

**Minutes of the 2021 J/24 World Council Meeting
Open Virtual Session September 23, 2021**

- 1) **Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome:** Will Welles, IJCA Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. EDT and welcomed all to the meeting. We have a quorum. Attendees: Will Welles (Chair, USA), Nick Jako (Vice Chair, CAN), Kat Malone (Finance Chair, USA), Nicolas Cubria (Executive Committee, ARG), David Cooper (Executive Committee, GBR), Maik Hass (Executive Committee, GER), Aris Pallikaris (Executive Committee, GRE), Keiji Kondo (Executive Committee, JPN), Nancy Zangerle (Past Chair, USA), Michael Peters (ITC, GER), Curt Barnes (ITC, USA), Katie Coleman Nicoll (CAN), Lorna Graham (GBR), Mate Kakas (HUN), Mark Usher (IRL), Gianni Riccobono (ITA), Hiroshi Kameyama (JPN), Robert Himmelbauer (MEX), Per Andersson (SWE), Dan Busch (USA), Christopher Howell and Julie Howell (ODAM, USA).
- 2) **Appoint Secretary:** Will Welles appointed Julie Howell as the secretary.
- 3) **Approval of 2020 WCM Minutes:** *David Cooper made a motion to approve the 2020 WCM minutes as posted at <http://www.j24class.org/organization/class-documents/wcm-minutes/>, seconded by Robert Himmelbauer. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.*
- 4) **Chair's Overview:** Will summarized that our world has been unsettled during the pandemic but thankfully some sailing has resumed. The US had the North Americans in New York with 32 boats and the US Nationals in Vermont with 41 boats. The social side may be different, but being on the water feels normal. The UK and Italian Nationals will be happening soon. We have missed the World Championship for two years, but we are looking forward to 2022 in Corpus Christi, Texas USA. Will thanked everyone on the call for keeping the Class going and growing. We have a solid history, and we will talk later today about the future.
- 5) **Review of Reports:**

Executive Director Report: See Attachment A. Chris reiterated that it's great to see sailing being somewhat back to normal. We will delve into the financials at our next meeting, but he expects to be in the black. There was an airline credit from 2020, which was "sold" to another Class. The Class Office continues to process many measurement certificates annually – more than 50 hulls in 2021 to date. We are on the 31st edition of the Class newsletter. Thank you to NCAs who submit content, even during the pandemic. The IJCA Facebook page has more than 5,700 fans. Chris noted that the US Nationals saw a reach of 9,000 on Facebook for just one day.

Technical Report: Michael summarized that activity has been a bit quiet during the pandemic. We will vote on Rules proposals at our next meeting.

Copyright Holder/Builders Report: The Copyright Holder did not submit a report. Chris shared that no new boats have been built (active builders are in Italy and Argentina), although masts, booms, rudders and related parts are available primarily via J/Boats Argentina. There is some concern about the high price of rudders with shipping. The Executive and/or Technical

Committee should follow-up with J/Boats, as there has been online discussion about the use of rudders being produced for other J boats. Will added that the Copyright Holder is working on securing a North American rudder builder.

6) **Championship Reports:**

2022 World Championship: July 14-22 at Corpus Christi Yacht Club, Texas USA. Chris stated that the Notice of Race is drafted (to be reviewed by the Executive and Technical Committees) and should be posted in the next few weeks. Chris and Julie attended the J/22 Worlds at the same venue this past summer. The footprint is very efficient for inspections and boat preparation/launching. The racecourse is close to shore and visible from land. Corpus Christi is well known for its reliable seabreeze and southern hospitality. Dan suggested we aim to have an early registration deadline so we can fill any unused berths by petition. Chris expects plenty of charter boats, but planning should be done early. Michael asked whether the charter boats could be pre-inspected. Chris thought the Technical Committee could provide a guidance document to potential charterers, such as making sure the boat has been measured within a recent timeframe. It would be helpful to get a gauge of how many international teams plan to attend.

2023 World Championship: Dates to be announced, Nautical Club of Thessaloniki Greece. Aris said the club has been active again this summer. They are hosting Opti Worlds in July 2023, so we probably want late August/early September. There is a resort/marina a short distance out of the city, so this area is also being considered. The “high season” starts winding down in mid-September, lowering accommodation costs. 2023 Europeans are scheduled in August so later September makes sense and the breeze should still be reliable. Aris will confirm dates in the coming weeks.

2024 World Championship: Argentina. Nicolas said there have been many changes and closures due to COVID, including losing their main contact/benefactor in Mendoza. The fleet diminished, and although there are new people, they are not experienced with a World Championship. Nico clarified that Argentina will not be ready to host a Worlds in 2024, and they should focus instead on reviving a 2022 South American Championship. Chris advised that the IJCA will issue a Request for Proposal for 2024 Worlds (North America), and Argentina can re-submit a bid to host in the future when they are ready.

