

International Moth Class Association

12 Salterton Road,
Exmouth,
Devon,
EX8 2BW
UK



Annual General Meeting - Minutes

WPNSA, Weymouth, UK
Wednesday 9th July 2007
11:20am

Short welcome by IMCA World President Mark Robinson.
IMCA USA and IMCA NZL have been granted re-instatement as National Class Associations by the Executive Committee in June 2008 and are thus represented within this meeting.

In Attendance:

President – Mark Robinson (MR)
Secretary – Adam May (AM)
Treasurer – Martin Gravare (MG)
EXEC Member – Simon Payne (SP)
EXEC Member – Burkhard Stabbs (BS)
Webmaster – Doug Culnane (DC)
And 90+ moth worlds entrants

1. Welcome (MR)

- Appointment of national delegates

AUS	Scott Babbage (SB)
AUT	Doug Culnane (DC)
FRA	Jean Nivet (JN)
GBR	Simon Payne (SP)
GER	Burkhard Stabbs (BS)
ITA	Franco Ferluga (FF)
JPN	Naomi Tachibana (NT)
NED	Boers Eelco (BE)
NZL	Andrew Brown (AB)
SUI	Jean-Piere Zeigert (JP)
SWE	Martin Gravare (MG)
USA	Joe Bousquet (JB)

2. President's Report (MR)

Healthy growth of the class, consisting of mainly foiling boats, 18 countries represented at the Worlds is a great achievement, and we'd have to look a long way back to the last time this happened.

We are a development class, and operate on retrospective legislation rather than outlawing all possible future innovations. In drafting policies and rule changes we must always keep this in mind.

The huge amount of publicity worldwide combined with expansion of building capacity has led to good availability of new / second-hand boats and thus increased numbers considerably. The task now will be to convert these new moth owners into racing moth sailors.

There has been a four fold increase in interested parties for hosting various class events; this bodes well as venue can now be chosen on their true merit and value to the class.

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As we continue to grow in numbers, more finances will be required to sustain the level/quality of events and to provide more racing opportunities world wide. The class therefore needs to look carefully into areas of fundraising.

With this expansion in numbers is also the need to expand the Exec Committee to be more representative of the constituents within the moth class, in particular more new young faces will be needed to take the class forwards.

3. Secretary's Report (AM)

Nothing further to report outside those areas already mentioned by the President.

4. Financial Report (MG)

IMCA financial year runs from AGM to AGM so accounts are not yet finalised.

There has been a net loss since last Worlds.

Current Bank balance of €500 with some outstanding National Association levee's for 2007.

Assets of over €1000 in cash and ICF plaques held.

Main income is the membership levee, direct membership, and the Worlds Levy for each entry in the Worlds.

The main outgoing costs yearly are:

€266 to ISAF each year.

€470 for webspace.(hosting cost – high traffic site, and java site.)

MR proposed that two National Association Presidents sit down with the Treasurer to audit accounts – AB, and JP (NZL & SUI) appointed to audit the accounts.

Future plans – to be discussed in general business

5. Matters arising from 2007 Minutes

Moth Training DVD. This was discussed during a recent Exec meeting. It could be a way to make money for the class, but it could be out of date quickly. The objective is to educate, and this could be done with no expense by collating all relevant clips onto a YouTube account. Key features and dialogue could be added.

ACTION: Rohan Veal, Doug Culnane and Adam May to follow up.

Japan has withdrawn its bid for the 2009 Worlds. Would like to host but don't feel that they have enough members or support to run a Worlds.

Standard Measurement Forms have been adopted by the Exec. Batten method to be used for sail measurement, unless using a sail of unusual shape. The measurement form consists of 3 parts. Part 1 is the owner details, part 2 the boat and rig, part 3 is the sails. The intention is to have standard forms in use around the World. Some countries issue it from their national body, but IMCA one will be the main one. 3 part form, details, boat & rig, part 3 is the sails.

In house certification: rule change to move towards builder certification – delayed as we are not ready yet. In the future boats should be coming out measured from the factory. 420 / 470 classes currently do this. 2/3 years away from self certification – but measurers appointed near builders is the interim solution.

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6. Proposed Amendments to IMCA Class Rules and Guidelines (MR)

We have three governing documents; Constitution, Championship Guidelines, & Class rules.

Since 2001 the constitution has been slowly updated, there are no proposed changes.

Proposed amendments to class rules:

Sail Area Measurement

In 2005 the class realised the sails had been measured in error for some 10-15 years, using the ISAF guide which was meant for triangular sails, instead of true area. A move was made over to true area, so old sails were 0.05 / 0.2m² bigger. Old sails were still favoured, and transferred across boats.

