

2020 AGM Meeting Minutes

(2020, December, 5) – (11:00) (EST), (15:00) Zulu

Call to Order (11:04) (EST)

Present: (a)Bermuda - Kevin Horsfield
(b)Chester – Rick Thompson
(c) Fishers Island – Jonathan Farrar
(d) Long Island Sound – Jennifer Miller
(e) Manhattan – Doug Witter
(f) Marblehead – Greg Mancusi-Ungaro
(g) Nantucket – Colin Sykes
(h) Northeast Harbor - Rick Eckardt
(i) Norway Fredrikstadt & Tonsburg -
(j) San Francisco – Danielle Lawson
(k) St Mawe – Mike Conlin
(k) Sweden – Reine/Bjorn
(l) Bill Dowling - Treasurer
(m) Beth Scholle – WCA EC

Agenda:

1. Call to Order (Steve Madeira - President)
2. Roll Call (Timmy Dittrich - Secretary)
3. Reading of Minutes (Timmy Dittrich)
4. Treasurer's Report (Bill Dowling - Treasurer)
5. Reports of Officers (Steve Madeira)
6. Fleet Reports (Steve Madeira)
7. Selection of Site for next Championships (Steve Madeira)

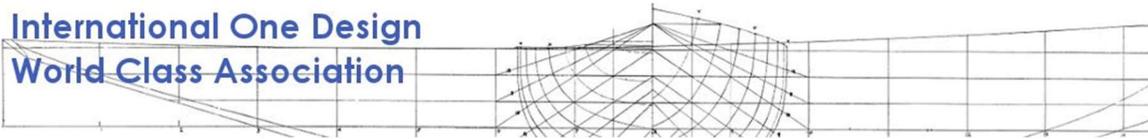
8. Other Business (Steve Madeira)
 1. Modification to the Constitution
 2. Modification of Fleet Roster
 3. Proposed changes to the Championship Regulations

9. Election of Officers (Steve Madeira)

10. Adjournment (Steve Madeira)

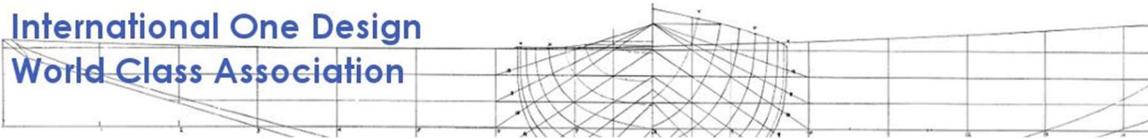
Meeting Minutes

- The meeting has been recorded and will be shared with WCA Members.
- Call to Order: 11:04am EST
- Roll Call: Completed. Norway was Absent
- Reading of 2019 Minutes: Motion and Vote waived reading of 2019 WCA AGM Minutes.
- Treasurer's Report: We have approximately \$20,000 in bank, \$18,000 in Bar Harbor Bank & Trust and \$2,000 in PayPal accounts. There will be no dues collected for 2020. Any fleet dues paid by a Fleet in 2020 will be credited for 2021. There will be more expenses in 2021 if the WCA needs to insure regattas. The question regarding whether the Class has the ability to secure an umbrella insurance policy for major regattas was answered to the affirmative that the WCA is able to insure major regattas under an umbrella insurance policy. Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD) is looking for a report on 2020 expenses and is also wondering if the Molds are insured. The expenses were not readily available at the meeting. The question of Mold insurance will be addressed. Rick Thompson (BDA) asked about the 75th Anniversary books as being counted as assets. Bill Dowling/Treasurer says the books have never been listed as an asset. They are being stored with Mr. David Schoeder. The book situation needs to be investigated as we are now an LLC and those books – if an asset – need to be accounted for.
- Reports of Officers: Given the headwinds known as COVID -19 everyone faced in 2020, it was a lost year compared to others. While we missed sailing, Steve Madeira asked that we all continue to focus our energy on a bright future. One of the big events in 2020 was the IOD WCA becoming an LLC. This allows the WCA to assist in offering insurance coverage for major IOD regattas. Additionally, all those on committees did a yeoman's effort in keeping things glued together and moving forward. We hope to be back to a closer to normal 2021 and that we can get back out on the water.
- **Fleet Reports:** The Fleet reports are in and will be posted to the website. It was agreed upon to forego reading of the Fleet Reports.
- **Championship Site Selection 2021:** A schedule for Championships has been circulated. There is great concern on the part of FI (the next host) with regards to COVID-19 and the ability to host safely. Jonathan Farrar (FI) stated that they would NOT be able to host the 2021 World Championships. There have been conversations with Bermuda to possibly host the '21 World Championships. Talks are in exploratory stages. The requirement for this meeting is to vote on NEXT YEARS site (2021). Obviously, this is a fluid situation due to the pandemic and makes hosting by any fleet challenging. One of the biggest challenges for Fleets in hosting a World's is (a) if people can travel and will be welcome by the Host Country, and (b) if the tradition of being hosted by an individual party in their home will be available to competitors. Bermuda is wondering if people would attend a Championship event IF they had to pay for housing. Greg Mancusi Ungaro (MHD) suggested that this issue/vote be tabled since the scheduled Host of the 2021 World's had to cancel. The situation will be explored and a recommendation for a Host site will be delivered in January 2021. Rick Thompson (BDA) would like to reconvene the Fleets and here the report and vote. Fleet Presidents are encouraged to speak to their members about willingness to travel and whether they would be willing to pay for housing. The EC will schedule a meeting of all the Fleets in late January to present alternatives being researched.
- Other Business:
 - **Modification to the Constitution to formally accept the change of IOD WCA to an LLC.** There was no discussion. A motion was made, and a vote taken to accept such.
 - **Fleet Roster:** History; In June of 2019, St Mawes had asked that they be de-commissioned. There are obligations to become a Fleet but there are no obligations to decommission. Mike Conlin (St. Mawes) took the floor and spoke to the situation in St. Mawes. Unfortunately, the number of boats that are sailing is very small. They would love to remain a Fleet and continue to look for new owners and remain an active fleet. There is always the prospect that things will turn around. Jennifer Miller (LIS) said that