7) **New Business/Open Discussion on Future Strategy:**

Argentina: Nico said they have many new/younger people racing so they are working to educate them about the Class. In Cordoba, they regularly have 30 J/24s out. Throughout South America, the older racers have moved into the J/70, bringing more “starters” into the J/24. They mostly race with the jib only and with four people, making for close racing.

Great Britain: David noted that their National Championship is this weekend. Attendance has lacked during the pandemic. Lorna added that they struggle with an aging demographic. The UK Class desires to return to the Worlds rotation.

Germany: Maik told us that Kiel Week had 30 J/24s. The Technical Committee checked the

safety equipment. There are still a few more events in Germany this season.

Greece: Aris explained that Greece was locked down through early June so racing couldn't start until mid-June. As that is the peak tourist season, racing will pick up again in November.

Hungary: Mate shared that they had a successful Nationals. There are many youth sailors. Preparations are well underway for 2023 Europeans. He is optimistic that European travel will open up in 2022.

Ireland: Mark stated that they just finished their Northern Championship after a late start to the season. 26 boats attended Nationals. Ireland is also seeing many young sailors. They are excited to host the 2022 Europeans; look for the Notice of Race soon.

Italy: Gianni said they have struggled with COVID and the related restrictions. He is happy to have their Nationals with 50 boats and restart Italian activity. With the vaccine progress, they are hopeful to have a normal 2022 season.

Japan: Keiji explained they haven't had a National Championship for the past two years, but they are planning a race in Tokyo in November. A Japanese team just traveled to the USA to race in their Nationals, and Keiji is hopeful that about five teams will attend the 2022 Worlds.

Mexico: Robert summarized that they have had a reduced number of regattas with limited attendance. Sometimes restrictions were placed on the number of crew. The Navy organized a regatta in Acapulco; Nationals saw 17 boats in a two-part event. Plans are now underway for 2022 Nationals.

Sweden: Per shared that they hosted a Nationals, including teams from Germany and also several young teams. He is optimistic to have a Swedish team at the 2022 Worlds.

Canada: Nancy advised that Lorne Chapman passed away recently. The Class Office will post Lorne's obituary.

USA: Dan stated that the USA got back racing at the Midwinter Championship in Miami, along with required COVID tests and temperature checks. The North American Championship was well attended in June, as well as the US Nationals in Vermont this month. The USJCA currently owns a "boat grant boat," although the expense and liability has proved too risky. The boat will be sold, but the Class will still be raising funds to support youth teams. He recalled about 50% of the attendance at the Kings Day Regatta being young. The USJCA issued a survey in 2021 with about 120 responses. The goal is making racing easier, particularly for amateur sailors. Likely in 2022, the US will hold a Corinthian-only event. Kat added that the 2022 Midwinters should be more "normal." Nancy described that the Executive Committee is reviewing an updated draft of the Regatta Regulations.

- 8) **Closing Remarks:** Will thanked everyone for their updates. It's great to hear about all the youth sailors. We appreciate everyone's time! See you again on October 7 for our Part 2

Business Session. If you haven't responded that you'll be attending, e-mail director@j24class.org. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am EDT.

ATTACHMENT A: Executive Director's Report, Christopher Howell

Administration

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the way the world operates, but we are hopeful 2022 will have better days. We are starting to see events move forward around the world, and we hope to be open to all travelers by next year's World Championship in Corpus Christi, Texas USA.

Financial

Thankfully, 2021 has been a slight comeback from the pandemic financially. We should end the year in the black. Although the 2021 European and World Championships were canceled, we were able to sell the airline credit from 2020 and recoup that expense in 2021. The Class has a strong financial reserve, which sits at nearly \$74,000—more than 1.5 times the average yearly expenses.

Measurement Form Administration

In the most recent FY, the Class Office has processed new measurement certificates or changes of ownership for more than 50 hulls. This procedure starts with working with Measurers around the world to obtain accurate and completed Measurement Input Sheets. The data is then inputted at the Class Office into the master measurement file and merged into a Word document for conversion to PDF when distributed to the owner. This merge process is also utilized when revising certificates following a change of ownership.

Newsletter

Since 2013, we have distributed 31 editions of the newsletter, with four per year since 2016. The archive of all editions is at <http://www.j24class.org/newsletter/>. Thank you to all the NJCAs for their contributions...we had lengthy editions even during a pandemic! The Class Office distributes the newsletters via e-mail in a PDF format to supplement the distribution of Class information amongst all NJCAs. The next issue will be sent in December. We appreciate the continued photographs and content from NJCAs, and North Sails and Quantum Sails as advertising supporters.

Public Relations Efforts

The use of social media continues to give the Class exposure worldwide. This has become the first means of distribution of news and future events. In 2022, we intend to attend the World, North American and European Championships to continue live updates and post photos of each day's activities, in addition to daily press releases to the sailing media.

The International J/24 Class Facebook page has 5,717 fans, more than many comparable Classes such as the Etchells, Melges 24, J/22, International Lightning and Star Class, and is closing in on the numbers for modern boats like the Melges 20 and J/70. The Class Instagram account has more than 1,527 followers, and Twitter has nearly 700.