

International Moth Class Association



2012 Annual General Meeting

Univela, Campione del Garda, Italy
24 August 2012
Meeting started: 7:20pm

Attendees

George Peet, Anthony Kotoun, Matt Knowles, Bora Gulari, Eric Aakhus, James Cole, Kohei Kajimoto, Yonn Anduilk, Eric Rotteleur, Anthony Rezzoug, Mark Brugger, Claire Gavigniaux, Damien le Hourerou, Josh McKnight, Matt Vincent, Phill Kurts, Sven Kloppenburg, Alan Goddard, Phil Stephenson, Carlo Mage, Andrew Lechte, Luca Rizzotti, Philip Kasermann, Jason Russell, Andrew Friend, Oliver Vidal, Neil Baker, Scott Babbage, Michael Lennon, Mark Robinson, Martin Grävare, Andrew McDougall, Philippe Schiller, Margus Bachmann, Simon Maguire, Peter Barker, Ben Paton.

1. Welcome & Appointment of National Delegates

Apologies Received – JP Ziegert (SUI), Adam May (GBR), Chris Graham (UAE), Burkhard Stabbs (GER).

President Mark Robinson (MR) gave a short introduction on the procedure for the AGM, and then National delegates were appointed.

AUS – Scott Babbage (SB)
USA – Matt Knowles (MN)
GER – Carlo Mage (CM)
GBR – Oliver Vidal (OV)
ITA – Luca Rizotti (LR)
NED – Chris Jeeves (CJ)
FRA – Anthony Rezzoug (AR)
SWE – Martin Gravare (MG)
SIN – James Cole (JC)
SUI – Phillip Kasermann (PK)
AUT – Doug Culnane (DC)
ESP – Pablo Arandia (PA)

2. Presidents Report

MR thanked Luca Rizzotti for his extraordinary efforts in organising the 2012 Worlds; this is the biggest Worlds to date with 125 entries from 21 nations.

Over the past 18 months we have seen approximately 150 new boats built and approximately 800 in the last 5 years yet the class remains rather stagnant in member numbers with only 360 worldwide. The biggest challenge the class has in the next 5 years is for the National Associations to engage those who have purchased boats and encourage them to be active members of the class.

MR indicated his intention to step down as President after 11 years; it is time for a new President to bring fresh ideas to the class and to continue promoting growth in the class. He stated that it is his intention to nominate Scott Babbage (AUS) with the condition agreed together with Scott is that he would commence duties at the conclusion of the World Championship (27 August 2012).

MR then explained the Executive positions that need to be filled:

1) Secretary Chris Graham is no longer actively sailing.

2) Chief Measurer Adam May has done a lot of work chairing the Rules Working Group. Due to his current work commitments he would like to step down for a year and will be happy to get back involved with the class following the Americas Cup in 2013.

MR indicated the intentions of the remaining office bearers - Mike Lennon (GBR) has agreed to stand again as Vice President and Martin Grävare (SWE) as Treasurer. Matt Knowles, president of IMCA USA to replace Bora Gulari and Philip Kasermann, president of IMCA SUI to replace Jean-Pierre Ziegert. As per the Constitution, 2 national association Presidents are required on the Executive Committee.

Doug Culnane has held the position of Webmaster for 7 years. MR requested for any interested members to volunteer for this position when the office bearers are appointed.

3. Secretary's Report

Incumbent IMCA Secretary, Chris Graham, sent his apologies. MR highlighted that Chris would not be standing for position of Secretary and if a suitable person was not forthcoming this position may remain vacant for one year.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Martin Gravare outlined the accounts for the past 18 months, since the last AGM in Belmont 2011.

For the period 01 January 2011 to 31 July 2012 he highlighted the following:

- Account balance stands at EUR 13,150
- Income of EUR 7,625
- Costs of EUR 2,902
- Profit of EUR 4,723 for the period
- There are no debts or outstanding liabilities
- Income generated mainly from national levies (EUR 1,670), plaque sales (EUR 3,745) and website advertising (EUR 100 per banner/year) Thanks to Doug Culnane for managing the website advertising and to those companies that contributed via advertising.
- Costs are mainly related to ISAF Class fees (EUR 231 x 2 years), purchase of boat plaques (EUR 2,300), and bank costs (EUR 86).
- Income on Worlds Levy 2011: EUR 10 x 99 participants
- Income on Worlds Levy 2012 EUR 10 x 117 participants will be invoiced to IMCA Italy
- 360 national members and 5 direct members paid for the period. IMCA

MG has received requests from members to start a Paypal account for the international money transfers but the administration and foreign exchange costs are too high for it to be feasible.

