

Minutes of the 2006 J/24 World Council Meeting

Lough Erne Yacht Club, Northern Ireland
August 5th, 2006

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Bob Turner called the meeting to order at 0920. Bob welcomed everyone and thanked the local hosts for their hospitality and for the opening reception.

2. Appointment of Secretary

Bob Turner appointed Eric Faust as secretary for the meeting, assisted by Nessa Murnaghan.

3. Role Call and Proxy Recognition

Each member in attendance gave a brief introduction and indicated his voting rights and any proxies held for the meeting. Nineteen total votes were represented at the beginning of the meeting.

Attendance: Bob Turner – Chairman, Jim Farmer – Vice Chairman, Roger Harden – Finance Committee Chairman, Eric Faust – Executive Director, Lorne Chapman – Technical Committee Chairman, Remco Van de Berg – IJCA Executive Committee, John Adams – Councilor of Honor, Todd Irving – CAN-JCA (1 vote), Nils Jannichsen – NED-JCA (1 vote), Nancy Zangerle – USA-JCA (2 votes), Tomomi Hatakeyama – JPN-JCA (1 vote), Michael Clarke – IRL-JCA (1 vote), Marianne Scholke-Holzer – SWE-JCA plus proxies for GER-JCA & DEN-JCA (3 votes), Eddie Linthout – proxy for MON-JCA (1 vote), Jorge Castillo – MEX-JCA (1 vote), Geoff Evelyn – proxies for BER-JCA & CAY-JCA (2 votes), Tasos Nikolau – GRE-JCA (1 vote), Chris McLaughlin – GBR-JCA plus proxy for HUN-JCA (2 votes), Alistair Morison – AUS-JCA (1 vote), Eros Angeli – ITA-JCA (1 vote), Roberto Authier – ARG-JCA (1 vote), Sachiko Suzuki – JPN-JCA observer/translator, Jorge – GRE-JCA observer, Maria Ohm – SWE-JCA observer, Gianpietro Pollesel – ITA-JCA observer.

4. Chairman's Update

B Turner gave a report on the status of the Class. He indicated that the last 12 months have been somewhat difficult due to a backlog of work last fall. There has now been a change in two key personnel that is helping the situation greatly: E Faust being named Executive Director and L Chapman being named Technical Committee Chairman. There has also been a surge of activity recently with work on the Constitution, Bylaws and Class Rules and regulations. B Turner emphasized that he would like to see everyone move forward in a spirit of cooperation.

5. Approval of 2005 WCM Minutes

G Evelyn made a motion that, "the minutes be approved as written." The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

6. Constitution and Bylaws

G Evelyn gave a brief background on the purpose of the revision of the Constitution; namely to make the document consistent with itself, to remove ambiguity and to simplify and clarify the document. Also, there was a need to completely capture all the previously approved amendments to the Constitution that have occurred over the past three years. The proposed Constitution has been widely circulated and available for comment prior to the meeting.

G Evelyn then pointed out some of the major changes to the Constitution including how votes would be allocated to NJCAs (based on membership rather than the number of boats) and a section detailing how the Technical Committee is selected and formed. Also a section was added regarding members eligible for suspension from the Class.

R Harden clarified how the new voting rules would affect the NJCAs. The Constitutional revision would give each NJCA one vote plus one additional vote for every complete multiple of 250 members. No NJCA can have more the 1/5 of the total votes at a World Council Meeting. There was some discussion regarding IJCA membership. It was pointed out that there was no change to the classification of members in the Constitution. Members to the IJCA were those who had paid the annual subscription as prescribed by the Constitution. Each NJCA is responsible for how membership is handled within its own country.

After further discussion and clarification of various sections of the Constitution, **C McLaughlin made a motion that, “We approve the Constitution as written effective immediately, while allowing the Executive Committee to make proofreading and grammatical changes of a non-substantive nature subsequent to this vote.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

R Harden pointed out the need to recalculate the votes represented at the meeting based on the criteria in the revised Constitution. Based on membership, ITA-JCA and JPN-JCA now have two votes. The USJCA now has five votes, can only use four at this meeting based on the 20% rule. Total votes at the 2006 J/24 WCM is now 23.

