

J/70 International Class Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/8/2021

Start: 10:35 a.m. EST

Adjourn: 12:00 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone, J/Boats X
Scott Weakley, President X
Vittorio Di Mauro, Vice President
Pedro Garra, Secretary X
Jürgen Waldheim, Treasurer X
Polk Wagner, Technical Chair X
Ian Wilson, Past President X
Juan Lago, Argentina X
Martin Kudnig, Australia X
Christian Kimmeswenger, Austria
Kadja Brandao, Brazil X
Graeme Carr, Canada X
Juan Eduardo Reid, Chile
Chris Norgaard, 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
Fernando Gutierrez, Mexico X
Leonardo Magni, Monaco X
Nils Petter Skaset, Norway X
Michał Korneszczyk, Poland X
Dmitrii Zaritckii, Russia X
Willy Alonso, Spain X
Jan Björnsjö, Sweden X
Urs Oldani, Switzerland
Ahmet Eker, Turkey X
Martin Dent, UK X
Pedro Garra, Uruguay X
Ed Austin, USA

Agenda:

1. Officer and Copyright Holder Reports
2. 2022 Budget Proposal and Approval
3. Rules Proposals
4. Technical Report
5. Re-election of Officers
6. Championship Updates
7. New Business

1. **Officer and Copyright Holder Reports** – Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. It's great to have so many countries represented! Thank you Polk for all your work on the technical side. Chris reported 2021 memberships: BRA, CHI, DEN, ESP, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, ITA, MEX, MON, NED, NOR, RUS, SUI, SWE, TUR, URU, USA. To order 2022 membership hull stickers, please e-mail howell@j70office.com with your requested quantity + the shipping/billing details.

Chris stated that 1,731 sail royalty tags have been sold in 2021, compared to 688 in 2020 and 1,342 in 2019.

The International J/70 Facebook page has almost 7,000 followers, and more than 4,000 on

Instagram.

Jeff noted huge growth in sailing in North America, and there's much demand for sailing as events have come back in 2021. Labor is a challenge for the builders, as well as backlogs of materials. Seldon is keeping up with new boat demand. He described the new after-market solution for Southern spreader bar kits and displayed the thru-bar solution. 65-70 new boats were delivered in 2021 (mostly Europe), and the forecast is comparable for 2022. The US builder will have boats again in late 2022, and the next availability of European boats is September 2022. Pre-pandemic, CCF was doing batches around 15, but the labor force is struggling at this time. Boats were being shipped overseas, however the costs of accomplishing this have skyrocketed. Hulls are assigned through 1,690, more than the J/22 and J/80.

2. **2022 Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris circulated the IJ70CA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2021 and Budget 2022. The royalty tag income was quite high as a “make up” year following 2020. We don't expect that level to sustain. Our IJ70CA database was put together by Luiz Kahl from Yacht Scoring, but sadly Luiz passed away this year. The future of Yacht Scoring is unclear, so we may need to move the database. Chris explained that sail templates will be produced and shipped to South America and Australia. Our media budget needs to be expanded. The Class finances are very healthy with well more than one year in cash reserves in the bank...hence the “paying down” you see in the budget.

Jurgen Waldheim made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Martin Dent. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Rules Proposals** – The 16 Rules proposals have been posted for 60+ days at <https://j70ica.org/class-office-rules/>. Polk recapped that the proposals were generated by the Technical Committee, as they are always looking to refine the Rules. None of the proposals fundamentally change the way we sail the boat, and are more focused on clarity. World Sailing will need to approve any Rules changes as a final step, however this is unlikely to happen until January/February. Polk highlighted: increased purchase on the jib halyard system & allowing an option for a second cam cleat on the gennaker halyard (doesn't change the size of the cleat). Chris noted two Event Rules regarding petrol engine and radio prohibitions, as required by certain location regulations. Event Rules must be enacted by Organizing Authorities.

