self Administration- the RYA may choose to de-nationalize the class. The RYA currently handles Measurement and record keeping for the UK Association- the CAA and USAA have systems in place for this and have been operating in this way for some time

If the RYA de-nationalized the Albacore class would the RYA :

- Continue to measure for the Class?
- Keep records?
- Arbitrate rules disputes with builders?
- Retain the copyright?

There are currently a number of changes at the RYA in the technical department. New people that may not harbor the adversarial feelings that some of the previous members have directed toward the Albacore class.

The RYA require rules in ISAF format so as to keep measurement simple for them- if we convert the rules, the RYA may dictate how these are changed

Could we construct a system that gives representation to the IAA through the NAA?

The NAA feels in principle if we appointed them to act on the behalf of the IAA, CAA , and USAA in holding his relationship with the RYA, then there would need to be an appointment of an officer in the role of Liaison Officer

This Liaison Officer would need to be a member of the IAA

In principle the NAA would only go to the RYA when the CAA and USAA are confident their interests are respected. It was also suggested someone such as Peter Duncan might be a suitable candidate for this position. Peter is a full NAA member and a member of the IAA and has experience in this area.

One other area of concern revolves around the notion that the RYA is not primarily interested in dinghies- the revenue that sustains them comes largely from yachts and Olympic class boats

The RYA is working towards certification at the time of building (in house certification by builders)- fees would be charged to builders and passed on to

those that buy Albacores and sails to ensure the RYA measurers are kept on a retainer- is that in the best interest of the class?

Could we purchase or secure the copyright from the RYA?

RYA has refused to sell, but we could always make proposal

Question on the table is what does the class want to do?

Action:

List the Pros and Cons of the responsibilities and roles of the RYA in the NAA- the NAA is requested to poll members to establish basis for the value of a continuing to have RYA act as administrator for the class.

Other de-listed classes include: the International Canoe, Solos and Enterprises

The NAA is to have a discussion in house on the pros and cons of this action and then will host a closed forum discussion with members and will determine their position

Each Country Class is recommended to do the same

Proposed deadlines:

October 31 – in house discussions complete

December 31 – decision of the IAA on the final direction

All in attendance agreed to these action items

Motion to Adjourn : _____ 9:15pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm by Barney Harris, seconded by David Byron

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted:

Cathyann White (acting secretary for Raines Koby)
with review and corrections by Peter Duncan