MG stated that costs of running the class are fairly low and a large part of this is due to Doug Culnane who volunteers as a webmaster and Nigel Oswald who hosts the website for free.

Question raised by Ricky Tagg on what the IMCA does with the funds in the account: MR highlighted that most international classes hold 20k to 30k Euro as a buffer in their finances and that IMCA needs to build a financial buffer to get the class through any downturn in numbers or in the absence of a major event sponsor. He highlighted that the position of the Executive was to keep membership fees low at 5 Euro per member and to raise funds through other methods such as plaque fees and website advertising in order to allow National Associations to retain a greater share of their membership income for domestic purposes. The Worlds entry fee has remained at EUR 250 for the past 8 years to encourage participation.

MG suggested that as the buffer of EUR 15,000 is reached, members could start thinking of ways to increase participation and the spread of the class with the surplus funds.

5. National Association Reports

AUS – Going well with a stable number of members after Belmont Worlds. Nationals held in Melbourne last January with large waves and high winds proving tough for competitors. 75th National Championship will be held this coming January at Wangi, Lake Macquarie – home of Nathan Outteridge. Expecting a good turnout and a number of Olympic sailors competing.

GBR – Oliver Vidal has taken over presidency since last Worlds. Plateauing in terms of participation numbers at Nationals. Have a problem in getting purchasers of boats to participate in events, with older boats not returning. Lots of interest in the class generally but need to convert this to active members.

Question raised by Ricky Tagg (GBR) in the possibility of obtaining contact details of purchasers from the builders. Meeting: Noted, for follow up by the Executive Committee.

FRA – 20 members. Reorganising in the winter to generate interest. Trying to organise a National Championship.

GER – 74 members, class is slowly growing. Nationals held in the south of GER with 30 entries. Not all members interested in racing. 20 members are quite senior. 6-7 regattas held throughout the year with some other European countries joining in. managed to get a good sponsor for the European Championships in 2011 that resulted a profit for the association – this was put towards the purchase of a Bladerider as a demo boat.

NED – 7 boats at the Worlds. Planning to host their Nationals together with the Belgians. Running 4 regattas a year including the Nationals.

ITA – Organised 2012 Worlds. 20 registered members. Planning to obtain sponsorship to purchase boats for former Olympians and hopefully generate more interest. Mach 2 has kindly lent a boat to be based at Campione that will be used for demonstrations, coaching and is available for charter. ITA welcomes the other European nations to utilise the boat when needed for promotional purposes. Proposing to host the 2013 Europeans. MR gave special thanks for all the time and effort Luca Rizzotti has spent on organising the 2012 Worlds.

SUI – 34 members with 13 present at the 2012 Worlds. 2012 Nationals in Geneva. Organised a regatta in Eastern France with FRA members attending.

SIN – 9 members, all expatriate. Difficulty in recruiting new members because sailing is not as popular as other sports like cycling and triathlon. Boats were invited to do demonstrations when the Extreme 40's were racing in the Marina Barrage next to the city centre.

AUT – 5 members. Organising the first Nationals in 2013.

ESP – Organising the Mothfest in Mar Menor. No other events as there are no new members

SWE – 5 members. Occasional training and informal racing. Still considered a relatively new class in SWE. Cost of a new boat is a major consideration when deciding to join the class.

USA – Active membership but still need to convert more boat owners to participate in racing. Coaching clinics were conducted for new boat owners (15-20 boats per clinic) on the East Coast in Miami and Charleston with much success. Invitation to all NA's to attend a coaching clinic in early 2013.

6. Replacement venue for 2013 European Championships

Initial host was Mar Menor, Spain who has withdrawn their bid. The fallback position is Weymouth as part of the GBR Nationals in June. The club has blocked out the days should the Europeans be held in Weymouth and needs a confirmation of dates by the end of October.

MR advised that for other countries who are preparing to bid, dates should be in May or June given the Worlds in October.

ITA is volunteering to host with 4 possible venues: 2 in Sardinia and 2 in Sicily. ITA has requested for another month before they present a full report on all 4 locations. Possibility for all boats to be transported together from Campione to the venue. MG advises not to rule out Lake Garda as a possible venue given the favourable location and wind conditions.

