

INTERNATIONAL MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION (IM24CA) WORLD COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018
Saturday, 10th November 2018
 Club Nàutic S'Arenal Mallorca
 C/ Roses, s/n. Lluçmajor - 07600 Mallorca, Spain

M I N U T E S

Voting Delegates (either present or via Zoom):

	Name	Position	Representing or Proxy for
1	Jens Wathne – <i>present</i>	Chairman	NOR
2	Miles Quinton – <i>present</i>	Vice Chairman, Europe	UK
3	Duncan Stamper – <i>online</i>	Vice Chairman, Americas	CAN
4	Michael Good - <i>present</i>	Executive Committee Member, Europe	SUI
5	Kevin Nixon – <i>online</i>	Executive Committee Member, Asia Pacific	AUS
6	Laura Grondin – <i>present</i>	Executive Committee Member, Treasurer	USA
7	Krak Arntson – <i>online</i>	Executive Committee Member, America	
8	Soren Blume – <i>present</i>	President of DEN Melges 24 class	DEN
9	Michael Tarabochia – <i>present</i>	President of GER Melges 24 class	GER, SLO, AUT
10	Andrea Racchelli – <i>present</i>	President of ITA Melges 24 class	ITA
11	Botond Weores - <i>online</i>	Representative of HUN Melges 24 class	HUN

Non-Voting delegates (either present or via Zoom):

	Name	Position
1	Peter Göckel – <i>present</i>	IM24CA Technical Committee Chairman
2	Nicklaus DeWitt Fordham – <i>present</i>	Representative of DEN Melges 24 class
3	Branko Parunov – <i>present</i>	Representative of SLO Melges 24 class
4	Benedek Fluck - <i>online</i>	IM24CA Championship Coordinator Europe
5	John Abel - <i>online</i>	IM24CA Championship Coordinator Western Hemisphere/Asia-Pacific
6	Piret Salmistu - <i>present</i>	IM24CA Administrator & Media Coordinator

[2018 AGM Agenda with all related documents on the website of IM24CA](#)

AGENDA

1. Arrival
2. Opening Welcome, Introduction of new representatives, Chairman's report
3. Round Table Class Reports & Updates
4. Approving the Minutes of the 2017 AGM
5. Financial Report and Budgets
6. Marketing & Communications Report
7. Technical Report
8. Builders Reports
9. Elections of Executive Committee
10. National Class Association Submissions to AGM
11. Proposed Rule Changes
12. Proposed changes to Class Constitution
13. Future Events, current situation
14. Future Events, proposals & decisions
15. Any Other Business

2. Opening Welcome, Introduction of new representatives, Chairman's report

Chairman Jens Wathne welcomed the delegates to the meeting, thanking everyone for attending, and for all their vital volunteer work in support of the International Melges 24 Class.

Jens introduced new officers and National Class Administrators to the class and World Council:

Laura Grondin – IM24CA Treasurer,

Ken Abbott – Australia,

Dan Berezin – Canada,

Soren Blume – Denmark,

Kari Sinivuori – Finland.

The introduction was followed by the **Chairman's report from Jens Wathne** being in this role for 2+2 years by now.

"I want to begin by thanking the officers of the NCA around the world. I have had the pleasure of working alongside many of the class Executive officers and I am proud of the effort and work that has been carried out.

European Sailing Series and NorAm Tour (and others) are regatta series for Melges 24, which proves vital to the class. Such structures create an important framework for the class to host great events and to gather the class in numbers. Having a schedule early for sailors to plan is vital for everybody involved.

In 2018, we have had our wonderful one design for staggering 25 year. For many it is now not the newest design, but still I will claim to be the best one design of its size. We have had two continental championships in 2018 – both successful both on and off the water. The worlds in Canada had 60% Corinthians and in the Europeans at Lake Garda the same number where 75%.

Melges Performance Sailing is currently building new boats in the US. The support from both Melges Performance Sailing and Melges Europe is greatly appreciated. Access to spare parts from our suppliers is just as important today as for 25 years ago. Attention to this is vital to keep boats active on the water. Thank you for your effort.

Our economy is still dependent on memberships and sail labels. The last year both of these are down. This must and will affect the budget and the possibilities for IMCA next year. The executive group of IM24CA need to step up and secure class sponsorships and other sources of incomes to provide stability. New active members will keep the class strong.