G Evelyn then spoke briefly about the Bylaws stating that there had no changes since last year except for 4.7 and 4.8. There was some discussion about the list of requirements for selection of members for the International Technical Committee. It was agreed that the WC supported the concepts laid out in Bylaw 4.8 stating what qualifications are sought for ITC members. N Zangerle indicated that she disagreed with Bylaw 4.4 stating that it put too much burden on the hosts of continental championships. She suggested that all of Bylaw 4.4, except 4.4.7, be removed.

M Clarke made a motion that, “We approve the proposed Bylaws subject to understanding that the executive Committee will make such amendments as will cater to the comments regarding Bylaw 4.4 raised at this meeting. The motion was seconded by G Evelyn. After some further discussion, the motion was carried by a vote of 14 in favor and 9 opposed.

7. Elections

J Adams made a motion to accept the following slate of officers: B Turner – Chairman, J Farmer – Vice Chairman, L Chapman – Technical Committee Chairman, R Wolfs – Past Chairman, N Zangerle – Marketing/Promotions Committee Chairman. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

J Adams stated that G Evelyn was standing down as a member of the Executive Committee and then made a **motion “that Alyn Stevenson (AUS-JCA) and R v d Berg (NED-JCA) be members of the Executive Committee.”** The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

L Chapman made a motion “to approve the slate of ITC members as follows:

Lorne Chapman CAN-JCA, Member since 2004, Chairman Elect

Nils Jannichsen NED-JCA, Member since 2005

Stuart Jardine GBR-JCA, Member since 2002

Hank Killion, Member since 2002 (Designer’s Appointee – not subject to WCM approval)

Gunther Muller BRA-JCA, Member since 2005

John Peck USA-JCA, Member since 1986

Kenneth Porter MEX-JCA, Member since 2002

Reid Stava USA-JCA, Member since 1993

Tim Winger USA-JCA, New member

Alyn Stevenson AUS-JCA, Advisor”

The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 17 in favor and 6 opposed.

J Adams made a motion that “As a representative from the host country for the next World Championship, Jorge Castillo (MEX-JCA) be added to the Executive Committee.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

J Adams made a motion that, “In recognition of his contribution to the J/24 Class, Geoff Evelyn be named a Councilor of Honor for the IJCA.”

B Turner then presented a plaque in recognition of John and Lisa Peck’s outstanding contribution to the IJCA over the past years.

M Clarke made a comment that the IJCA should expand the number of non-officeholders on the Executive Committee in order to have an opportunity to include more representation for the South American continent. Although it was indicated that the Executive Committee was very satisfied with its current number of members, B Turner invited R Authier to bring forward a willing volunteer from South America who could represent the continent on the Executive Committee for the coming year on an informal basis until the proper changes can be made to create a formal position on the committee.

8. Review of Reports

8.1 NJCA Reports

Each NJCA representative gave a brief report on the status of his home Class.

8.2 Executive Director's Report

E Faust stated that the transition of the Class office had gone smoothly with a minimal disruption in Class services. The Class yearbook has been published and the contribution of N Zangerle to that process was acknowledged. Memberships from the NJCA have been coming in on pace with last year's numbers. A online credit card acceptance form has been created to facilitate the transfer of money internationally. Eric concluded by stating that he is happy to discuss any problems or suggestions with anyone.

8.3 Marketing and Promotions

N Zangerle followed up with discussions from last year's meeting regarding branding the class and use of the J/24 logo. J/Boats is opposed to changing the logo, but has agreed to allow the Class to use the logo without reference to J boats. There would be limitations if merchandising through a 3rd party. There are existing trademarks for the J/24 logo in the EU and the U.S. Further licensing of the logo will need to occur on a country-by-country basis. Nancy has had some discussion with J/Boats to develop a system for NJCAs to use the J/24 logo for promotional fundraising efforts, but nothing is in writing at the moment.

N Zangerle mentioned that obtaining information for the Class yearbook had been difficult, with minimal responses to email requests. R Authier mentioned that translating reports to English was part of the problem. E Faust indicated that the Class office could arrange to translate reports. N Zangerle displayed and distributed a poster that the USA-JCA had created to promote regattas for 2006. She indicated that a similar poster template could be created for use in other NJCAs if there was a desire for such.

N Zangerle also asked that each NJCA send to her a list of non-Class sanctioned events that were using J/24s. Obtaining this list could be good for promoting the popularity of the Class.