IRL is volunteering to host with 2 possible venues, 1 of which hosted the ISAF Youth Worlds 2012.

MR proposed that IRL and ITA are to submit their bids in one month via email to the Executive and the European National Presidents. The Presidents will be given a week to decide and place a vote for the chosen venue. Proposal agreed by all the European Presidents

7. Proposal for Asia Pacific Championships in Feb 2013 – Boracay, Philippines

Proposal by HKG and SIN to host in Feb 2013. An event that will cater to countries outside of Europe.

Championships will be held in conjunction with a yacht racing regatta. Race management and logistics to be provided for Moths after conclusion of the yacht racing. The venue is a popular windsurfing and kitesurfing location. Conditions are flat water and > 15 knots of wind. The accommodation will be provided by resort hosting the championships.

MR mentioned that there used to be a Pacific-Rim championship and considering the growth of the class it may be a good time to have a continental championship outside of Europe. SIN to collect expressions of interest from sailors in the next 3 weeks before making further plans.

MR proposed for the 2013 Asia Pacific Championships to be held in Boracay, Philippines. Vote: all in favour.

8. Update on 2013 World Championships in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

USA actively looking for sponsors for the event as well as travel and shipping sponsors. Hawaii has a large container port which will aid in the transportation of boats and equipment. Conditions are flat water and > 15 knots of wind.

Dates have yet to be determined but it will be held between the 2nd and 3rd weeks in October. USA will receive confirmation from the club on the exact dates and inform the class within the next month.

9. Update on 2014 World & European Championships in Hayling Island

GBR looking at a 2 week window at the end of July largely based on the weather and tide. Conscious of the tidal patterns, to facilitate safe launching/recovery and to maximise races per day. Accommodation options include the sailing club, nearby hotels/Bed & Breakfast and caravan park. Club has a large dining hall and GBR is hoping to secure a sponsor for the sailor's meals. Exact dates to be provided at the next AGM.

10. Future Championship bids

Bid received for 2014 Asia Pacific Championships. MR advised to wait and see the outcome of the 2013 event before deciding at the next AGM.

Question raised by Ricky Tagg (GBR) on what region the 2015 World Championships should be held given historical rotations:

MR responded that over the past decade the pattern was informally set as 2 Worlds in Europe then 1 outside based on the membership numbers at the time. As the membership numbers spread outside Europe, there is room for flexibility. To meet ISAF regulations to remain an International Class, the class is required to have 1 world championship where there are significant numbers of countries and continents every 3 years. The aim in the last 10 years was to introduce the class to new countries whilst complying with the 3-year average entry requirements; thus trying to build the membership base to maintain International Class status in the longer term. The participation numbers are no longer a major factor so there is no fixed rule that the class needs to follow from now on. MR went on to explain that the intention was to have host nations confirmed at least 3 years in advance meaning a vote on host country for 2015 would be in order at this AGM, whilst 2016 could be decided at the next AGM.

SB expressed an interest in hosting the 2015 Worlds in AUS with possible venues including Perth & Hamilton Island. MR asked if there were any other nations willing to host in 2015. No other nations put forward proposals.

USA, through Anthony Koutoun, expressed interest in hosting the 2016 Worlds in Newport at the New York Yacht Club. Highlights were the club's long history with the America's Cup and the racing will be located in the harbour near the club; the venue is approximately 3 hours drive from New York City and 1-hour drive from Boston.

MR proposed a vote for the 2015 World Championships to be held in Australia, with the exact venue & dates to be decided at the next AGM. Vote: all in favour.

MR proposed a vote on whether USA should investigate the 2016 Newport option further with a formal vote on going to the USA in 2016 or not to be taken at the next AGM. Vote: all in favour.

MR then asked the GER association to prepare a bid for the 2015 European Championship and to present it at the next AGM.

11. Constitution Changes

MR highlighted that proposed changes to the constitution had been circulated via the website – these were as a result of resolutions made at the 2010 & 2011 AGM's that the constitution be amended to include the position of Chief Measurer and Vice President as class officers.

MR proposed for the amended constitution to be passed. Vote: With all voting in favour the motion to amend the constitution was passed.

12. Rule Changes

MR informed the members that the rule changes have been made available on the website.

