

J/70 International Class Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/13/2023

Start: 10:05 a.m. EST

Adjourn: 11:20 a.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell X
Jeff Johnstone, J/Boats X
Vittorio Di Mauro, President X
Pedro Garra, Vice President X
Martin Dent, Secretary X
Chris Nørgaard, Treasurer X
Mark Foster, Technical Chair X
Scott Weakley, Past President X
Juan Lago, Argentina X
Rod Warren, Australia X
Christian Kimmeswenger, Austria
Laura Cutler, Bermuda X
Bruno Bethlem, Brazil X
Graeme Carr, Canada X
Juan Reid, Chile
Peter Lezhnin, Estonia
Staffan Lindberg, Finland X
Patrick Torfou, France X
Christian Rau, Germany X
John den Engelsman, Holland
William Twomey, Ireland
Federico Siragna/Giulia Albuzio/Gianfranco, Italy X
Manuel Vazquez, Mexico
Pierrick Devic, Monaco X
Petter Hessen, Norway X
Pawel Boksa, Poland X
Vasco Serpa, Portugal X
Marcelo Baltzer Foucher, Spain X
Jan Björnsjö, Sweden X
Urs Oldani, Switzerland
Ahmet Eker, Turkey X
Hector Simpson and Charles Thompson, UK X
Pedro Garra, Uruguay
Al Poindexter, USA X

Agenda:

1. President's Welcome
2. Office and Copyright Holder Reports
3. Budget Proposal and Approval
4. Technical/Rules Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Championship Updates
7. Questions & Answers

- 1. President's Welcome** – Vittorio thanked everyone for joining. The J/70 is still expanding geographically, even after 10 years. 2023 was a very good year, with the South Americans in Argentina (same OA as 2025 Worlds), Worlds in Florida with 83 boats including 1/3 competing Corinthian, North Americans in Chicago, European Championship in Weymouth, and the first Corinthian World Cup (CWC) in Riva del Garda. The CWC was a huge step for the Class, and perhaps a risky one. The result was a huge success with 75 boats! This is a new dimension of J/70 sailing, continuing with the Corinthian World Championship in Copenhagen 2024. Some people say the Class could be divisive, but Open means Open to Corinthians too. Our fleet is almost at 2,000 boats, but only a few hundred are competing internationally. The goal is to offer ways to participate, essentially supply and demand. 2024 is the 10th anniversary of the Class. 160 boats are registered for the Corinthian Worlds. Denmark is our highest NCA in ratio of J/70s to the population. Europeans will be in beautiful Tuscany Italy in May. The

Italian Class will also continue their sail/ski regatta. North Americans will be in Puerto Vallarta Mexico, and the South Americans in Punta del Este Uruguay. Vittorio continued that Riva del Garda is obtaining a fleet of J/70s, and this will be a non-profit opportunity to bring more diverse people into the J/70. He noted a few other NCAs who are raising money and offering boats for a similar purpose. Let's work on bringing younger people into our Class. The Italian Class is hoping to organize an event in Riva, utilizing the club boats to hold either a womens or youth championship in 2024. Vittorio concluded that the Class is compiling a 10-year anniversary video to be available after the new year...please use your Class contacts to spread the message and go viral.

- 2. Office and Copyright Holder Reports** – Jeff thought back to 2012 when planning got underway for the first J/70 event in Annapolis. Congratulations to everyone involved since then! New boat inquiries are double the inquiries of any other J/Boat. Last year, we estimated 1,800 boats sailing in 2023. Hull #s are now assigned through 1888. J/Composites will likely build 60 boats in 2024 (30 going to three 10-boat fleets). Boats that go into Clubs have a multiplier factor of 10 as far as sailors exposed to the boat. For example, in the USA, J/70s are used by Coast Guard cadets. 16 boats were imported from France to the USA this year, and fortunately shipping rates are coming down. J/Boats Argentina is able to build/ship, but government unrest is affecting costs. They plan to build 10-12 boats when supply chains are opened up. Let's keep up the momentum in 2024 and beyond!

Chris H. reported 2023 memberships: ARG, AUS, AUT, BER, BRA, CAN, CHI, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, IRL, ITA, MEX, MON, NED, NOR, POL, POR, SUI, SWE, TUR, URU and USA (more countries expected 2024). To order 2024 membership hull stickers, e-mail howell@j70office.com with your requested quantity + the shipping/billing details. Please review your NCA contact information/web page, etc. at <https://j70ica.org/international-representatives/>, and advise any updates/additions to howell@j70office.com. Chris stated that 1,042 sail royalty tags have been sold in 2023, compared to 1,597 in 2022. The International J/70 Facebook page has more than 9,200 followers, and 6,800 on Instagram. Very impressive, especially as compared to other one-design Classes.