8.4 Technical Committee Report and Rule Changes

L Chapman referenced his previously circulated report regarding the recent achievements of the Technical Committee as well as the committee's agenda for the coming year. The committee is working on a system to have measurement certificates in a database that would be accessible through the internet. Regatta organizers and others will then be able to check on boats entering regattas in real time. Ideally, we would like to tie this into the membership process for the Class. L Chapman then indicated that one challenge is that there are many boats around the world that are not in the current database and there may be a call for help in collecting information in the future.

L Chapman then referred the group to his previously circulated document outlining the proposed changes to the Class Rules.

R Harden made a motion to, "Amend the current Rule 3.7.3 as follows:

The all-up weight for racing, excluding the crew, shall be not less than 1345 kg. This weight shall include all items in Rule 3.7.1, items specified in Rules 3.8.5 through 3.8.10 (Equipment to be Carried When Racing), Rules 4.1.1 through 4.1.6 and 4.1.8 through 4.1.10 (Safety Rules When Racing), and Rules 6.1.1 through 6.1.26 (Optional Equipment). All of the above items shall be itemized and listed on the Inventory of Required and Optional Equipment, which shall be carried aboard the yacht and be available for inspection by race authorities. This inventory shall also list any correctors required under Rule 3.7.2. Specifically excluded from counting as part of all-up weight for racing are sails

(Rules 3.6), life jackets or personal buoyancy equipment (Rule 4.1.7), personal clothing and gear, food, galley ware and stores, and liquid beverages other than those allowed under Rule 6.1.26. The all-up weight for racing may be checked by hoisting the boat without the crew and specifically excluded items.”

The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 21 in favor and 2 opposed.

R Harden made a motion to, “make no change to Rule 3.6.1.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

G Evelyn made a motion to “make no change to Rule 4.1.7.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

N Zangerle made a motion to, “Modify the official Class Measurement Certificate - List of Required and Optional Equipment (Part C) to conform to new Rule 3.7.3.” The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 22 in favor and 1 opposed.

**J Farmer made a motion to, “Amend the current Rule 3.2.4 as follows:
The cabin moulding on the starboard side aft of the main bulkhead shall be fitted with a basin, sink or stove.” The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 22 in favor and 1 opposed.**

**R Harden made a motion to, “amend the current Rule 3.8.5 as follows:
A minimum of one bucket of minimum capacity 9 liters.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**R Harden made a motion to, “amend the current Rule 3.8.7 as follows:
One anchor with or without chain of combined minimum weight of 6 kg attached to a minimum of 40 m of not less than 8mm rope. When carried, anchor chain shall be attached to the anchor and shall not be stowed on or under the cabin sole over the ballast keel. The minimum weight of the anchor shall be 3 kg and the maximum weight of the chain carried shall not exceed 6 kg.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**R Harden made a motion to, “delete the current Rule 3.8.9 and replace it with the following:
There shall be a minimum of 2 liters of motor fuel carried in reserve when the boat crosses the finish line for the last race of the day.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

A Morison made a motion to, “delete current Rule 4.1.2 and make it read ‘not in use.’” The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 20 in favor and 3 opposed.

R Harden made a motion to, “delete current Rule 4.1.4 and make it read ‘not in use.’” The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 22 in favor and 1 opposed.

R Harden made a motion to, “renumber Rule 4.1.5 to 6.1.28, thus making the flashlight Optional Equipment.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**R Harden made a motion to, “amend the current Rule 2.5.2 as follows:
The boat’s sail number shall be her hull number unless otherwise prescribed by the owner’s National Authority. When a boat is chartered or loaned the boat’s sail number may be that of the member who chartered or borrowed the boat.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

L Chapman made a motion to, “amend the current Rule 5 as follows:

5. CREW

5.1 The crew shall consist of not less than three persons and total crew weight (in swim wear) shall not exceed 400kg at weigh-in prior to the start of a regatta.

5.2 A crew nominated or listed for a regatta or a series of races held over consecutive days including any lay day, shall remain the same throughout the event unless substitution is scheduled at registration. Crew changes not declared at registration require advance written approval of the jury or protest committee, and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

5.3 For World championship and Worlds qualifier regattas if there is a substitution for the helmsperson, he/she must be one of the crew nominated at registration.”

