

Minutes of the 2011 J/24 World Council Meeting

Rochester, New York, USA

October 15, 2011

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Jim Farmer called the meeting to order at 0900.

2. Roll Call and Proxy Recognition

Each member in attendance gave a brief introduction and indicated his voting rights and any proxies held for the meeting. 13 total votes were represented at the meeting.

Attendance: Jim Farmer – Chairman, Robin Eagleson – Vice Chairman & IRL-JCA (Holding proxy for GBR and AUS - 4 votes), Eric Faust – Executive Director, Tim Winger – Technical Committee Chairman, Kelly Holmes – USA-JCA (4 votes), Jorge Castillo – MEX-JCA (holding proxy for GER – 2 votes), Matthew Kenny – CAN-JCA (1 vote), Alex Luiz – BRA-JCA (1 vote), Reid Stava – ITC, Nancy Zangerle – Marketing Chair, Lambert Lai – 2012 Championship Committee, Kris Werner – 2012 Championship Committee.

3. Appointment of Secretary

J Farmer appointed Eric Faust as secretary for the meeting.

4. Approval of 2010 WCM Minutes

The minutes of the 2010 World Council Meeting were distributed and reviewed. **T Winger made a motion that, “The minutes of the 2010 World Council Meeting be approved as written.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

5. Chairman’s Update

J Farmer thanked everyone for attending and also thanked the local hosts for their hospitality and for the reception the night before. He stated that, although membership is down slightly from the previous year, over a longer range membership in the IJCA remains stable. This is encouraging when considering the economic situation that is affecting all parts of the world. J Farmer noted that several delegates had to cancel plans to attend this meeting at the last minute and that attendance is somewhat lower than in past years, possibly because of the location or the cost of attending. A general discussion of ways to include more country participation in the WCM followed. Some suggestions were teleconferences, web-based meetings, or holding the meeting in conjunction with a major international regatta. It was agreed that communication is a key element to the success of the class and that there is always room to improve.

J Farmer said that there have been some very well attended and organized regattas throughout the year. He attended the European Championship in Ireland and was impressed with the level of organization, the number of countries represented and the inclusion of BMW as the title sponsor.

Overall, the outlook remains positive for the J/24 Class and there is direct evidence of this occurring around the world.

J Farmer then described an issue that has occupied a large portion of his time over the past year. The council carefully read and reviewed two items submitted by Bob Turner for discussion – one report originally attached to an email dated October 12, 2011 as a Microsoft Word file titled *REPORT FOR WORLD COUNCIL 2011* and also a follow up email sent October 13, 2011 with the subject line *RE: WCM AGENDA ITEM 11*. Much deliberate discussion followed and all avenues for ways forward were discussed in detail. It was noted that the report from October 12 contained no request for action and was provided for informational purposes while the email dated October 13 contained a list of requested actions in section 3a-f. After discussion J Farmer made a motion that, “A committee be formed to address the requested actions contained in item 3a-f of the email from Bob Turner dated October 13, 2011 with subject line *RE: WCM AGENDA ITEM 11*. This committee will be charged with formulating the proper response and carrying out the suggested action in each item.” The motion failed for lack of a second.

6. Review of Reports

6.1 Office and Financial Report

E Faust thanked everyone in attendance and recognized their efforts as volunteers for the class. As noted previously, membership has declined slightly in 2011 from the previous year, but remains stable when viewed on a historical basis. The class has carried out three successful Continental Championships over the course of the year and is looking forward to the upcoming World Championship in November. Each of these championships has included daily reporting on the regatta websites, as well as photos and results posted daily. This is a very important part to holding successful events and attracting sponsors and the class is doing a very good job in this respect. In addition there is continued interest in building J/24 activity in the Caribbean, the Central American region and in parts of Asia.

Financial Chairman, Bryan Dyer was unable to attend the meeting and E Faust presented a report on his behalf. Financially, the IJCA remains stable. The presented financial statements indicate that the class ended its last fiscal year with a net income of just over \$10,000. This net income is mainly due to the change in royalty label sales that was approved at the 2010 WCM and helps to replace some of the losses caused by several large expenditures over the past several years that depleted much of the class’ savings. It also positions the class to make strategic expenditures as needed going forward while remaining financially solvent.