LIS is very sensitive to the plight of St. Mawes as LIS is a rather small fleet as well. LIS is suggesting that the WCA consider motions or constitutional amendments that would allow them a “provisional” fleet status. Rick Thompson (BDA) sees no benefit in decommissioning St Mawes. He reminds us that at one time Bermuda was down to 3 boats. Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD) suggests that the Constitution and Bylaws do not do a good job of handling this situation and that it needs to be addressed quickly. Greg is in favor of keeping St Mawes as a Fleet. Jonathan Farrar (FI) is reluctant to disenfranchise a Fleet however when considering Invitations to major events, it’s important not to dilute the quality of the roster of competitors at events. Jennifer Miller reminded us that you must meet the requirements for a fleet to qualify. Danielle Lawson (SF) is a proponent of keeping St Mawes and that the WCA should try and help them market their fleet. “The thought of removing a fleet to simplify governance is disappointing. SF will not vote to remove St Mawes.” There is a definite feeling that the EC needs to create another “category” of Fleet standing. Timmy Dittrich (Secretary) reminded the group that the situation was not borne from a desire to “simplify governance” but was a result of an email letter received by the WCA EC in June of 2019 from St Mawes requesting to be decommissioned. The EC has agreed to go forward and explore the “category” solution.

- **Elimination of automatic berth for defending champion in current championship roster.** Rick Thompson (BDA) stated the fact that there are only a few fleets that actually have 13 or more boats. As the effort continues to build more fleets, it will be difficult to find fleets with more 13 or more boats. Jonathan Farrar (FI) respectfully disagrees with the proposal because it has been a cornerstone of this Class. It also creates an opportunity for another invite to be granted to the fleet of the Defending Champion which only builds a stronger Championship Roster. Rick Thompson (BDA) asks why if the Defending Champion is so good, why shouldn’t they have to qualify each season? Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD) stated that not all fleets can host a World Championship. Inviting the Defending Champion back has actually benefited smaller fleets. Greg analyzed the past 20 World Championships, and many winners are from the small fleets. The beneficiary of the current system are the small fleets as they get that 2nd invitation. Rick Thompson (BDA) isn’t quite sure about Greg’s data or logic. His proposal will be a much better opportunity for all fleets to have a berth at the World’s. Steve Madeira suggests that there needs to be some research into how and who will be able to Host World Championships as only a few fleets have enough boats to host the full roster. Jennifer Miller (LIS) suggests that a new “pecking” order needs to be established to try to keep the Defending Champion in without making it automatic. Danielle Lawson (SF) shared that in many ways this a new era and a fresh look needs to be taken at how to handle the invitation of a Defending Champion. The idea of handing the 2nd invitation to the largest fleets is because those fleets have the greatest opportunity to Host a World’s. John Burnham (FI) stated that the Defending Champion should continue to receive an invite. The 2nd invite from the Defending Champion Fleet is good for the Championship in bringing along a very high caliber of competitor. Greg Mancusi Ungaro defended his position regarding small fleets would benefit from the current program of automatic invitations to the World’s. When a small fleet has a Defending Champion, they get to send another team from that small fleet.
- **Boat Rotation at the World Championships:** Rick Thompson (BDA) stated that boat rotation is challenging, dangerous, and time consuming. While there are concerns about performance (boats not being identical) the test and data from Bermuda Race Week suggests that their really shouldn’t be concern. “The good skippers rise to the top.”. Rick feels there will be significant liability issues. Danielle Lawson (SF) spoke to the fact that boat and human resources are an issue that can’t be ignored. Jonathan Farrar (FI) stated that no fleet has identical boats except perhaps Nantucket. He has never been to

