

## IFCA/Agenda & Minutes/2000 AGM

### MINUTES OF THE 2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IFCA

held on Thursday , 27<sup>th</sup> July 2000 in the Hotel Philoxenia , Paros, Greece at 20.00 hrs.

Attending: Michael Levine, President and chairman, Vice President, Luc Rogiers, Hon.Treasurer, Bruno De Wannemaeker, Hon. Secretary, Steven Schrier , Executive member, Yannis Theodoridis, plus 23 representatives from 13 countries.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Ole Klemmensen of the DBO, Denmark.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE 1999 AGM HELD AT LEBA.**

The Minutes were circulated with the agenda. They were approved.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.**

There were none that were not covered by the rest of the agenda.

#### **4. PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S REPORTS.**

The President invited the Hon.Secretary to make his report, promising to make his own statement at the end of the meeting. Steven Schrier reported that

The last year has been very busy. E.mail is our principle and almost sole means of communication with competitors. An average of 20 more messages are dealt with almost every day. We report PWA events and continue to be a centre for information for sailors and associations around the world.

The Olympic/Formula Windsurfing debate continues very vigorously.

IBSA, IFCA and the PWA joined up to make a full FW presentation at the ISAF conference in Sydney last november. The PWA prepared an excellent video and our officials took it in turns to present the arguments for a change from IMCO to FW. The presentation was very well accepted. Many delegates said it was the most professional seen for many years. Never before have the representatives from more than one class supported another class's presentation.

This year has seen us attending meetings in Germany, England, Portugal, Switzerland and Spain.

In January, we called a meeting of manufacturers, together with ISAF, and IBSA. IMCO was invited but never attended.

A meeting of the International Windsurfing Association steering committee was held in London in February. After that we went to Portugal for the press launch of the world wave championships. The APF set up a very professional party at the Estoril Casino who were one of the event's sponsors.

In April, we went with Dan Atkins (PWA) and Peter England, IBSA to a meeting called by ISAF and a member of the board of Boards and More in Zurich, Switzerland. IMCO was also represented by Rory Ramsden and Jorunn Horgen. Everyone agreed that the IWA was a good idea and there was some support for Rory Ramsden to be the first general secretary.

The final minutes of the meeting stated that when the IWA with IMCO was formed, the IWA would declare that FW would be the next Olympic class.

The ISAF representatives felt that without agreement between the classes, windsurfing was going to collapse.

The IMCO board could not accept the final agreement. The journey was a waste of time.

In May, we were invited to the IMCO European championships to address a meeting of sailors and coaches. We explained what the IWA and FW was all about. Nobody questioned the principles of the IWA. They all

wanted to discuss FW's bid for the olympics. We got the impression that most of the competitors were not really concerned which Class was chosen. It is the national coaches who are worried. Talking to sailors around the race site, they do not like racing in 5-7 knots of wind and many consider the IMCO racing just as unfair as we think light wind racing can be.

At this time we learned that the Italian sponsor of the IFCA World racing championships on Lake Garda had withdrawn. This was a disaster.

In June, we went to Guincho for the world wave championships. Despite excellent publicity, the number attending was not very great. But that did not spoil the event. The organisers did not appear to have any money problems with the casino, the tourist office and Nestle's support. The facilities were excellent. We especially noted the judges tower with separate cubicles for each judge so they could not compare scores.

The eight judges came from Finland, Poland, Spain and Portugal

The prize giving ceremony was the best we have ever attended. It was in the Estoril Casino and included a topless cabaret with beautiful show girls. We can say no more.

We received no serious complaints from the competitors at all. All IFCA's expenses were paid by the organiser.

The organisation of the Paros World championships was conducted by Bruno De Wannemaeker in very different circumstances. Steven's final comment was that he had been impressed with the race office efficiency of Yannis Theodoridis, during the two months leading up to the championships.

## **5. TREASURERS REPORT.**

Bruno De Wannemaeker presented the financial statement. He reported that the year so far accounts were in a good state, showing a DM632 profit. We have strong reserves which will now have to be used to finance the unsponsored Paros championships. He expected our assets to be DM10,000 down at the end of the year.