J Farmer made a motion that, “The financial statements and proposed budget be accepted as presented.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

6.2 NJCA Reports

Each NJCA submitted a written report in advance of the meeting.

6.3 Website Design Report

E Faust reported that the new website has been live on the internet since February, 2011 and he has been actively working to keep content up-to-date since that time. Each NJCA is reminded that any information that needs to be posted to the rest of the world should be sent to the class office for inclusion. N Zangerle noted that the original intent was to have each NJCA appoint a person in charge of sending information to the IJCA so the website would represent all parts of the world. E Faust agreed and stated that he has reached out to several individuals with limited

success. Ideally the IJCA will have several people involved in keeping the content fresh on the website in the future. Any interested class volunteers, particularly those with Wordpress experience, are encouraged to contact the class office to get involved. There are several aspects of the website that can be improved to provide enhanced service to the class members and E Faust suggested that allocating some money to improving the site would be beneficial to members worldwide. The website forum is one area that can be improved as the current one is underutilized and difficult to use. M Kenny noted that he may be able to locate people to help with some of these design and functionality upgrades. N Zangerle pointed out that the top banner ad can be included in sponsorship packages for event sponsors. Advertising is still available on the website and it is expected that several additional companies will come onboard in the near future. Going forward, it is planned that the existing website can be utilized to host various countries' websites as well.

6.4 Technical Report

T Winger gave a report on technical issues currently affecting the J/24 class. Reinstating the rule previously removed that prohibited hiking between the lifelines has proved difficult. ISAF has been unwilling to approve the class request to reinstate our old class rule and suggested that the IJCA should instead eliminate the use of two lifelines. This is not an ideal situation for a number of reasons and it appears that the ISAF is being obstructionist to the wishes of the J/24 Class and its members. T Winger will again approach ISAF and ask that they allow the J/24 Class to implement the rules as it deems necessary. In the interim, a rule prohibiting hiking between dual lifelines is being inserted into all SIs. J Farmer noted that this provision should be included in the class standard SIs until the rule is reversed appropriately by ISAF.

Another issue that has required a significant amount of discussion regards the addition of a deck tie-down system. This rule was previously approved by the World Council, but did not receive the approval of the J/24 copyright holder, J/Boats Inc, and was therefore not instituted in the Class Rules. After much discussion, it was determined that the ITC would continue to study this issued and develop another proposal. This proposal could then be brought to J/Boats to determine if they would be willing to approve a system that would allow sailors to install such a device in a legal manner.

T Winger indicated that in his first year as the Chairman of the Technical Committee he has become aware of the amount of work required to maintain and update the class technical documents. He proposed that the ITC form a subcommittee to oversee these documents and spread the workload away from being completely dependent on the ITC Chairman. This would also help to cultivate new talent within the committee on an ongoing basis. The group agreed that this would be good for the class.

6.5 Builders' Reports

E Faust indicated that Roberto Authier had given his apologies for not attending this meeting as he is currently busy finishing construction on five new boats for the upcoming world championship. J Farmer noted that he had spoken to the U.S. builder, Randy Borges, and was encouraged to learn that he also is producing new boats. Included in the purchase price, these boats will be transported and made available at the 2012 World Championship, the 2013 North American Championship and the 2014 World Championship as well as several other regattas during that period. Free storage will also be offered if requested.

7. New Business and Submissions

7.1 2011 World Championship Update

E Faust stated that he has been working with the organizers in Argentina and logistically the regatta is great shape. The host yacht club has a highly experienced staff and is very accustomed to hosting large events. At the recommendation of the ARG-JCA a search is currently underway to find an alternate PRO for this event. A short list has been developed and we are confident that the race management will be of the highest caliber for the world championship. The event website is being updated regularly and provides all the needed information for the competitors. (<http://www.j24worlds2011.org.ar>) Live, on-the-water reports are expected during the regatta and arrangements have been made to produce results and post photos at the end of each day.

7.2 2012 World Championship Update

L Lai and K Werner gave a presentation on the organization and planning for the 2012 World Championship to be held at the Rochester Yacht Club in Rochester, New York. The PRO and Jury Chair have been selected and approved by the IJCA. The NOR has also been approved and it now published one year in advance of the event. The host club has a large group of volunteers to assist with on site activities. The organizers have already secured a title sponsor and discussions are underway with several other sponsors to help assure that the regatta will be a world-class event. The measurement work flow system and logistical plan was then described in detail. The organizers are expecting between 100 and 150 boats to compete in the championship. A number of charter boats have been located already to accommodate overseas competitors and the organizers are working hard to assure that 25-30 are available.