From a technical perspective, few proposals for change have been submitted to this AGM. This shows us that the boat is working well and provides a fantastic platform for one design racing. Crew weight is back on the table yet again. This item has always been a part of the class and a reoccurring item on the AGM list. New submission might shape the future of the class for years to come.

Introducing the permanent bow stickers has proved to be a success. Both from an organizing- , but also from an environmental standpoint.

Communication is important for us and among us. IM24CA is available on modern Social Medias and the sailing community expect it. The contribution of NCA's in giving us the stories, pictures and the people behind it important. The IM24CA attract competition on a high level, but also a big crowd of Corinthians. Class pictures and stories from regattas is a key competitors across entry lists.

IM24CA will complete the building of a new website and launch it in the beginning of 2019 to provide the members with a better service. This site will be the entrance to IM24CA but it will also provide an opportunity for all NCA to have their own page under the umbrella. A template and assistance will be

provided by IM24CA and will for some cut cost of developing and hosting their stand-alone platforms. It will provide a class profile on the web.

During the last year, we have held numerous Executive Committee meetings online. The executive group has been active to run and develop the class. We have work to do, but the future of the class is very much positive and prosperous.

On a personal level, I will take the opportunity to thank the sailors and those involved in each and every NCA for the hard work and efforts laid down in a volunteer basis. We could not have made it without you. Thank you so much.”

3. Round Table Class Reports & Updates

The following National Class Reports have been received by IM24CA:

- [Austria](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Denmark](#)
- [Estonia](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Great Britain](#)
- [Hungary](#)
- [Italy](#)
- [Norway](#)
- [Slovenia](#)
- [Switzerland](#)

To give an overview of the local activities a class report of Norway was introduced by Jens.

4. Approving the Minutes of the 2017 AGM

Acceptance of the [Minutes of 2017 AGM](#) as a correct record of the meetings was proposed by Jens Wathne and approved unanimously.

5. Financial Report and Budgets

Financial report 2017 and budget proposal for 2018 was presented by Treasurer Laura Grondin.

Summary:

- Critical spend to complete a new website occurred in 2018 (11,200 euros)
- Currently have received lower sail royalties than the last two years
- Class affiliations were only down 1-2% compared to 2017 (and a net gain if unpaid/questionable affiliations are taken into account)
- Working to collect past sail royalties and class affiliation fees
- Accounting is accrual based
- Quickbooks now being used as on-line accounting system for generating invoices, tracking expenses and generating reports
- Will investigate opening account with Paypal (or other service) to facilitate credit card or debit payments from individuals and the smaller NCAs

Membership:

- 1% decline in members; however, if unpaid class affiliations from 2017 are not considered, the class had a net add
- North America had a jump in 2016 due to Worlds in Miami
- European membership down 16 members in 2018

2019 Budget Assumptions and Considerations:

- Do not anticipate ISAF royalties for boats built

- Similar levels of income from sail royalties and class affiliations; sail royalties not coming in as expected is a risk
- No change in expenses for professional fees
- Reduced budget for photos and videos: we must live within our means
- Will have to be more selective about which events have video and photos and for how many days to stay within budget
- Do we need to support any particular events in 2019 as we have in the past? 1,000 euro has been budgeted
- Resolve bad debt: collect or expense; reflects worst case scenario
- New website has the opportunity to have sponsors and provide value to the NCAs as they can have their own pages
- New revenue sources are needed

The budget presented is proposal and very conservative. **The budget was proposed to accept as it is and was approved by the AGM with a note that every effort will be made to increase the incomes.**

6. Marketing & Communications Report

Administrator Piret Salmistu was introducing a **Marketing and Communications report**, analyzing current trends in social media and all the media channels what the class uses to be on track according how the world and media is changing – website, e-newsletter, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr.

Despite the fact the class hasn't promoted our **current website** very strongly, the numbers of statistics are in growth comparing to 2017. Very high peaks for visitor statistics were obviously the Worlds in Canada and Europeans in Italy. The building of our new website is underway and a quick summary about it is here:

- Platform Drupal
- Visual, vivid, fresh
- "Back to the roots" colours
- Easy to edit
- Easy membership database update
- Social media, photos, videos in frontpage
- Events / News – sort by region
- Custom subpages – events, national classes
- Ad placements

The launch shall be in the beginning of 2019 if not sooner.