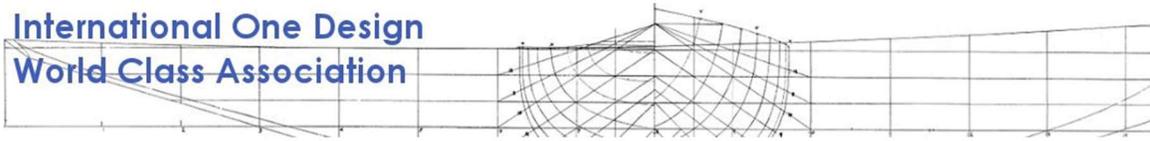


a regatta where there was a challenge changing boats. Colin Sykes stated that changing boats is part of the richness of being able to compete at an IOD regatta. He is all in favor of changing boats every race. Greg Mancusi Ungaro (MHD) is in favor of changing boats to offer the fairest regatta. Danielle Lawson brought a different perspective to the discussion: It's about safety, practicality, and reality of trying to continue to make boat changes. The perspective should be about allowing the Host to make the decision about their regatta based on their resources and conditions. Bjorn Wahlstrom was concerned that we are thinking the wrong way – backward. He suggests that we need to grow the class and that should be with a younger, flexible, athletic, group. “We cannot make rules about us.” John Burnham (FI) stated that boats must be changed after every race to keep the playing field level.

- **Election of Officers:** Steve Madeira recognized the Nominating Committee for all their hard work. Danielle Lawson asked if someone would speak to why there is a new role for Asst Treasurer. Bill Dowling, Treasurer, spoke to the question. One reason is that there are more things to do now that we are an LLC. Also, Bill Dowling is interested in stepping away after 2021 and this affords the opportunity for the Asst to meld into the position. Rick Thompson (BDA) spoke to the position of Treasurer and Secretary be ex-officio so that the EC could be expanded by 2 more VP's. Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD) would be supportive of this suggestion, others were concerned that the jobs would be made significantly less attractive by removing the voting rights. No action was taken on this suggestion. Danielle Lawson (SF) “beat the diversity drum” and suggested that we get younger and more diverse people into our organization. The Bylaws states that the Class ensure diversity building efforts. Danielle points out that many fleets are not represented. There seems to be a small number of females on the committees. Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD) completely supports Danielle Lawson's mission. EC to work on increasing diversity – particularly women skippers – in 2021.
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Votes Taken -

- **2019 Minutes:** Motion to pass on reading the 2019 AGM Minutes:
Moved by – Bill Dowling, 2nd Greg Mancusi Ungaro (MHD). Approved Unanimously
- **Treasurers Report:** A motion to approve the Treasurers Report was made by Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD) and 2nd by Rick Thompson (BDA). Approved Unanimously.
- **World Championship Site 2021:** Motion to table a vote on the 2021 site and reconvene in January to hear a report of an alternate site and Fleet response to being willing to attend w reference to the state of the pandemic. Moved by: Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD), Rick Thompson (BDA)
- **Modification to the Constitution:** Moved by Timmy Dittrich, 2nd by Colin Sykes: Approved Unanimously
- **Modification of Fleet Roster:** Motion to de-commission St Mawes as an active WCA IOD Fleet
Moved by Craig. 2nd by Jennifer Miller (LIS). Motion failed unanimously
- **Proposed modifications to Championship Regulations**
 - **Remove the requirements for the Host Fleet to provide a boat for the Defending Champion and keep all other language:** Moved by Rick Thompson (BDA), 2nd by Jennifer Miller (LIS); The motion was defeated 6-5
 - **Boat Rotation – Allow Host Fleets to Decide whether to Change Boats Each Race or Each Day:** Moved by Timmy Dittrich, 2nd by Danielle Lawson (SF); Motion Failed 9-2
- **Election of Officers – Motion to approve the Slate put before the WCA by the Nominating Committee:** Moved by Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (MHD), 2nd by Bjorn Wahlstrom (SWE); Motion passed 10-1
- **Motion to Adjourn –** Moved by Timmy Dittrich 2nd by Jennifer Miller (LIS). Approved.



Materials shared -

- Finance Report

Adjourned: (1:23pm)(EST)

Additional WCA Members present at 2020 AGM in addition to the above Fleet Reps and EC roster:

- Bill Widnall
- Charlie Van Voorhis
- Chris Gould
- Courtenay Jenkins
- Geoff Verney
- Herb Motley
- John Burnham
- John Evans
- John Henry
- Matthew Cairney
- Michael Best
- Michael Fortenbaugh
- Nick Schoeder
- Nadine Franczyk
- Patrick Cooper
- Peter III
- Peter Rugg
- Peter Wickwire
- Ray Silva
- Ron Young
- Sacha Simmons