The qualification requirements for entry into the 2012 World Championship established at the 2010 WCM were then reviewed. **After discussion, K Holmes made a motion that, “The deadline for helming a boat in a class sanctioned district, national, regional or continental championship be moved from December 31, 2011 to March 31, 2012. In addition, a sailor that was not a member of the J/24 Class in 2011 can retroactively pay 2011 dues up until this deadline in order to be eligible to enter the 2012 World Championship.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

R Stava then described that in order to accommodate the large number of boats, the measurement process would be carried out slightly differently than in previous years. Measurement will be conducted on a “pass/fail” basis, meaning that new certificates will not be to be produced for the competing boats.

7.3 Future Continental Championships

E Faust noted that he has been working with the regatta organizers and the 2012 and 2013 Continental Championships are all booked and on schedule at this time. The regatta rotation system is posted on the IJCA website and experience has shown it to be an effective tool for advance planning purposes. E Faust noted that for 2014, Mexico is on the schedule to host the North American Championship and that would coincide with a Regata Copa Mexico for that year. J Castillo indicated that the intention of the MEX-JCA is to host the NAs in conjunction with the Copa Mexico in 2014 to allow for maximized exposure for the event and provide a complete regatta experience for the competitors. More details will be forthcoming at the next WCM.

7.4 2015 World Championship Bids

J Castillo, holding the proxy for the GER-JCA, presented a bid proposal to host the 2015 World Championship in Germany. A Luiz made note of the printed letter of intent from the BRA-JCA to host this event and gave an oral presentation on behalf of the BRA-JCA. J Farmer noted that the established rotation schedule would have the 2015 World Championship in Europe and that Brazil's next opportunity to host would be 2016. M Kenny pointed out that the regatta regulations require that a bid proposal be presented to the council at its meeting four years in advance of the world championship and that the only qualified bid is from the GER-JCA. **M Kenny then made a motion, "To accept the bid from GER-JCA to host the 2015 World Championship." The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

7.5 Women's Championship

N Zangerle said that the Women's Open Championship has not been held in a number of years and was unaware if there is current interest in reviving this regatta. E Faust stated that he had some initial contact with the previous host in Massachusetts to again hold the regatta but no proposal was submitted. After discussion it was agreed that it may be best to look for a European host for this regatta. R Eagleson indicated that he would explore holding the Women's Open Championship prior to or in conjunction with either the 2013 European Championship or 2013 World Championship. R Eagleson will confer with the IRL-JCA and E Faust will confer with the MON-JCA to determine the viability of this plan.

7.6 World Championship Charter Boat Agreement

T Winger indicated that there has been little progress on developing a class standard charter agreement. There had been general hesitation to create a legal document that may expose the IJCA to liability issues. After discussion it was agreed that certain charter guidelines, including an estimated range for the charter price, could be developed for use by regatta organizers to facilitate the availability of charter boats. R Eagleson noted that this is not a technical issue and should be handled outside the Technical Committee. M Kenny suggested that the class should keep a record of actual charter prices so that a suggested price could be provided for regatta organizers. K Holmes noted that he had some information on this topic and would provide it to the group as a starting point.

7.7 Change to Article 9.1 of the IJCA Constitution

R Eagleson presented a proposed amendment to Article 9.1 of the IJCA Constitution as outlined below:

Proposal:

To change the wording of 9.1 of the IJCA Constitution

Current Wording:

9.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, the immediate Past Chairman of the World Council, the Chairman of the Technical Committee, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and three other council members (two of whom shall be elected by the World Council each year, and one of whom shall be the NJCA representative of the country hosting the next World Championship). The immediate Past Chairman is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Proposed Wording:

9.1 The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Technical Committee, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and three other members that shall be elected each year. The immediate Past Chairman of the Executive Committee will be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year after a new Chairman is elected.

Justification:

The core reason for the proposed changes is to refresh the composition of the Executive, to avoid the possibility of stagnation, and to provide wider opportunities for contribution from ex-officio members who represent the core of our class.