Class newsletter E-MELGES24 has been sent monthly in 2018.

- Are sent to class members, subscribers and media distribution list
- IM24CA news and events
- Race News
- Upcoming Events
- Cover Video and flashback photo
- Videos and photos get the most clicks and views

IM24CA **Facebook** Page has almost 3,900 followers. The most visited time of the page was at the end of the Europeans in Italy, when the reach of the page was 60,800. 2017 highest reach was 27,700 at the Helsinki Worlds. Video is by far the most attractive and engaging type of post followed by photo! TIP for the NCA's and organizers: Facebook events are a great way to spread the word on upcoming events or occasions, since they are able to reach thousands of people in a short amount of time. The event also provides an "RSVP" list, which displays lists of invitees grouped by their response.

YouTube channel:

- YouTube and Facebook are in war
- Facebook is winning the battle in views

- Facebook algorithm will simply give any YouTube link less reach
- YouTube is an archive for Melges 24 videos

Twitter is less used, but still active channel for IM24CA.

Instagram account was started the in January 2015, almost 2,100 followers.

- **Tag in your posts @worldofmelges24 & #melges24**
- Video is by far the most engaging content – likes, shares, comments
- The reach of the video content comparing to photos is higher

To photo platform **Flickr** we have posted more than 12k photos which have collected more than 1,4million views.

7. Technical Report and 8. Builders Reports

Peter Göckel, Chairman of the Technical Committee was introducing what was discussed at the Tech Comm meeting previous day. Jan Schmidt was [reporting on behalf of Europe](#) and Builder's [report from Melges Performance Sailboats](#) was introduced. Federico mentioned that Southern Spar will shut down their production and Melges is working on the solution, but it might affect the Melges 24 class as well. As there are lots of used boats somewhere available, the refurbishment of the boats was discussed - how to we encourage people to bring the boats to be refitted in Melges? Federico will ask MPS to invite owners to do that via FB, newsletters etc. Pimp My Ride campaign was a great idea before Miami Worlds and it was found as a good idea to do that also in Europe, for example approaching the Europeans 2018 in Riva.

As Peter Göckel has decided to retire since 2018, he was thanked for his 10 years time service in Tech Comm and Exec Comm of IM24CA. Jens was thanking Peter for his outstanding job in the Technical Committee, hard and firm when needed, always open for discussions. From IM24CA Peter was awarded with a special glass statue and 3D Melges 24 graved into it.

9. Elections of Executive Committee

The following Executive positions are up for election at the 2017 Annual General Meeting ([See the full list of current Exec Comm](#)):

- **Vice Chair Asia/Pacific**, vacant (new position created at 2015 EGM, new constitution), **was no nominations in 2016, up for election 2017, no nominations in 2017**
- **Treasurer**, Tomi Hakola elected 2008, 3 year term, re-elected 2011, Gina Borsa CAN nominated 2013 and lost, term extended 1 year 2014, term extended 1 year 2015, term extended 1 year 2016, **up for election 2017**
 - Nomination - [Laura Grondin, USA](#) - (click on the link for CV) nominated by CAN class

Regards **the elections** there wasn't any nominations for the post of the Vice Chair Asia/Pacific, new position created at 2015 EGM, new constitution), the post will be vacant until the next elections. Post of Treasurer was up for election (Tomi Hakola elected 2008, 3 year term, re-elected 2011, Gina Borsa CAN nominated 2013 and lost, term extended 1 year 2014, term extended 1 year 2015, term extended 1 year 2016).

The only nominee was [Laura Grondin, USA](#) - (click on the link for CV) nominated by Canadian class. Laura was participating the meeting online and had a chance to introduce herself. 'My objective would be to serve the members in the best possible way,' she said in her introduction. Steve was asking from Laura how she has been supporting M24 class and she was introducing MudRatz project for youth sailors.

Voting was carried out and Laura Grondin was elected as the next IM24CA Treasurer.

Tomi was thanked for his long time devotion serving as the Treasurer of the class since 2008.