MR gave special thanks to Adam May for heading the rules working group (RWG) that was appointed at the 2011 AGM. Thanks also to Phil Stevenson and Matt Knowles for being part of the working group. The aim of the working group was to do a general tidy up of a number of redundant and/or conflicting rules and rules to include methods to account for and measure, and restrictions on solid wingsails.

The outcome on wingsails is that the class RWG could not get passed the fundamental requirement of the rules to only permit for one sail, hence wingsails that contain a slot that separates the 2 elements should not be allowed. What is permissible under the 1-sail rule are wingsails that are articulated but separate sections recessed into each other. The other major change in the rules was for sail measurement: Removal of 50mm allowance for pocket luffs and for the sail area to measure at 8.25m² to bring all combinations of masts and sails into a much smaller area window (currently allowing for up to a 0.4m² difference depending on configuration).

MR proposed for the rule changes to be passed and for it to be submitted to ISAF and be effective from the 1st of October (or as early as possible thereafter). Vote: With all voting in favour the motion to amend the class rules was passed.

13. Other business

Oliver Vidal (GBR) proposed for an Email HTML template to be created and made available to all National Presidents for them to reach out to their members on a more regular basis. Members can get the needed information from an email rather than going to the class website.

MR proposed a maximum budget of EUR800 for this project be allocated and for Oliver Vidal to be in charge of the project. Vote: all in favour.

Upon advice of a number of jury members present at the last few World Championships, MR proposed a formation of a Rule 42 Working Group, which would look into how physical the pumping and movements whilst sailing should be included without making the boat too difficult to sail effectively for the majority of the current class demographic.

SB proposed MR to chair the working group and work with the executive to identify suitable group members. Vote: all in favour.

14. Appointment of Office Bearers

MR re-stated his intention to step down as President after 11 years as advised at the last AGM. He went on to state it has been a honour and privilege to lead the class through the expansion of the past decade; bringing the class back up to the levels and world status it last enjoyed in the 1960's & '70's. He had thought long and hard about potential people for the position of President moving forwards and believes Scott Babbage (AUS) is the right person to lead the class

through the next period of growth. MR asked that in reference to how well Scott is performing in the on-going World Championship, that the National Presidents delay the usual immediate installation of a new President till the end of the current World Championship.

President – Scott Babbage (AUS) nominated by Mark Robinson (AUS) and seconded by Andrew McDougall, Vote: all in favour.

Vice President – Mike Lennon (GBR) was nominated by Oliver Vidal (GBR) and seconded by Doug Culnane (AUT). Vote: all in favour.

Secretary – With no nominations the position was left vacant.

Treasurer – Martin Grävare (SWE) was nominated by Carlo Mage (GER) and seconded by Doug Culnane (AUT). Vote: all in favour.

Chief Measurer – Mark Robinson (AUS) was nominated by Oliver Vidal (GBR) and seconded by Martin Grävare (SWE). Vote: all in favour.

Additional Executive Committee Members – Matt Knowles (USA) was nominated by Phil Stevenson (AUS) and seconded by Martin Grävare (SWE). Vote: all in favour. Philip Käsermann (SUI) was nominated by Scott Babbage (AUS) and seconded by Doug Culnane (AUT). Vote: all in favour. Burkhard Staabs (GER) was nominated by Carlo Mage (GER) and seconded by Philip Käsermann (SUI). Vote: all in favour. *Webmaster* – John Chambers (IRL) was nominated by Doug Culnane (AUT) and seconded by Luca Rizzotti (AUS), Vote: all in favour.

2012-2013 Executive Committee:

President: Scott Babbage (AUS)

Vice President: Mike Lennon (GBR)

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Martin Grävare (SWE)

Chief Measurer: Mark Robinson (AUS)

Webmaster: John Chambers (IRL)

Philip Käsermann (Executive Committee member & IMCA SUI President)

Matt Knowles (Executive Committee member & IMCA USA President)

Burkhard Staabs (Executive Committee member - GER)

Treasurer Martin Grävare proposed a round of applause in thanks to Mark Robinson's service to the class as President for the past 11 years. He went on to say he had served on a number of boards and to have served with Mark has been excellent; his precise nature and knowledge of matters pertaining to the class have been outstanding and it has been a pleasure to serve the class alongside him.

Incoming President, Scott Babbage closed by saying that the class had a bright future and he encouraged members to step forward in the coming years to contribute to the growth of the class worldwide.

With no further business the AGM was declared closed at 9:20pm.