At the moment the NJCA representative of the country hosting the next World Championship is automatically a member of the Executive Committee. This is effectively a non-elected appointment to the Executive by the host country, and will last for a period of one year only.

There is an obvious lack of continuity in this appointment, and the possibility of an appointee with no previous experience of the working of the World Council attempting to serve serving the Class during a period when the primary objective should be that of delivering a successful Championship That should be enough responsibility on it's own.

The removal of this automatic appointment opens the way for an additional elected ex-officio member without increasing the total membership of the Executive.

An element of continuity in the management of our Class is very important and it is therefore logical that the immediate past Chairman should continue to serve on the Executive, albeit as a non-voting member.

This is a non -elected position, and is currently not limited by any defined time period, unlike any other appointment to the Executive.

K Holmes made a motion, “To accept the proposed change to the IJCA Constitution.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

R Eagleson then made a motion, “To invite Bob Turner to serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee for a term of one year from the date of this meeting.” The motion was seconded by J Farmer and unanimously approved.

8. Elections

J Farmer nominated Bryan Dyer to serve as the Financial Chairman. The nomination was seconded and unanimously approved.

J Farmer then nominated the following to serve on the IJCA Executive Committee: Paul Scalisi (USA), Marianne Schoke (SWE) and Jorge Castillo (MEX). The nominated slate was seconded and unanimously approved.

T Winger nominated the following slate of members to the International Technical Committee: Tim Winger USA; Lorne Chapman CAN; Stuart Jardine GBR (Member Emeritus); Michael Johnson USA; Hank Killion USA (Copyright Holder’s

Representative); John Peck USA; Mark Penfold GBR; Gianpietro Pollesel ITA; Kenneth Porter MEX; Reid Stava USA; Peter Stevens AUS; Jan-Marc Ulrich GER.

J Castillo made a motion to, “Accept the slate of ITC members as presented.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

J Farmer indicated that the members of the Technical Committee had nominated T Winger to serve as the committee’s chairman and made a motion, “To approve T Winger as the Chairman of the Technical Committee.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

9. Technical Issues and Class Rule Change Proposals

T Winger presented a number of proposed changes to the IJCA Class Rules that had been received, reviewed and evaluated by the Technical Committee over the past year.

9.1 Proposed change to J/24 Class Rule 3.5.6

Submitted by: Tim Winger, ITC

Current Rule:

3.5.6 Spinnaker Boom: The overall length of the spinnaker boom, including fittings, shall be not more than 2895mm. The weight of the spinnaker boom and fittings shall not be less than 2.7kg.

Proposed Change:

3.5.6 Spinnaker Pole: The overall length of the spinnaker pole, including fittings, shall be not more than 2895mm. The weight of the spinnaker pole and fittings shall not be less than 2.7kg. The spinnaker pole may be made of any material.

Reason:

We had agreed to allow carbon fiber spinnaker poles or booms some years ago under the premise that carbon fiber is no longer an exotic material (rule 7.1.18), and would not cost significantly more than an aluminum pole. I believe that it needs to be specifically allowed to be any material since the J/24 Class is a “closed rule”. That means that if the rule does not say that it is allowed, it is not allowed. If we don’t do this, we may be opening ourselves to questions on whether carbon fiber may be used in rudders, masts and booms. The term “spinnaker boom” is changed to “spinnaker pole” to properly align our rules with ISAF and ERS.

R Eagleson made a motion to, “Accept the proposed change to Rule 3.5.6 and to authorize T Winger to also change other occurrences of the words “spinnaker boom” in the Class Rules to the words “spinnaker pole.” The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

9.2 Proposed Change to Class Rule 3.6.1

T Winger then led a discussion of two separate proposed changes to Class Rule 3.6.1, both of which deal with allowing boats to carry two spinnakers onboard while racing. After much discussion there was no consensus on the best way to implement either of these proposals and it was determined that more work was needed. The council agreed that the Technical Committee should study these proposals in more detail and submit another proposal in the future.