- 3. Budget Proposal and Approval** – Chris H. circulated the IJ70CA Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2023 and Budget 2024. The cost of a sail royalty tag has been increased from \$35 to \$50. There were a few EC-approved expenses in 2023, primarily due to the introduction of the Corinthian World Cup. The IJ70CA bought and distributed to NCAs keel templates, which cost almost \$5,000 but should help our countries during event inspections. Going forward, the Class will continue to supplement media coverage at our major Championships. You will also note the budget item for the 10-year video, as discussed earlier.

Vittorio Di Mauro made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Vasco Serpa. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Technical/Rules Report** – Mark stated that World Sailing has just approved our 2024 Class Rules, which are now posted. The Technical Committee continues to be present for Championship inspections. Keel depth numbers were released. The goal is to expand Measurers nationally and to join the Technical Committee. Patrick Torfou wants to be involved. Send contact information to Mark. Our International Measurers are well trained and capable. Giulia asked about pre-event inspection versus controls on race days. Mark explained that our inspection process will vary depending on the level of the event as well as onsite logistics. For certain, inspectors will prioritize safety and any speed-affecting items (wedges and keel depth). Generally, the desire is to reduce inspection days before racing and increase post-race checks. Marcelo explained that a Spanish measurer was identified in 2023 and he was sent to the

Europeans in the UK to complete his training process. He would recommend all NCAs to prepare a Measurer.

5. **Election of Officers** – Scott Weakley as Past President is the Nominating Chair:

President: Vittorio DiMauro, ITA

Vice President: Pedro Garra, URU

Secretary: Martin Dent, GBR

Treasurer: Chris Nørgaard, DEN

Technical Chair: Mark Foster, USA

Scott Weakley made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Graeme Carr. The slate passed unanimously.

Scott Weakley Past President and Jeff Johnstone Copyright Holder also serve on the EC.

6. **Championship Updates** –

--2024 North American Championship, Vallarta YC Mexico, April 28-May 4

--2024 European Championship, Circolo Nautico della Vela Argentario Italy, May 18-25: NOR to be posted this month and registration to open in January. 120 boats will be able to enter. This is also a stop of the J/70 Cup, and storage will be available.

--2024 Corinthian World Championship, Royal Danish YC, Copenhagen Denmark, June 6-9: Chris N. said there are 160 entrants with 140 confirmed. More spots could be made available, so go ahead and sign up. This could be a record-breaker!

--2024 World Championship, Real Club Nàutico de Palma, Spain, September 14-21: 99 boats are able to enter...NCAs need to send their qualified names to receive the registration link. Petitions will be accepted after the qualified entries are confirmed.

--2024 South American Championship, YC Punta del Este Uruguay, November 18-24: this is the club's 100-year anniversary, and the club was the first to have J/70s in the area. Expect a beautiful event, all are invited!

--2025 European Championship, Royal Swedish YC (KSSS) Saltsjöbaden, August 23-30

--2025 Corinthian World Championship, Newport, Rhode Island USA, details TBD

--2025 World Championship, YC Argentino Buenos Aires, October 24-November 1: Juan said Argentina has a new President so imports/exports and the economy are stabilizing.

--2026 World Championship, Clube Naval de Cascais Portugal, August 28-September 5

Patrick offered that Marseilles has interest in hosting the 2026 Corinthian World Championship. The Executive Committee will meet in 2024 for scheduling 2026 and beyond.

7. **Question & Answer** – 2024 Worlds qualified are listed at: [2024 J/70 World Championship Qualified - Google Sheets](#), including perpetual berths. Invitations will go out to qualified persons in January.

Rod asked about the possibility of a Youth World Championship, including national championships as qualifiers. Vittorio agreed that this is an active discussion, along with a womens and/or mixed championship. Club boats make for a perfect set up as far as charter options. Overall, the group was split between prioritizing youth or women, or perhaps a mixed option meets in the middle. We could poll the membership on this topic. Vasco noted highly successful women's events in various boats, and there should be good sponsorship opportunities for such.

Bruno inquired if it's mandatory to have the owner on board during racing? The answer is no,

however Chris explained that Group 3 sailors must be 100% owners, and Group 1 sailors may drive any boat regardless of being a boat owner. Qualifying does maintain the combination of owner/driver.

Vasco said that Cascais has a fleet of J/70s for rent. Portugal had no boats only a couple years ago, and now have a successful Series. The Class there is growing quickly, and many sailors have gotten on the road with Spain, Italy, etc. Logistics there are quite efficient.

Action Items:

Happy Holidays!

Next Meeting: TBD