

AGM 2017. Blanes (ESP). Unofficial Report.

The 2017 AGM was held during the Worlds in Blanes. All Nation members were invited in due time (May 4th) and the needed number of voting members was attended so the AGM was considered valid.

First point was the approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016. No objections on that point. After that, Point 2, the President made his annual report which is the following:

Dear sailors and friends.

Some say that the unclear economic situation is starting to see the light. As usual, these changes in the macro-economy are slow and affects leisure just after some years.

It is true that producers building europe class material gets better feelings about the near future, probably due to the stability in material, prices and the lack of expensive innovations that might scare newcomers in our class.

The interest of Nations for organizing events is still higher than in the past. I hereby invite all member Nations to consider the possibility to continue bidding for future events. We are working with non european nations to see if we can come with a logical proposal to run a World Championship in a different continent.

I thank all national classes for their effort promoting the class in their country. Actions like allowing the young opti sailors to try the europe will definitely increase the number of sailors. Also, international training camps like those organized in Garda Lake in Easter are key points for the promotion on high level sailors.

All those actions have the full support of the IECU.

IECU has been closely working with World Sailing (formerly called ISAF) in aspects such as promotion at the World Sailing Meeting in November, also with International Juries to create guidelines for sailors basically related to rule 42. Also with the maintenance of the International status, so we can continue organizing World Championships. Let me please welcome new nations such as Brazil and Colombia.

The Internet Inspection Entry Form is now here to stay. Jarek and Andre did a great job and measurement controls are now easier but as accurate as usually.

Let's face the new season with optimism. It's the best way to keep the class in the position it deserves.

Point 3 was introduced by Vice President Administration Mr. Jorma Heiskannen. The explanation of the budget 2016-2017 and the budget for 2017-2018 were presented. Royalties for sail labels, mast and boom plaques and IECU Fee for sailors was maintained one more year at the same rate.

Current auditor Mr Claes Andersson was reelected.

Point 4, report of V.P. Technical.

Verbal report of the Technical Forum was presented by Mr. Plasczyka.

Mainly items reported to Agm were that for next championship the inspection entry forms are to be printed by sailors, not by organizer. About measurement of towing rope diameter, the method of measurement according to Cordage institute international standard CI 1500 A-15 was accepted but Council should talk to rope manufacturers to find options for future rule about it.

Proposal of Class Chief Measurer about policy of removal weight correctors at major events, only when boat is absolutely dry at weight control.

Class Chief Measurer and Technical VP recommendation about simplifying measurement at principal events. After each championship the inspected equipment list will be created, and for next champs, at discretionary decision of event Technical Committee, selected items from the list might skip mandatory inspection. Inspection will be always available on request as a service for sailors.

At the Technical Forum there was a discussion (not subject to voting at the AGM as it was presented by sailors, not by National Class Associations) about the ideas proposed by Alejandro Pareja and Cyril Richard. Current status of boom producer was clarified – as of now there is no threat to supply continuity. Prices were reviewed – there is no evidence that carbon spars could be more affordable. Carbon thwart, if installed as aftermarket part, will be considered as significant boat alteration (rule 3.2.8.(v)), thus requiring hull re-measurement, incl. swing test. Risk of entering “equipment battle” connected with new boom and allowance of entering more individually built equipment to the market was raised. Council could consider tightening the rule 2.2.2 to close possibility of making not licensed business.

Finally , about Spar bands: Current rules require spar bands to be painted. Council will propose for next AGM rule change to allow spar bands to be taped, providing, that tape is impossible to be removed without damage.

Point 5, Report of VP Racing.

Also a verbal report about the Racing Forum was presented by Mr. Paul Depoorter

At the racing forum there was a proposal by Alejandro Pareja and Cyril Richard to lower the wind speed limit to “allow pumping” (Oscar and Romeo Flag) to 8 knots. In general this wind speed was considered to low, with opinions about making the class more physical the lower the wind speed allowing pumping would be, which could penalize basically to newcomers in the Class.

The other proposal about a World Ranking List will be implemented by the Class.

Point 6. Applications for next Major Events.

A presentation was done by the Deutsche Europe Class and Segelclub Kuehlungsborn (GER) for hosting the Worlds 2018.

The representatives of the candidature of Club Vela Atlántico (POR) did not show up at the Meeting. Mr Pareja asked if he could make the presentation and he finally did so.

Voting was held to chose the 2018 host for the Worlds and the result was 13 votes for Germany, 4 for Portugal and 2 abstentions.

So, the 2018 Worlds will be held in Kuehlungsborn, Germany.

The representatives of the candidature of the 2019 Worlds in EL BALIS (ESP) made a presentation of their bid. By unanimity it was decided to accept the bid and therefore the Worlds will be in EL BALIS 2019.

Point 7.

Reelection of VP Technical Mr. Jarek Plaszczyca and VP Administration Mr. Jorma Heiskannen.

Both were accepted for reelection for the next period.

Without any other matters, the AGM 2017 was closed.