It is proposed to modify the class rules to remove the grandfathering clause on sails for boats that were fundamentally measured after 1 Jan 2005.

i.e. shall only carry, while racing, sail/s measured in accordance with Class Rule 9.2 (true area by triangulation). Class Rule 9.3 shall no longer apply to these boats.

VOTE: All in favour, no abstentions

ACTION: MR/AM to follow up rule change with ISAF

RRS 42

MR met with the International Jury during Kiel Week 08. With the current RRS 42.3(c) stating 'except on a beat to windward', we are already in infringement with our 1 pump after a tack. We could move to open pumping, but this is quite extreme, and probably unwise given our 35-45 average age demographic. We could move towards a 2 pump rule around the course, but need to take account of the fact that we do not surf or plane.

Policing rule 42 within the Moth class is quite hard, with the mid fleet group often wrongly penalised. Historically the class has policed itself, but with growing numbers worldwide this should be undertaken in a more official way.

It is proposed to work together with the Racing Rules Committee of ISAF to develop a change to RRS 42 within the class rules along the following guidelines;

Remove RRS 42.3(c) and replace with the following;

"When foiling or planning is possible, the boat's crew may pull the sheet controlling the sail in order to initiate foiling or planning, but only twice per wave or gust of wind"

Intention to set up a working party with ISAF judges to set up guidelines, and work on the wording for the phase to replace rule 42.c with.

MR proposed to go to ISAF and their racing rules committee with this to work out the exact wording to be inserted into the class rules along the guidelines above.

VOTE: All in favour, no abstentions

ACTION: MR/AM to follow up with ISAF

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Championship Guidelines

These are just guidelines, but it was felt they should include some guidelines to jury members with regard to RRS 42 and what is normal Moth practice in terms of the demands of just sailing the boat. These should be based around the way the top 30 to 40 sailors currently sail. I.e. aggressive steering to maintain balance and ride height, and low-rider downwind 'wobble'.

MR proposed to work together with the Racing Rules Committee of ISAF to develop a "Guidelines for Juries" for the Moth Class with particular reference to the policing of RRS 42 and the normal required actions when sailing a foiling moth in a "seamanlike manner".

i.e. rapid sheeting and body movement to maintain the trim of the boat and sails but not necessarily rapid pumping or ooching.

VOTE: All in favour, no abstentions

ACTION: MR to follow up with ISAF

Championships Courses

Courses: The P / D course used for the past 5 Worlds is no longer favoured.

- It is proposed that the courses used in the 2008 Worlds (triangle-sausage & W/L) be adopted as the new standard courses into the guidelines.
- It is proposed that the split fleet format be adopted into the guidelines for all World & Continental Championships with more than 80 entrants at the discretion of the organising authority.

Comments from the floor:

AB – proposed trapezoid courses for fleets?

John Harris raised the point that with spread out fleets this would be very hard for a race committee – and all on different laps.

JP – Bow numbers could help?

Ricky Tagg – if we have high numbers required for splitting – two race tracks?

MR – split fleet – launching, risk of collision, fleet congestion for finishing.

RV – Been working on championship guidelines, we know that the PD doesn't work. Keen to add some type of slalom course as an option.

Amac – gate is dangerous from experience in Melbourne.

SP – Courses is a good discussion, launching is an issue – number of boats on the course. Qualify for the Worlds? At what point do we have discussion about qualifying?

MR – (Qualifying) The class should be inclusive as possible for as long as possible

Graham Vials – Triangle sausage is good. Spacer mark should be included at the windward mark.

VOTE: All in favour to adopt courses used at 2008 Worlds, no abstentions.

The decision to spit fleets should be dependent on venue, and the phrase 'may' split fleets should be included in the guidelines.

7. National Associations Reports

- The reinstatement of IMCA (USA) & IMCA (NZL) ratified by the Council of Presidents.

AUS - Cruising along, sailing 50/60 boats. 29 at the nationals. Slow growth with new home builders. Nationals planned for late Jan Geelong. Bid for 2011 Worlds.

AUT – 3 boats, 2 here. More energy into creating a domestic fleet on return from Worlds.

DEN – 3 to 5 boats in Denmark.

FIN – Several Bladeriders delivered there, and one guy at Kiel week.