Leonardo Magni made a motion to accept the Rules proposals as presented, seconded by Martin Dent. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Technical Report** – Polk summarized that the Technical Committee is always discussing improvements. Martin mentioned diameter of lines...please submit your feedback to the TC. A member survey is planned for early 2022. Frequent topics include: considering a change to the qualifications for people who can sail the boat (professional versus amateur) & styles of sailing the boat (wing on wing, inhauling, etc.). There is an ongoing goal to expedite the inspection process at our major Championships. Polk is also looking to review the Class Constitution, as it was originally written in 2013. John asked the TC to consider improvements and/or options to the current traveler system. The winch topic came up, but Polk clarified that these are in the Building Specifications and therefore controlled by the Copyright Holder. The Snubb Air winches are available. Graeme added that he sails with his young family. If we want to encourage more female and youth sailors, we need the winches. Thank you Polk for your Technical Chair work! Contact him anytime at polk@polkwagner.com.

5. **Re-Election of Officers** –

President: Scott Weakley, CAN

Vice President: Vittorio Dimauro, ITA

Secretary: Pedro Garra, URU

Treasurer: Jürgen Waldheim, GER

Technical Chair: Polk Wagner, USA

Leonardo Magni made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Martin Dent. The slate passed unanimously.

Ian Wilson remains as Past President. Thank you to all Officers!

6. Championship Updates –

--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, October 14-22

--2022 South American Championship in Brazil, details TBD

Look for the Notices of Race for these 2022 events very soon. A draft of the qualification process for the 2022 World Championship was distributed to the World Council. Every NCA will have two spots at their discretion, based on 2021 membership. This is in addition to earned spots, such as past World Champions, top five at Continental Championships, etc. Chris expects berths to become available via petition. Martin explained that the UK likes to focus on their Series as a Worlds qualifier. Chris agreed that this is an unusual time from the pandemic, and the goal is to provide the qualification details earlier in the future. The IJ70CA has 23 member countries so the berths fill up quickly, assuming every country has two teams. John would like to see more focus on all-female and youth berths for our Worlds. Perhaps we could award a Female World Champion and Youth World Champion. Martin wondered about the allocation of 10 spots for the South American Championship, as it is less attended than other Continental Championships. Chris said it's unlikely that all 10 of these people will attend in Monaco, so unused places would be filled by petition. There will be a registration deadline for qualified individuals, and then the petition process will commence (distributed evenly among member NCAs). E-mail howell@j70office.com anytime with your thoughts on qualifying.

--2023 European Championship: Poland had to withdraw as host; new host to come based on proposals received.

--2023 World Championship in Newport, Rhode Island USA, dates TBD (likely September)

--2023 North American Championship at St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Florida USA, October 30-November 5

--2023 South American Championship in Uruguay, details TBD

Thank you to the NCAs who submitted proposals from Europe for 2024 and 2025 – Italy, Spain, Sweden & Turkey (Fraglia Vela Riva Italy, Punta Ala Italy, Yacht Club Costa Smeralda Italy, Real Club Nautico de Palma Spain, Real Club Nautico de Vigo Spain, Yacht Club Marstrand, Sweden, Turkish Offshore Racing Club Turkey)! The Executive Committee met and decided on the following, based somewhat on geography and attending places the Class had not been before:

--2024 North American Championship at Riviera Nayarit, Puerto Vallarta Mexico, May dates TBD

--2024 World Championship at Real Club Nàutico de Palma, Spain, September 14-21

--2024 European Championship at Yacht Club Punta Ala, Italy, dates TBD

--2024 South American Championship TBD

--2025 Yacht Club of Marstrand, Sweden (possibly moving up to 2023)

--2025 World Championship: There is interest from Argentina; a letter of intent has been received. Juan described that Argentina has hosted many major events, and there is full support from their 45 owners who will be able to offer many charter boats. The Class is growing quickly in South America, and there is an active builder. They have a 10-member committee finalizing their official proposal. The Worlds rotation has thus far been only North America and

Europe, and the Executive Committee understands that it may be time to add another continent.

Martin would like the Class to prioritize venues with more reliable wind conditions. The Executive Committee understands this fully. The Class does have commitments that we are following through on, and weather conditions are certainly a focus for the ongoing calendar. John thinks the 2023 Championships and beyond look promising.

7. **New Business** – Nils shared that Norway is interested in hosting a Championship in 2025. The Class will issue a Request for Proposal for 2025 and 2026 events.

Thanks to all for attending...Merry Christmas!

Action Items:

- Polk will submit the Rules changes to World Sailing.
- The Class will issue a Request for Proposal for 2025 and 2026 events.

Next Meeting: TBD