

# J/70 International Class Annual Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12/9/2020

**Start:** 10:05 a.m. EST

**Adjourn:** 10:55a.m. EST

**Present:**

Chris & Julie Howell X  
Jeff Johnstone, J/Boats X  
Ian Wilson, President X  
Scott Weakley, Vice President X  
Henry Brauer, Past President  
Vittorio Di Mauro, Secretary X  
Jürgen Waldheim, Treasurer  
Polk Wagner, Technical Chair X  
Juan Francisco Lago, Argentina  
Andrew Tompson, Australia  
Michael Sagmeister, Austria  
Selmo Nissenbaum, Brazil X  
Graeme Carr, Canada X  
Juan Eduardo Reid, Chile X  
Jacob Nikolajsen, Denmark X  
Staffan Lindberg, Finland X  
Philippe Bonavita, France X  
Christian Rau, Germany X  
John den Engelsman, Holland X  
Marie-Claude Heys, Ireland  
Mauro Roversi, Italy  
Sebastian Ripard, Malta  
Ignacio Perez Morett, Mexico  
Michel Boussard & Leonardo Magni, Monaco X  
Nils Petter Skaset, Norway  
Michał Korneszczyk, Poland X  
Dmitrii Zaritckii, Russia X  
Willy Alonso, Spain X  
Jan Björnsjö, Sweden X  
Urs Oldani, Switzerland  
Ahmet Eker, Turkey X  
Paul Ward, UK X  
Pedro Garra, Uruguay X  
Scott Deardorff, USA X

**Agenda:**

1. Officer and Copyright Holder Updates
2. 2021 Budget Proposal and Approval
3. Technical Report
4. Election of Officers
5. Championship Updates
6. New Business

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting. We've done so little sailing this year, but thanks to all for staying involved and keeping positive. Thank you Henry Brauer for your years of service to the Class!

Henry Brauer sent us this statement "As you all know, none of us does this for the praise but rather the love of the sport and passion for the class. It has been an honor to serve the class, its members and all who compete in the J/70. It's been rewarding and exciting to have been a part of the growth of the class. I still remember the day I decided to purchase USA 48. The best part of my involvement has been the chance to make so many new friends around the world. I am confident that the new leadership team will be excellent stewards of the J/70 class as it continues to grow. I sign off from the J/70 Class EC, but I am still committed to our sport as I currently serve as Commodore of Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead and on the Board of Directors of US Sailing."

1. **Officer and Copyright Holder Updates** – Chris reported 2020 memberships: ARG, BRA, DEN, ESP, FRA, GBR, ITA, MEX, MON, NED, POL, SUI, SWE, TUR, URU and USA.

Chris stated that 533 sail royalty tags have been sold in 2020, compared to 1,342 in 2019. The pandemic highly affected the sale of sails.

The International J/70 Facebook page has 6,689 followers, and 3,500 on Instagram.

Jeff Johnstone said it was a year like no other! He summarized that there were approximately 75 new J/70s sold in 2020, including 50 for Europe, 25 other between the US, China and Argentina. Of note, the production in China only recently restarted with 16 total orders, 10 for China and 6 for South Korea, and several fleet proposals are in the works. Argentina is forecasting a return to normal 10-15 boat levels for 2021, and Europe is forecasting approx. 40-50 boats. In the USA, the used J/70 market has been very strong, and a number of new owners will be joining the fleet in 2021. We're anticipating another production run mid-year. Overall activity and interest in the J/70 remains very strong, as we enter the 10th season of J/70 sailing!

2. **2021 Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the IJ70CA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2020 and Budget 2021. The lack of royalty tag sales caused us to be in the negative on the year. With an airline credit, the overall loss is about \$3,000. The 2021 budget is projected to get back on track, assuming we can hold our major Championships.

*Scott Deardorff made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Michel Boussard. The motion passed unanimously.*

To order 2021 membership hull stickers, please e-mail [howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com) with your requested quantity + the shipping/billing details.