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FRA – Lots of boats built, struggling to get all boats on the water together. Open regattas with other regattas. Lots of boats. 2 groups building professional quality new boats.
GER – Approx 40 boats, 6 new builds, struggling with foil conversion. No foil sets on the market, so it is hard to convert old boats. Approximately 75 association members. Conversion has caused some older low-rider guys to drop out. Fleet is strong. Smaller lakes used, which is an issue for foiling.
NED – Association is dormant. Both top 470 sailors' skipper and crew have boats.
ITA – 13 boats all foilers, one guy has 3 boats! More being delivered. Lots of interest after Worlds, but only one boat came here. Clash of timing with A-Class event. ITA Nats scheduled for Torbole in Sept.
JPN – 5 to 6 new boats. 20 members. Same older generation of sailors, except for one son of a former Moth sailor.
NZL – Active reseller in NZL, AB now on committee. 8 to 9 sailing, with lots of keen guys. Pro sailors have them so not support from federation and industry, and TV interest. Bidding for 2012 Worlds. Asia Pacific rim Championship as well. Keen to encourage homebuilding. Original Prowler mould is in NZ.
SWE – 5 foilers active at the moment. Organises informal weekend rather than racing. Price is the biggest hindrance. Norway is very interested.
South Africa – boat in Cape town, and Johannesburg delivery soon – lots of interest though. Exchange rate issues with price.
SUI – 24 boats. Nationals / Swiss cup to be held in October in Geneva. Regatta on small lake in Aug, dinghy regatta. 10 to 15 sailing frequently. A few others are toy things, or a boat share. Active fleet, moving forwards. Possible Europeans in Silvaplana next year or the year after? JP is new president.
GBR – Good year, dinghy exhibition - 4 boats at the show, Aardvark, Bladerider, Velociraptor & Prowler. Foiling talk on the main stage with large attendance. 35 boats at our Nationals, probably the biggest UK foiling turnout ever. Established fleets at Hayling, Queen Mary & Grafham, High interest and activity. Things are good.
USA – New association, 18 members, 10 Bladerider, 4 Prowlers, 4 home builds. At least another 4 BR, and more home builds in build. Nationals to be at the Gorge, next month. Bid for the Worlds in 2009.
UAE – Fleet has grown to 5 boats, racing out of Dubai, and AbuDabi. Regatta held 7 to 8 boats racing. Planning to form a national association this year.
CAN – Andy is the only boat actively sailing. Joined in with USA fleet. Two coasts a long way apart makes life difficult.
SIN – 2 more Bladeriders arriving in the country soon for expat owners.
BRA, ESP, POR, BUL, RUS, Hawaii, EST, CRO – few boats, and lots of interest. HUN – new boat in build.

8. Future Championships venues

- Formal proposal for Worlds in "The Gorge", Portland, USA in August 2009
- Formal proposal for Worlds in Dubai, UAE in April 2009
- Formal proposal for Worlds in New South Wales, Australia in Jan 2011
- Formal proposal for Europeans in Cascais, Portugal in July 2010

Discussions also conducted on the following;

- Worlds or Asia Pacific's in Takapuna, New Zealand in Jan/Feb 2012
- Europeans in 2009 – 2011
- Kiel Week 2009
- Interest in hosting major events in Estonia, & Dubai in coming years
- The introduction of standard Continental Championships:- European's, Asia-Pacific's?, North American's?

Presentations were then given by the two 2009 World Championships proposals:

USA Proposal – To be held in Cascade Locks, Oregon, 30 miles east of Portland, 3 hours south of Seattle, and run by CGRA, Columbia Gorge Racing Association. Beach launch, 5 min sail to the start,

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watch from the beach, experienced race committee. Warm water, Aug 22deg c. Consistent wind of a range of strengths.

Dates: Aug 5th – 14th. inc. pre-Worlds.

Dubai Proposal – Over Easter, April 10-17 (or Dec)

Sail through the harbour, with boats stored in Marina concrete area, or on the beach.

2 club options both with excellent facilities

The meeting adjourned for 20mins or each National Association to discuss the two proposals.

On return there was confirmation of a change in the Dubai proposal from 2009 to March / April 2010.

This would allow for a USA 2009, Dubai 2010, and AUS 2011 Worlds schedule.

There was mixed feeling from the floor about this suggestion. Some thinking that there was too short a gap between those proposed Worlds, others felt that a regular Worlds was good for the class in terms of profile, publicity and sailing activity in general.

MG – felt there should be more racing, and therefore choice.

Bora Gulari(USA) – More racing gives you more coverage and more active sailing throughout the world.