After discussion, the motion was tabled without a second. It was recommended the ITC work on revising the proposal.

N Zangerle made a motion that, “the ITC draft a rule which modifies current Rule 3.8.3 such that the primary winches currently installed on newly built boats are deemed legal with regards to their drum diameter.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. This new rule proposal will be sent to the World Council for approval by email at a later date.

N Zangerle made a motion to, “delete current rules 9.1, 9.1.1 and 9.1.2 and replace them with consolidated Rule 9.1.1 as follows:

World and Continental Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the Regatta Regulations of the IJCA.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

G Evelyn made a motion to, “amend the current Rule 4.1.8 as follows:

A minimum of one throwable lifesaving device with sea anchor attached, on deck and ready for use.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

R Harden made a motion to, “amend the current Rule 4.2 as follows:

The Notice of Race shall prescribe safety equipment required in the jurisdiction in which the event is held.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

R Harden made a motion to, “add the following note to the ‘Keel Bottom Shape’ diagram on Plan C of the Class Rules:

Maximum 90 degrees at 260mm from trailing edge.

On the bottom flat, add ‘Maximum 15mm’”

The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of 22 in favor and 1 opposed.

R Harden made a motion to, “To amend the current Rule 6.1.2 as follows:

Two secondary winches with a drum diameter not exceeding 70mm. These may be used to sheet the tails of all running rigging.

G Evelyn made a motion to, “amend Plan A (Deck Layout) as follows: (Optional) Anti-abrasion strips of any material on the aft edge of the upper deck at the companionway.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

L Chapman gave a report on the status of the Regatta Regulations and proposed the formation of small advisory committee to help complete the process of finishing a reworking of the document. Lorne stated that with a working group he could have a draft available in two months time. General discussion from the group indicated that the process and system for funding the ITC members attendance at Continental and World Championships be spelled out clearly in the regatta regulations. B Turner tasked L Chapman with forming a advisory committee and finishing the document in time for publication in the Class Rule Book.

L Chapman gave a presentation regarding a new measurement system being developed to measure the position of the mast on the boats. The ITC will collect more data at future regattas and make a subsequent report to the World Council.

8.5 Financial Report

R Harden gave a report on the Class finances. The class is in good financial shape with revenue coming in as expected. We are projecting a net income of approximately \$6,600 at the end of the year, increasing net assets to approximately \$68,000. Details of the financial statements will be posted on the website for further review. At this time, with the transition of the Class office, the Class should have available funds to fund promotional efforts.

As approved at last year’s World Council Meeting, memberships for 2007 will be \$13 each, of which \$5 will be allocated to the promotional fund. The IJCA yearbook will be funded from the promotional budget, and any cost savings realized in the production process will be used for additional promotional activities. Looking at the financial reports for this year, the IJCA will be able to credit back each NJCA for shipping charges incurred during 2006. Additionally, shipping charges will be covered by the IJCA in the future. **R Harden then made a motion that the IJCA budget for the next fiscal year be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

R Harden requested that the subcommittee working to fine-tune the Regatta Regulations outline the costs of the ITC involvement in the World and Continental Championships. This would assist regatta organizers in their planning and budgeting as well as allow the IJCA to budget more accurately as well.

9. Submissions

2009 World Championship Bid – Annapolis, Maryland, USA

A proposal to host the 2009 J/24 World Championship was previously circulated as prepared by the Annapolis, Maryland Fleet 6. The proposed dates for the event are May 7-15, 2009. **G Evelyn made a motion, “that the bid be accepted as presented.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

2010 World Championship Bid – Sweden

The rotation for the World Championship is to hold the regatta in Europe in 2010. Sweden presented a bid proposal to host. The bid was noted by the World Council and it was decided to take action on this bid, or any others, at the next World Council meeting.

11. Vision for the Future

B Turner stressed that he would like to create a coherent plan how the IJCA will move forward. He asked for ideas from the group regarding specific actions the IJCA can take to help grow the Class as well as volunteers to lead these initiatives.

T Irving would like see the reinstatement of a Youth North American/World Championship to promote the Class to young sailors. C McLaughlin indicated that he could work with Todd to develop a “youth initiative” in coordinating Europe and North America.