3. **Technical Report** – Polk stated that the Technical Committee will be adjusting various documents based on the new Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). There are no IJ70CA Rules proposals this year, but likely next year. Chris added that there will be updates to the Builders Specs due to inability of obtaining Southern masts. He clarified that a mast change must stay in place for one year, except in emergency cases. We may need variations of booms and masts from different suppliers, so this does not become a financial burden on owners. Polk noted that some definitions will change in the RRS, so our documents will be updated accordingly. These are clerical and/or numbering updates, and nothing that changes the way we sail the boats.

4. **Election of Officers** – Chris presented the slate on behalf of Henry Brauer:

President: Scott Weakley, CAN

Vice President: Vittorio Dimauro, ITA

Secretary: Pedro Garra, URU

Treasurer: Jürgen Waldheim, GER

Technical Chair: Polk Wagner, USA

*Selmo Nissenbaum made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Graeme Carr. The slate passed unanimously.*

Ian remains an Officer as Past President, and Jeff as the Copyright Holder. Thank you Ian for your leadership!

5. **Championship Updates** –

--2021 North American Championship at Annapolis YC, Maryland USA, May 12-15: The NOR will be posted shortly. Entrants will be limited to 60.

--2021 European Championship at Royal Danish YC, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 4-12: Registration is over 130 names, with about 100 paid.

- 2021 World Championship at California YC, Marina Del Ray, USA, August 7-15: The people who qualified originally will have the opportunity to attend. The Executive Committee will keep an eye on any travel restrictions internationally.
- 2021 South American Championship at Iate Clube do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, December 2-5: Selmo said they are hoping to add boats from J/Boats Argentina.
- 2022 European Championship at COYCH, Hyeres France, September 10-17
- 2022 North American Championship at Port Credit YC, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, September 18-24
- 2022 World Championship at Yacht Club de Monaco, dates TBD
- 2022 South American Championship TBD
- 2023 European Championship at Yacht Club Gdansk, Poland, dates TBD
- 2023 World Championship in Newport, Rhode Island USA, dates TBD
- 2023 North American Championship at St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Florida USA, October 30-November 5
- 2023 South American Championship TBD

The Class will issue a Request for Proposal in 2021 for 2024 Championships, once we know the 2021 regattas will not be postponed.

6. **New Business** – Scott thanked the Officers for laying great groundwork for the Class. Here’s hoping for more sailing in 2021!

Paul Ward asked about 2021 US Midwinters, but Chris said the event is likely to be cancelled due to rising COVID cases. The “big number” regattas are looking less promising in early 2021. Regarding the 2021 Worlds, we had previously discussed a 90-day window of decision-making, but we’d probably increase that timeframe for the Worlds. The vital factor is travel ability. Scott Deardorff is in southern California and advised of several lead-up events in 2021. California, especially Los Angeles, is very conservative with their restrictions, and stricter orders were issued this week.

Leonardo explained that the Monaco Winter Series is currently on, with Act 1 reorganized. The border restrictions will limit participation. He would like to have a red marking of the main sail for Corinthians. Chris said the Technical Committee will work with the sailmakers on an efficient method to accomplish this.

Philippe asked about trophies for youth and mixed-gender teams. Chris said the Regatta Guidelines should include the criteria, such as what age defines “youth.” Feedback is welcome. We could seek sponsors for World Championship perpetual trophies in these groups.

Pedro inquired about interest in boats in South America. Jeff had spoken with Roberto from J/Boats Argentina, who sees growth potential in Brazil and Peru.

Summaries of your activities are always welcome at the Class Office! Happy Holidays!

**Action Items:**

- NCAs will order 2021 membership hull stickers via the Class Office.
- The Technical Committee will work on a method for marking the main sail for Corinthians.
- The Technical Committee will add youth and mixed-gender criteria to the Regatta Guidelines.
- The Class will issue a Request for Proposal in 2021 for 2024 Championships.

**Next Meeting:** TBD