Dave Chisholm(GBR) – it is still only 1 worlds per calendar year and not that much less time between events than 3 worlds held back to back each year in one continent (i.e. Europe)

MR then proposed a vote for hosting the Worlds in “the Gorge”, USA in Aug 2009 and then Dubai. UAE in Mar/Apr 2010;

VOTE: AUS, GBR, SUI, NZL, JPN, FRA, GER, USA all in favour. Motion carried.

ACTION: Exec to work with National Associations for formalise planning and schedules.

The Proposal for 2011 Aus Worlds was then presented by Scott Babbage

Belmont 16’ Skiff Club in Lake Macquarie (1.5 hours north of Sydney, same lake as 1995 Worlds)

Accommodation – full range from camping to hotel.

Transport - Air freight to Sydney, and drive.

AUS would field a fleet of over 60 boats.

MR then proposed a vote for hosting the Worlds in Lake Macquarie, AUS in Jan 2011.

VOTE: All in favour. No abstentions.

2012 Worlds in NZ.

AB presented some basic information on the venue. Takapuna, full council support, all ready to go.

Media, tv etc. Club conducts a World Championship every year until then, so could only do 2012. The

Council felt it too early to decide on this so a decision to be made at the 2009 or 2010 AGM. The

council felt that it may be possible to hold an Asia Pacific championships instead at Takapuna in the coming few years.

The council then considered bids for future European Championships:

Cascais, Portugal 2010

MR presented the bid on behalf of the host club and associated power-point presentation, however there was little interest from the fleet due to the low number of current moth owners there compared with the large distance away from the main European fleets.

VOTE: None in favour.

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Silvaplana, Switzerland. 2009 / 2010

With a USA Worlds in Aug 2009, the SUI national association felt it could host a Europeans in July 2009.

General comments from floor were that the event could not be closer than 3 weeks before the Worlds due to shipping constraints.

The GER national association mentioned Travemunder Woche as a possible Europeans venue. Kiel week had also been mentioned as a possibility.

With the Silvaplana bid still in early stages it was felt that a good solution would be to make Kiel week 2009 a Europeans, and then hold the 2010 Europeans in Silvaplana.

MR then proposed a vote for holding the 2009 Europeans as part of Kieler Woche, GER and holding the 2010 Europeans in Silvaplana, SUI in the period July-August 2010. Exact date TBC.

VOTE: 80% majority in favour, motion carried.

ACTION: GER association to contact Kieler Woche to discuss arrangements for 2009.

SUI association to come back to the EXEC Committee with exact 2010 dates for approval.

9. General Business

- To set the membership levy for the next year
In the near future more finances will be required for IMCA. For uses such as the ability to under-write a Worlds if required, or to employ media persons.

MR proposed that the membership levee be increased to €5 per member effective from 2009, instead of €2.

VOTE: All in favour.

- To set the Worlds levy for the 2009 Worlds. IMCA currently impose a levee on each entrant, for 2008 this came from the event sponsorship. Proposed to continue the same €10 per entrant.

VOTE: All in favour.

- To discuss the management of issuing ICF Plaques for new boats. Currently builders are buying plaques direct from ISAF. IMCA to stop allowing the independent sale of plaques to builders by ISAF. The sale of the plaques is meant to see a proportion go to ISAF and the IMCA. If builders go direct to ISAF, IMCA loses a revenue stream. £16 per plaque at the moment, propose to sell on to builders in blocks of between 20-100.

It was proposed to sell plaques for £26 or rounded to the most appropriate euro amount.

VOTE: All in favour

10. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

- Mark Robinson announced he would stand again as President, however stated that 'new blood' would be needed in the next 2-6 years to replace those who have served on the committee for many years now. No other nominations were received from the floor. AB proposed MR.

VOTE: All in favour, no abstentions.

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- Adam May announced he would stand again as Secretary but as MR stated would like to see replacement persons stepping forward in the next few years. AB proposed AM.
VOTE: All in favour, no abstentions.

Martin Gravare will stand again as Treasurer.

VOTE: All in favour, no abstentions.

- MR stated that new and active members with technical knowledge of sailing rules are needed on the Executive Committee to drive the class forward, preferably from emerging regions. E.g. Middle-east, North America, NZL.

The following Executive Committee members were unanimously voted in by the council of presidents: Simon Payne GBR, Scott Babbage AUS, Doug Culnane AUT(webmaster), Burkhard Stabbs GER, Peter Becker USA, Chris Graham UAE. (The President, Secretary, and Treasurer are automatically elected)

Meeting closed at 15:11pm

Footnote: Racing plans for the remainder of the 2008 Worlds were then discussed.