## **6. PROGRAM OF EVENTS 2000 AND ONWARDS.**

Bruno continued with a review of our future program. This includes the 2001 events of Racing and Wave/Freestyle Worlds in South Africa at the end of the year, and the European Racing champs on Lake Garda, Italy in May/June. Josh Seymour was in negotiation about a future wave event in Hawaii. Karim Goujon of the AFF had also offered to organise an international event.

There was a general discussion about the requirements for a good championships, the selection of organiser and media promotion. Wojtek Brzozowski, POL was very concerned about clashes of dates. Jamie Lever, GBR, suggested that we use a PR agency. Both Tzmas Achileas, GRE, and Yannis Theodoridis offered to organise future events for IFCA.

## **7. INTERNATIONAL FUNBOARD CLASS MEASUREMENT RULES**

The following rule changes were approved.

PROPOSAL 1. RULE 4.2. HULL: LENGTH AND WIDTH.

DELETE 'the width must not exceed 850mm' And SUBSTITUTE 'the width must not exceed 1005mm'.

REASON: To facilitate the continuing development of the wider and shorter boards which have a higher performance in course racing than their longer narrower predecessors.

PROPOSAL 2. ADD 4.9. FOOT STRAPS

'The foot strap fixing points may be moved provided that the stiffness of the board as registered with ISAF does not increase outside the maximum allowed by 4.5.

The number of foot straps must not exceed the number supplied by the manufacturer. Any make or type of strap maybe fitted.'

REASON: With only three fixed straps, some competitors with long legs need to change the fixed position to be comfortable and efficient. This has been 'allowed' for some years without any noted advantage to the sailors effected.

'RUBBING DOWN' The International Measurer pointed out that this was illegal and one competitor at the championships had received a warning. Future incidents would be reported to the International Jury for Protest. The meeting felt that the rules should include this infringement.

'FLAPPERS' The addition of flexible rubber or plastic flaps to boards not originally designed for them was discussed. The feeling of the meeting by a vote of 11 to 5 was that this should be treated as illegal.

## **8. INTERNATIONAL FUNBOARD CLASS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

Luc Rogiers suggested the only change required was the change of the word 'Boardsailing' to 'Windsurfing'. All reference to the WBA should also be removed as it no longer exists. All agreed.

## **9. ISAF/PWA FUNBOARD RACING RULES**

A Right of Way rule for boards on different legs of the course is required. The meeting noted that the Racing Rules involve several other Classes and the PWA. Therefore, the final proposals are jointly agreed by the Executives and sent to ISAF for final approval.

## **10. IFCA CHAMPIONSHIP RULES.**

An important proposal from the British Windsurfing Association was discussed.

All future IFCA World and Continental Championships should Course race to FW rules and Slalom race to Funboard Rules to find the overall Champions. Three alternatives were discussed.

- a. Racing to FW Wind Speed rules only or
- b. Racing to FW equipment limiting rules or
- c. Racing to both equipment limiting and wind speed rules .

The meeting unanimously agreed proposal c which brings the one board three rig, plus the minimum start wind speed of 7 knots into Course racing in IFCA International events starting 2001. It was also noted that all national associations that had postal voted agreed with proposal c.

## **11. FORMULA WINDSURFING**

The Hon. Secretary reported on the current situation with the Olympic Bid. National representatives were asked to talk/lobby their national coaches, etc, and write or promote magazine articles about the advantages of FW as the next Olympic Class. Wojtek explained how he worked hard to develop TV coverage. He emphasised that it was a question of never giving up and being persistent.

The problems of PR in various countries was discussed and IFCA agreed to get some more FW Promotional videos and send them to associations.

## **12. PWA/IBSA/IMCO/ISAF MATTERS.**

International Windsurfing Association: This was discussed during the Secretary's report and there was unanimous support for the Executives continued work in setting up this administrative body to centrally organise the Classes.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

The President, Michael Levine announced, with regret, his resignation after 10 years on the IFCA board. The Council agreed a vote of thanks and the meeting closed.