IOD World Class Association

Technical Committee

Minutes

Tuesday 21st November 2017 11am EST/12 noon AST/1700 Sweden

Present:
Chairman Craig Davis (CD)
WCA President Charlie Van Voorhis (CVV)
Members Chris Gould (CG)
Lars Berntsson (LB)

Apologies: Peter Wickwire (PW)

1. Welcome to new members

CD welcomed the new members to the Technical Committee and thanked those that have been long term members for continuing.

2. Brief update from the WCA Executive

CVV provided a brief update on the WCA Executive priorities and expected actions for the coming year.

3. Class Rules

It was noted that the WCA Executive is proceeding with a further review of the Class Constitution and Bye-Laws in accordance with the outcome of the AGM held in the summer at the NEH Worlds. As and where appropriate – information will be shared with the Technical Committee as there are likely overlaps with elements under the remit of the Technical Committee. CD and CVV to provide ongoing feedback to the Technical Committee.

4. Fleet Specific Rules

• Nantucket Fleet Specific Rules Request

The Nantucket Fleet provided a Fleet Specific Rule request under the Class Rules Section A.6 and A.16. After discussion, it was agreed to approve this request from the perspective of the Technical Committee and forward it on to the WCA Executive for final consideration.

• Encouragement of other fleets to submit their Fleet Specific Rules

It was noted that one of the goals for the Technical Committee (and indeed the WCA) is to ensure that all Fleets are encouraged to submit any Fleet Specific requests as soon as possible. All members of the Technical Committee are to provide assistance to their home fleets or any others seeking assistance. To date there are very few submissions in this area.

5. Builder Reports

• The subject of Builder reports was discussed. It would appear that such reports may have been submitted sporadically over the years by the various builders. It is not clear if there is in fact a proper repository of this portion of Class history. CD to check with Herb Motley and Bob Duffy to see if they have a collection of this material that can be added to an appropriate Class archive.
Lars and Shawn (as the only current official builders) are to be approached about providing a summary report of their activities for the WCA. CVV will action.

6. Repository of information for the WCA Technical Committee - including past reports/minutes/builder reports/requests etc

There was a brief discussion about the fact that the documentation and history of the Class is fairly fragmented (or copied around many individual users computers or file cabinets). There was a general feeling that a common properly managed repository for Class information would be a good thing. CD to discuss with CVV and see what functionality exists (or is planned) on the Class website.

7. Proper process for Fleets/BUILDERS etc to submit for a new spar section –

There was a discussion around the fact that this process needs to be developed. Primarily this has occurred due to the development of a new Modern Rig section by South Shore Marine in Chester. This has been necessitated due to the Cape Cod/Zephyr spar section not being available any longer. A new US Spars section has been developed and has been in use in several boats in Chester (and one in Manhattan) since the summer of 2017.

CD and PW to follow up with Shawn from South Shore Marine and get confirmation of measurements, weights, centre of gravity, section cross section etc for discussion and inclusion in the appropriate areas of the Class Rules.

Once we have all the relevant information, the Committee will need to consider a process/policy that can be disseminated to the builders (and fleets as necessary) for them to contact the Technical Committee in advance of actual implementation.

8. Electronic Compasses - magnetic functionality only

It was discussed that a number of fleets already permitted these devices in their local fleet sailing. It is less clear whether this has been done officially in their local rules or in their race documents. The Class Rules indicate that electronic compasses are prohibited. Said prohibition may be overruled by the Sailing Instructions. No further action is needed at the Technical Committee at this point aside from noting that as the “magnetic compass only” equipment becomes more cost effective – there may be a faster shift away from the traditional compasses to the electronic version and a change may be recommended for the Class Rules.

9. Any other business

There was a discussion on a schedule of meetings and timing. Generally the second Tuesday of each month at 11am EST/12 noon AST/1700 Sweden seems to be OK. CD to send out a calendar with meeting schedule for the next meeting.