9.3 Change to Class Rule 3.2.5

T Winger described that he had previously proposed to ISAF a repeal of the change made to rule 3.2.5 at the 2010 WCM. ISAF responded that the class should change the rule to only allow one lifeline on the J/24. T Winger drafted a rule change to accommodate this opinion but has received push-back from several NJCAs. Notably, Australian maritime law requires that boats have two lifelines and a contrary class rule would be troublesome there. Others choose to retain two lifelines for safety reasons when children are on board. The council advised T Winger that he should again propose to ISAF that the previous wording of 3.2.5 be accepted into the J/24 Class Rules as it fits the needs of all the members worldwide. T Winger agreed and said he would follow up with the ISAF rules committee.

9.4 Use of GPS Enabled Devices

T Winger stated that according to the current J/24 Class Rules all Velocitek products that utilize GPS are illegal for use while racing. It is known that several boats regularly use these products and it needs to be made clear that this is not legal within the class rules. It was discussed that several other large one-design classes maintain an anti-GPS policy. The ITC is in process of developing a study on the available products on the market and it will be reported back to the World Council for further review.

10. Current Objectives and Future Strategy

As a lead-in to the discussion of promoting the J/24 Class for the future, J Castillo gave a presentation about the 2012 Regata Copa Mexico, which represents a high-profile event that attracts sailors from several countries as well as sponsorship from both government and private companies. This type of event can add to the profile of the class on an international level. J Farmer indicated that this regatta is a great asset for the J/24 Class and should be used as a marketing tool as much as possible. Over the past several years, the class has been addressing its marketing efforts without having a strong plan in place and this should be the focus of the discussion. The IJCA should work to develop a plan and work to provide the NJCAs around the world with the tools to help execute the plan on the local and country level. Ideally, the class would have a person capable of producing marketing and press materials on behalf of the class. M Kenny stated that the objective of our marketing efforts should be to get people into boats. He sees opportunities in getting younger people into the class based on the low cost of entry. Young people will be more apt to look toward the internet for information about the boat and make buying decisions based on that information. K Holmes stated that the high-profile regattas can be used to show new sailors about the opportunities available in the class, but they will need immediate practical information to get involved on the local level for the first time. J Farmer focused the discussion by stating that an achievable objective would be to devise a plan to get the J/24 name in more sailing media in the immediate future. The class has a solid foundation of sailing activity in all parts of the world and the challenge is now to spread the word that the J/24 offers an unmatched opportunity for anyone interested in participating in sailboat racing. N Zangerle invited the group to state its overall goal for a promotional campaign. It was agreed that getting more boats out sailing and participating is the main objective. M Kenny stated that the target audience for new sailors would be: 25-35 years old with some sailing background. One of the core challenges facing the class is that the boat is perceived as being an old design and not exciting. But the core benefits include the high availability of boats and the access to established racing that exists in many areas. This target audience looks to the internet to form their opinions and the class should focus on getting favorable mentions on

sailing media websites. The J/24 has a compelling story to tell and the content needs to be created and sent to the proper outlets. The message needs to contain a few main themes that are reiterated in each message – e.g. low cost of ownership, availability of high caliber racing, camaraderie etc. **After much discussion, it was agreed that a committee will search for the proper person or persons to generate this content and push it to media sources. The committee will consist of K Holmes, M Kenny and N Zangerle. The committee will further develop this promotion plan, outline measurable results, determine an estimated budget and report back to the Executive Committee with its findings.** It was added that a similar position may need to be created in several continents to best match the sailing perspective in various geographic regions.

Further discussion continued regarding getting more mentions in established periodicals and news sources. Particularly with the large turnout expected for the 2012 Worlds, the opportunities exist to have editorial content in mainstream media outlets.

13. Date and Location of the Next WCM

R Eagleson stated that the next World Council Meeting will be held on October 13, 2012 at the Howth Yacht Club in Howth, Ireland.

14. Awarding of the Geoff Evelyn Memorial Trophy

The Geoff Evelyn Memorial Trophy is awarded to the member that, in the opinion of the IJCA Chairman, has made the greatest contribution to the J/24 Class in the past year. J Farmer announced that he had chosen to award the trophy to Robin Eagleson for his tireless work on behalf of the J/24 Class.

15. Closing Remarks

J Farmer thanked the World Council for travelling to attend the meeting and for a long day of work. He emphasized that the lines of communication are always open and he will value input and suggestions during his time as Chairman.

K Holmes made a motion to, “Adjourn the meeting.” The motion was seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1740.