

International DN Ice Yacht Racing Association Europe
(IDNIYRA-Europe)
Minutes and Decisions of National Secretaries
Amsterdam, The Netherlands 23 - 27 April 2004

- Present:** IDNIYRA Europe Executive Board
European Commodore - Hans Adolfsson
Vice Commodore & Treasurer - Rob Schutte
Top Sailor - Stan Macur
Secretary - Chris Williams
- National Secretaries
DENMARK - Jorgen Holsoe
GERMANY - Dietmar Gottke webmaster (for Rainer Hinrichsen)
HUNGARY - Gustav Koltay with Attila Pataki
NETHERLANDS - Johan Tolsma
NORWAY - Per Scholberg (for Hans Petter Lundberg)
POLAND - Tomek Zakrzewski
SWEDEN - Ronnie Bjorkrot (for Thomas Ostergren)
UNITED KINGDOM - Chris Williams
- NORTH AMERICA - John Harper (NA Vice Commodore desig.)
- Proxy Votes:** Stan Macur for LITHUANIA
Sweden for FINLAND and RUSSIA
- Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Austria, Finland, Lithuania and Russia

Topic 1 Opening Remarks and Review of Season 2003/2004

The Commodore welcomed all present to the meeting with special welcomes to Per Scholberg (Norway), Tomek Zakrzewski (new Polish Secretary), Ronnie Bjorkrot (the Voice of Sweden) and John Harper, the NA Vice Commodore designate, who were attending for the first time.

The Commodore thanked Hungary for organizing the successful WC/EC and Junior WC/EC on Lake Balaton. Many lessons were learned and would be recorded for future events (*see Topic 4*). Opening the event on the shore had been a new experience. Nations present were invited to summarise their seasons.

Denmark A poor season for ice. The attempt to hold the Danish Championships NE of Malmo 6/7 March had to be abandoned due to weather – rising temp and strong wind.

Estonia Good late season ice.

Germany Not much ice but good National Championships on Scharnutzelsee (SE of Berlin) with 80 entries from 5 nations and 10 races, the first time on this lake.

Hungary Expressed gratitude for support provided for WC/EC. Ice conditions only allowed National Championships to be sailed in the week before WC.

Latvia and Lithuania Good early season ice.

Netherlands No sailable ice for Championships.

Norway Poor season with too much snow. First National Championships for 5 years – outside Oslo with 8 sailors and many spectators on the motorway!

North America Eastern seaboard had best ice for several years e.g. New Jersey, Long Is. Sound. Central Region, poor ice with snow. West Region, very good early season. National Championships in Sandusky Bay, Ohio in late February.

Poland Good ice early January to 20 March. 8 regattas in total. National Championships with 66 entries on Lake Sniardwy, 4 nations represented.

Russia Disappointing season due to snow cover. Junior and Ice Optimist Championships week-end 24-25 April.

Sweden Three ranking regattas sailed. One in cooperation with Finland at the Baltic island Aland. Swedish Championships moved from Fiskeboda to Rattvik but were not completed; further attempt early 2004 season. Sailing areas in mid Sweden covered with snow most of the season.

United Kingdom Much travel with only two entries in WC/EC. Sailing in Sweden starting early December in Ostersund, then February and March. Hungary for WC/EC.

Topic 2 Minutes of European Secretaries' Meeting 2003

With the exception of two typographical errors in Topics 2 and 6 these were agreed and approved as issued. Secretary undertook to correct the errors in his original copy. **ACTION: Secretary**

Topic 3 Matters Arising from Topic 2 not covered by this Agenda

- (a) Missing Trophies It was agreed that the 3rd prize EC – silver DN on plate would be replaced by IDNIYRA-Europe.
- (b) It was agreed that photographs of European trophies and a list of current holders should be placed on a “Trophy” web page. **ACTION: Hungary, Vice Commodore, Webmaster**
John Harper undertook to start a similar action for the WC trophies.

Topic 4 Letters to the Board

Letters/emails had been received from Norway, Poland and Austria. These had not been seen by all present and Secretary undertook to ensure that for the 2005 Secretaries meeting copies of all letters would be sent to all National Secretaries before the meeting. **ACTION: Secretary**

Norway

Proposal to produce a “Regatta Organisers’ Handbook” which would be a “living” document to be amended and updated after each WC/EC was welcomed by all present. An initial list of topics had been produced [*attached to these Minutes*] and this would be placed on the IDNIYRA-Europe website. All inputs and additional topics would be welcomed. The Webmaster assisted by the Secretary would coordinate inputs. **ACTION: Webmaster & Secretary**

Poland

(a) Grand Prix series This would be based on 3 national championship regattas with sailors selecting which 3 for participation. The aim was to increase the number of sailors in national regattas. It was emphasized that this proposal had no connection with the World ranking system. Poland undertook to provide more detailed information on the Grand Prix series in time for implementation in 2004/2005. The idea received unanimous support.

