

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IFCA

Hotel Neptune, Leba, Poland 20.00 hrs, 28th June 1999

PRESENT:

Michael Levine, President, Steven Schrier, plus Christofer Rappe, Luc Rogiers, and representatives from 16 Nations.

APOLOGIES:

Bruno de Wannemaeker, BEL, Andrea Hoepner GER, Ole Klemmensen, DEN, Holger Paulmann, CHILE, Jose Pavon, ESP, and Wendy Kendall, NZW

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

These were approved without comment.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Last September, the World Wave Championships was successfully run in Klitmoller in northern Denmark. Competitors included Josh Stone and Josh Angulo and many other top wave sailors. The Freestyle section was not run which was a shame but in the conditions, it would never have been completed other than for Women and Youths. The whole organisational team numbered 80. Internet reports went out each day to Magazines, Manufacturers, associations and National Associations as well as the 75 ordinary Funboarders on our lists. The Website also displayed reports and photographs.

In November Luc and Steven went to the ISAF Conference. Luc attended the International Classes committee where he represents IFCA. He was elected by the ICC to represent the Windsurfing Classes on the WSC of ISAF. IMCO, IBSA and the Windsurfer Class already have individual members on the WSC, sent by National Authorities so in fact, Luc represents IFCA only on the WSC.

All the IFCA rule changes were approved. There was a great deal of discussion outside the committee rooms, about Formula Windsurfing. The WSC approved the changes to the F42 Class rules to FW.

In January, Together with ISAF, we called a meeting of manufacturers in Dusseldorf, at the BOOT exhibition. Most of the manufacturers attended and we discussed the registration system. Some small changes were made, and the number of countries that must have boards before they can be approved was increased to 8.

The other topic of discussion was Formula Windsurfing. All the manufacturers promised to support the new class in its efforts to become the Olympic Class for the 2004 games. They also asked us to consider reducing the number of boards allowed at an IFCA Championship to 2 (one course board.) Mistral said that they would support whichever Class became the Olympic choice, Formula Windsurfing or IMCO.

The next few months were taken up with working with Poland and sometimes, Spain on the Racing and Wave/Freestyle Championships.

The Internet has become 95% of all communications for IFCA. We circulate information each week to over 200 contacts. Our Website has been 'hit' around 3000 times in the last 6 months, the rate is increasing all the time.

FINANCE:

Michael Levine went through 98 accounts prepared by Treasurer, Bruno de Wannemaeker who was unable to attend. A small loss had been made each of the last three years. The 1999 budget indicates a break even situation.

ELECTIONS:

All the members of the old Executive were re-elected except Andrea Hoepner who stood down. Piotr Jankowiak, POL, was co-opted by the Council.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS:

The next event will be the World Wave and European Freestyle championships in N.Spain in August. The 2000 program is still under review. Guincho and Klitmoller have been proposed as sites for the Wave and Freestyle event. The Racing venue is subject to discussions with IBSA concerning a joint championships.

FUNBOARD CLASS MEASUREMENT RULES:

No changes were proposed or discussed.

CONSTITUTION:

A proposal to all create a seat on the Executive for an Executive of IBSA was approved unanimously. Felipe Bellini, president of IBSA was then invited to take his seat with the new Executive.

ISAF FUNBOARD RACING RULES:

A proposal to reduce the minimum course racing wind speeds was vigorously discussed. The general feeling, as voiced by Tim Wood, GBR, was that if race officers could be trusted to administer the wind speed rules correctly, a lowering of the limits would be acceptable. No vote was taken.

IFCA CHAMPIONSHIP RULES:

Scoring was discussed. Martin Sladky, Czk expressed concern at the fairness of scoring the world overall champion from a single slalom series which is given equal importance with, say, 7 course races. Many suggestions were made but this was difficult to understand without putting the details on paper. The matter was left to the committee. (The 'Croation' system was displayed on the ONB at Leba).

FORMULA WINDSURFING:

This item was discussed throughout the meeting where the item under discussion touched on FW matters. Many felt that FW would have a major effect on Funboarding. This was not thought to be a bad thing, but it would have to be carefully planned.

OTHER ORGANISATION MATTERS:

A proposal to create a joint administration to handle the day to day matters of IBSA and IFCA was approved by 14 for and 2 abstentions. The name 'International Windsurfing Federation' was generally agreed, subject of course, to discussion with IBSA.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There was none and the meeting closed at 22.50.