10. National Class Association Submissions to AGM and 11. Proposed Rule Changes

World Sailing has not ratified IM24CA's Class Rule submissions for 2017 so far. The ones proposed after 2016 AGM are [available here](#). Both Chief Measurer Antonio Cardona Espin and Piret have been in contact with WS often, but due to the fact WS was moving their headquarter and there were lack of people to deal with Rule Changes, then several classes did not get their Rule Changes approved in 2017.

- USA 1 - Topic: Class Rule F7 - Running Rigging

Steven Boho was presenting this proposal was pointing out the reason for that proposal. There might be a problem of the swivels instead, as this appears also on M20, Federico Michetti said. Italian Gottifredi Maffioli parts will be tested as they are from newer materials. The problem of Running Rigging will be first tested by couple of pro teams in strong winds. It was agreed unanimously.

The following proposals were discussed together.

- USA 2 - Topic: Class Rule C 2.2. - Weights - No Weight Rule

- USA 3 - Topic: C 2.2. Weights - Owner driver weight rule option

Steven Boho was introducing both proposals. A long discussion was held and it was strongly suggested by CAN and USMCA to deal with the weight rule issue either this or that way. Miles Quinton said that we have heard the point of views of US and CAN, but want to hear also European opinions. He was concerned that to lose weight rule would be fundamental change in the class and we need to canvas it more largely to the membership before doing this. We need to be open to everything but we can't do crucial changes without investigating all the consequences. It was suggested to ask from the European members their view on that, before to decide as the class needs to adapt with the situation where we are. The class can't wait with this for a very long time. Federico was explaining and comparing the weight rule of other classes they are following. 'I'm totally in favour to ask from every single member their opinion about such important class rule changes,' he said.

Voting on proposal USA 2 – Topic Weight Rule – a vote was called and it was rejected by a majority in favour of not to accept the rule change (pro/against: 22 for change the rule/35 for keeping the rule.)

Voting on proposal USA 3 – Topic Owner driver weight rule option - a vote was called and it was rejected by a majority in favour of not to accept the rule change (5 for change the rule/62 for keeping the rule).

- CAN - Topic: Permanent bow numbers

Duncan Stamper was representing the proposal [and description of the system](#) prepared by himself and Krak Arntson. The Permanent Bow Number System was reviewed. It was agreed that there will be downloadable design files available in the class rules and the numbers can be printed by local print houses guaranteeing the material and printing quality. Cost of the Bow Number will be on the owner of the boat. According to the CAN experience the cost of numbers following described requirements, was less than 100USD.

A vote was called and it was voted in favour of rule change - 43 for YES/15 for NO.

Class Rule changes approved will be applied to World Sailing together with the ones from 2016 AGM.

12. Proposed changes to Class Constitution

- CAN - Housekeeping edits to Class Constitution.

Duncan Stamper was presenting the housekeeping edits and they were voted to change unanimously. Motion from the floor from the Chairman:

Constitution 12.4. I – About the Proxies for AGM, never happens that they will be submitted 3 weeks before. It was proposed to be changed 'to be submitted before the start of the meeting'.

A vote was called and AGM accepted the edits to the Class Constitution unanimously.

- CAN - Introduction of Roberts Rules of Order to class Constitution.

Duncan Stamper was presenting the idea of need for such reference document. In case IM24CA Constitution is not governing the case, it can be referred to the Roberts Rules following that. The idea was supported to have a reference document, although RR is not so familiar in Europe.

A vote was called and AGM accepted the proposal of adding Roberts Rules of Order as a referent document to the Class Constitution – (47 votes for YES and 11 votes for NO)

13. Future Events, current situation

2019 Worlds

There was a discussion about the Worlds 2019 in Travemünde, GER. Two major things: 1) We have asked to give us standalone event, but we were still offered to be part of the Travemünde Week; 2) Class wants to have the location where everybody wants to go. The motion was submitted to add a second location to the possible venues: Cagliari, ITA. Federico Michetti presented Melges Europe's idea and support to the event as they have a "golden bridge" today to Cagliari organising there several events and was highlighting very good connections with the local municipalities and ferry companies for the logistics. Containers can be shipped directly to the Cagliari, 5 flights from Milan daily – easy to reach. The place will get a huge boost in coming years as also AC's Luna Rossa team's headquarter will be in Cagliari. October would be the best time, not crowded and there are fewer regattas. But at the end of August would be great as well - 2nd or 3rd week of September, having Italian Championships before.