B Turner presented a new perpetual trophy which he was donating to the Class. It is to be awarded to the highest placing helmsperson under 30 years of age at the World Championship.

N Zangerle gave a brief report on Women’s Open Championship held in Marion, Massachusetts. It was a highly successful event which attracted a number of sponsors and was well received by the yacht club. 18 boats in attended including a team from Argentina. Moving forward, the IJCA would like to host this event in Europe in 2007 and then rotate back to the U.S. in 2008. The Marion fleet has already expressed interest in hosting the event again. Nancy also suggested that perhaps the Women’s Open could be combined with the Youth Championship in order to leverage facilities and charter boats. B Turner suggested that N Zangerle work with T Irving and C McLaughlin to look into coordinating this.

M Clarke suggested that the IJCA set in motion a study of how NJCA do things at national level and develop a list of best practices that can be shared. B Turner asked that M Clarke take the lead on devising and implementing this study. Additionally, M Clarke suggested that promoting J/24s for match racing events and creating J/24 specific “celebration events” are a good way to attract attention for the Class.

B Turner suggested that the IJCA needs to start planning for a 30th Anniversary event in 2008. Brad Read had hosted an excellent event in 2003, and we should look into having the 2008 event in Newport, Rhode Island as well. It was mentioned that the 30th Anniversary celebration would not have to be a single event but could be a series of events.

C McLaughlin suggested that we could develop a lead up to 2008 by bridging several events in 2007. We could time a 2008 event so that the high profile America’s Cup sailors would be available to attend. We would need to hold the event in a location with a large population of available boats. It was also suggested that the IJCA should develop a more attractive website for new sailors that would highlight the strengths of the J/24 Class. R Harden added that there are advantages to having consistency among all the NJCA websites and if they were linked and leveraged together. T Irving suggested that the IJCA website should have a world map on its home page that could direct people J/24 activity in their area.

M Scholke-Holzer mentioned that the SWE-JCA has had recent success contracting with an event promotions company to obtain sponsorship and handle the media and publicity for their events. She suggested that the IJCA could use a single event company to do the same on a worldwide basis in order to bring consistency to events.

T Irving clarified that R vdBerg's idea for a 30th Anniversary event would be to hold J/24 regattas on each continent on the same day such that we could create a 24 hour worldwide sailing event. Competitors could be assigned to teams (red, blue etc.) at each event and the teams could be scored on a global basis and results compiled on a single website.

E Linthout mentioned that he had started a sailing association for disabled people using J/24s. This has been successful for the last three years and there are many regattas in Italy for disabled sailors. B Turner suggested that this could tie in with achieving a charitable status for the IJCA and accepting donations from the public.

R vdBerg described a company in Holland that animates sailing races using GPS devices attached to the boats. The NED-JCA has been asked to help develop this and he will keep the group posted on the status.

C McLaughlin suggested that in the long-term we should realize that there are a number of competing sailboats in the market. We should look at simplifying the boat and making it as cost effective as possible in order to make the J/24 accessible to those who might not normally choose to sail one. We should all be generous with lending our boats to others in order to promote J/24s on a grassroots level.

C McLaughlin suggested that the IJCA should seek a global sponsor. N Zangerle mentioned that she was looking into that in an attempt to find multi-year sponsors. She has been talking to sailmakers to determine their level of interest. Exclusive sponsorships could be developed with global branded companies to become the "official XYZ of the J/24 Class." J Castillo stated that this needs to be handled carefully in order to avoid any conflicts with existing regatta sponsors.

B Turner thanked everyone for their ideas and input, but reinforced that we need to take action on these initiatives. Our purpose should be to serve the members of the Class.

12. Date and Place of Next World Council Meeting

R Harden suggested that the World Council Meeting be held in the country that will host the World Championship in the subsequent year, i.e. one year in advance of the World Championship. This would standardize the location in the future and depoliticize the process of choosing the meeting site. Thus, the **2007 World Council Meeting will be held in Italy**, host of the 2008 World Championship. Italy accepted the offer to host the meeting and will coordinate the date with the IJCA before announcing the specific location of the meeting.

13. Closing Remarks

B Turner thanked everyone for a long day of work. We will try to refine the meeting process next year to allow the World Council to operate as efficiently as possible. The meeting was adjourned at 1830.