

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IFCA

Held at the DOS MARES HOTEL, TARIFA, on 26th June 1998.

PRESENT:

Michael Levine, President & chairman, Luc Rogiers, Andrea Hoepner, Chistoffer Rappe, Steven Schrier and representatives and observers from 13 nations.

APOLOGIES:

Bruno de Wannemaeker, our treasurer, was unable to remain at the championships for the AGM due to urgent business reasons.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the 1997 AGM were circulated and approved.

MATTERS ARISING:

Name of the association. It as generally agreed that IFCA should remain the name of the association, recognising the good will and reputation that the association now has. The naming of events has traditionally been left to organisers to work out with their sponsors, subject to IFCA approval. The title Production Board and the use of the word Windsurfing is usually acceptable. Olympics: IFCA supports the principle of a new Olympic board class which reflects modern design and which allows the competitor to select the board he or she prefers, from the ISAF production board list, within certain limits. Ben Hessling, Spain, said the Olympics is a 'Class Killer'.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

This was brief this year, due to the fact that the last AGM was only 6 months ago. The secretary explained that internet communications have been established with most of our national associations, and they allow us to communicate much more freely. Registration of boards were very difficult this year due to the fact that most of the papers arrived in the week before the deadline for the World Championships. Drops new FL10 flapper board had created a new problem due to reports that its deck was hand laminated. National Associations were very slow to reserve places for the World Championships. Two forgot to do anything until it was so late, extra places could not be granted as requested. In general, everything was going well.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The chairman asked the Council to study the accounts presented. In particular it was noted that our overall balance of assets (cash) had changed little during the last four years. The accounts were approved unananimously.

TARIFA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

There were a number of complaints concerning such items as the number of boats, lack of a second slalom course, poor WCs, and no showers. A French observer complained that the \$100 entry fee was too great. Ben Hessling, speaking for the organising committee stated that it was a low budget event due to lack of sponsorship and Michael Levine explained that IFCA was aware of this and had put in additional funds to assist the organiser.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Frank Bidstrup gave details of the Danish venue, based around a holiday camp, which would be used if they ran another IFCA World Championships. Andrea Hoepner asked about floating sea weed. Frank acknowledged that this was always a problem in Denmark at certain times of the year, depending upon the weather. Zdravko Cerovac, Croatia, said that they would like to run a Europeans in June, but he could not

give us details.

Andrzej Stazewski and Piotr Jankowiak presented the case for the World Championships in Leba, site of the 1997 Europeans, next June/July. The Polish Boardsailing Association has firm contracts with sponsors and local authorities, government and national authority had all promised to assist. Luc Rogiers (Belgium) explained that school exams would prevent youths competing in June. US Windsurfing has indicated that it would like to run a world championships and there has been contact with a Dutch organisation that has shown interest in running a championships in Aruba, Dutch Antilles.

Michael Levine promised that IFCA would give an answer in 30 days, after contacting national associations.

Because the Sotavento organiser no longer wishes to run speed events, IFCA is discussing with the Tarifa Wind Club for a 1999 event organised together with the PWA. PBA pain has also indicated that they would like to run the 1999 Wave worlds.

CLASS MEASUREMENT RULES:

Steven Schrier, International measurer notified the meeting that Star was designing an 82cm wide board and it was agreed that a new maximum width of 85cm was required. The question of Laminated Decks was discussed. Christoffer Rappe, Sweden said that the system allowed manufacturers to produce short production runs more cheaply, if only a bottom mould was required. The measurer said that this matter would be investigated further.

The problem of late registrations was discussed. It was agreed that the deadline for approving and announcing registered boards for the world championships would be 30 days before the first race. Manufacturers must still return the Part III form 60 days before the event.

FUNBOARD RACING RULES:

Wind Speed Limits were discussed. Croatian, Zdravko Cerovac said he thought the rule had been well policed during the world championships. There was a debate as to whether or not the speed should be lowered. Some felt that any lowering would increase the amount of equipment required at an event. Others thought the change in designs of hull and sails would cope with lower limits. Christoffer Rappe promised to bring a 10 Schmitt sail to the next world championships! The 50% finishers rule was criticised by Andrzej Staszewski, Poland. There were mixed opinions on this issue and the chairman pointed out that associations could amend this rule. Christoffer Rappe suggested that the maximum number of Men should be reduced to 64. The question of selection was raised and many supported the idea that the first 10 from the previous year's championships should be accepted, followed by, say, 2 from each country. The remaining places to be shared by the countries with large associations. This was not popular with smaller associations who had usually sent substantial teams to IFCA events. Christoffer Rappe also raised the question of not carrying over OCS's to the next day's racing. A majority seemed to want to go back to the original 'harder' rule.

Philipa Palma, Portugal, asked that we run judges courses once again.

CHAMPIONSHIP RULES:

The Honorary Secretary mentioned the difficulty of getting place reservations and entries in from associations by the deadlines. There was a suggestion that some associations were sending racers who had not qualified through production board rankings. The Hon. Secretary was asked to insist on associations supplying their ranking tables before national team entries were accepted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There were no additional items and the chairman closed the meeting just after 10.00pm.