A vote was called and AGM accepted the proposal of changing the location of the Worlds 2019 to Cagliari: 28 for YES/11 for NO.

Jan Schmidt representing Germany said he was not aware of the fact that the Worlds in Travemünde were not proposed to be as the stand alone event. Germany will fight for the next events.

2018 Worlds – Victoria, CAN - <http://melges24worlds2018.rvyc.bc.ca/>

Duncan Stamper gave an overview about the process – [report can be read here](#). He said that 60 entries is the target for entries – all registered team on entry list are already paid participants to avoid a drop in entry numbers approaching the Worlds. Options for transportation were discussed and Duncan said that team Mikey guys are offering some solutions, but obviously the continent is huge. IM24CA Championship Coordinator John Abel was confirming how wonderful place Victoria is and how swimmingly the organization of the Worlds has been going there.

2018 Europeans – Riva del Garda, ITA

Piret gave an overview about the process confirming that Riva del Garda and Fraglia Vela Riva is familiar for Melges 24 class and the experience of the club supported by Italian Melges 24 class will guarantee a successful event. Website building is underway, teams have started to book their accommodations and the test event one month before in Torbole is a great chance to test the waters of Garda Lake. On the same weekend, when there will be registration for the Europeans, another test event will be arranged for the final test. To meet the interest of US teams, Bill Goldsberry has offered his know-how and knowledge how to ship the boats to Riva and there might be also other contacts who can help with the logistics from US etc. Class will help to publish and promote these options.

14. Future Events, proposals & decisions

2019 North Americans - USA/Fairhope - intention to bid ; USA/New Orleans - Intention to bid

The decision would be made within USMCA later this year.

2020 Worlds - USA/Charleston - Intention to bid - Letter of Intention

Steven Boho said that Charleston is the frontrunner of US and awesome proposal was submitted by US Melges 24 Regatta Management and Randy Draftz. Steve and John were confirming the start of the process shortly, but everything looks good about this plan. Jens was commenting his experience racing at the CRW and ensuring it's an awesome place and great leadership by Randy.

USMCA is confident having Randy Draftz running CRW for 20 years, the Worlds will be a success. John Able had also high confidence in Randy and his ability to create a wonderful event. The rights to organize the Worlds 2020 were dedicated to Charleston.

2020 Europeans - ITA intention to bid – [SLO letter of interest](#) ; [SLO submission](#)

Portoroz and Slovenia has proved its high level of organisation and hospitality for several times being the first event of the European Sailing Series for four times already. There's no doubt about their abilities to host a high standard event there, just proposed dates are concerning as too close to the Worlds in Charleston. Portoroz will be asked to propose another time for the event and the final decision will be made in 2018 AGM with more information available.

2021 Worlds - ITA intention to bid

The proposals will be discussed in 2018 AGM with more information and bids available.

15. Any Other Business

Proposed IM24CA Regatta Regulations and Championship Rules were presented and reviewed - [Championship Rules](#) ; [Event Management regulations](#)

Jens was introducing what was done by the group led by Arto Kiiski (FIN), John Abel (CAN), Benedek Fluck (HUN), Mike Turner (CAN), Randy Draftz (US) and was thanking them for their job and commitment. John was commenting the job done by the group and how the process was carried.

Amended documents were approved by the AGM and AGM members were content that the future amendments to the 'living document' can be made by the Executive Committee.

Approved documents will be published after amendments discussed at the AGM to the IM24CA website under Rules&Regulations.

The timing and venue of 2018 AGM was discussed. The timing will be one week later i.e. November 9th and 10th, 2018. Venue options: suggested by Antonio Cardona Espin in Palma de Mallorca, ESP (the price offer for B&B for one person is €35 and the meeting rooms in Yacht Club Palma de Mallorca are free of charge) and by Jens Wathne in Bergen, NOR (well connected from most of the airports in Europe, meeting rooms with high-speed internet connection would be free of charge). Another proposal for hosting the AGM2018 are welcome and a decision will be made in August 2018 at the latest.

Thank you to all participants for your time and devotion!

Jens Wathne - Chair of the Meeting
Piret Salmistu – Minutes Taker

Meeting lasted 9.5 hrs including lunch and breaks.