ACTION: Poland

(b) Waiving of late entry fee when moving to another country

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that when a major regatta (EC/WC) had to move to another country the organizing race committee may accept late entries at normal (not double) fee.

ACTION: Race Committees

(c) Minimum number of races to complete WC regatta at day 3 to be 5 instead of 3.

After discussion the meeting asked Stan Macur and John Harper to draft a proposal. See topic 10.

Austria

The Austrian proposal to re-introduce a licence card with the main purpose of checking insurance cover was not accepted, as it was considered that the present insurance arrangements were reliable and satisfactory. In addition, the administration involved in licences was considered too much.

Topic 5 Financial Report 2003/2004 and Budget 2004/2005

The Treasurer provided statements covering the Financial Report for 2003/2004 and the Budget for 2004/2005 [*attached*]. The 2003/2004 Accounts were “audited” by Norway and Hungary and found correct with some encouragement for more use of a computer! The Budget was updated according to decisions made at the meeting and approved.

Topic 6 WC/EC Report

The ice conditions at Balaton caused delays to the planned start. This was largely caused by weak ice at the shore which made access hazardous and the local police had to be persuaded that sailing would be safe. Following a 60 km. move from Balatonfured to Gyenesdias the WC/EC were completed in very fast conditions.

Hungary provided a full brief on the cost breakdown for the whole event and highlighted the following: [*attached*]

- (a) The Race Committee, Technical Committee and other staff were not volunteers and received statutory payment of €23 per person per day.
- (b) The Technical Equipment cost of €4,206 was considered an investment cost.
- (c) The overall loss on the event was accepted as “investment” for the future.
- (d) The senior event subsidized the Junior event (see Topic 7).

The Accounts were accepted and it was agreed that many lessons had been learned and these would be reflected in the Regatta Organisers’ Handbook (Topic 4).

Topic 7 WC/EC Ice Optimist and DN Junior Report

The IO/Junior DN WC was successfully completed before the move from Balatonfüred. The EC was not completed due to time and weather conditions. The planning and preparations had been made for a predicted 100 participants. A total of 33 arrived and this caused an imbalance in the budget and a loss which Hungary accepted as "learning money". However, the meeting agreed to pay an additional €330 since the 100 prediction had come from IDNIYRA-Europe. The event had been greatly enjoyed by the Ice Optimist and Junior DN sailors and their supporting teams, many of which had traveled a long way e.g. Sweden, Poland, Estonia and Latvia. It had been particularly encouraging to see Hungarian Ice Optimist youngsters in their very recently constructed boats.

Topic 8 Junior Programme Report

A very constructive junior programme planning meeting had been held in Vilnius in August 2003. The Minutes would be put on the Junior web page. **ACTION: Secretary/Webmaster**

The number of Ice Optimists was slowly increasing and it was reported that there were now 3 in France (Malbuisson) and a small number in Germany in the Hamburg area. The Secretary reported the issue of Ice Optimist sail discs to Estonia, France, Germany, North America, Poland, Russia, Sweden and UK. More are held, and National Secretaries should apply to the Secretary IDNIYRA-Europe for an issue when required.

Sweden reported an EU funded exchange programme with an Irish sailing club which provided Ice Optimist experience for 12 Irish teenagers in Fiskeboda in February 2004 and would provide Mirror dinghy experience in Sligo in June 2004 for Swedish teenagers.

Topic 9 IDNIYRA-Europe Insurance report

It was reported that there had been little insurance claim activity in the 2003/2004 season. Denmark reported one collision claim which was still being processed. The damage assessment varied between DK.20,000 and DK.12,000. It was agreed that in the interests of maintaining insurance cover for all sailors, damage assessment estimates must be realistic and should be carried out by a "Technical" sailor. Sweden reported difficulty in obtaining insurance cover for Ice Optimists used for training purposes. It was agreed that details of all European insurance claims should be reported to the IDNIYRA Board so that help could be provided in the event of a dispute.

ACTION: All Europe DN sailors

Topic 10 IDNIYRA-Europe NA contact report

The Commodore again welcomed John Harper, the NA Vice Commodore-designate and it was agreed that such personal contact greatly helped to clarify any misunderstandings that might arise between the NA and European DN organizations. The Minutes of the recent NA 2004 Annual Meeting had been received [*attached*]. A Technical Committee interpretation on the sail cloth issue was expected shortly and there could be a ballot proposal on the tiebreaker system. A draft proposal [*attached*] concerning the number of races in the Gold Cup was made by John Harper and Stan Macur (Ref Topic 4 c.) and it was unanimously agreed that it should be supported and placed on the IDNIYRA-Europe website in due course to provide early exposure and a reading opportunity for all European members. The intention was that if the NA Governing Committee were in agreement, they could start the procedure to effect the small change.

Topic 11 Year Book and Runner Tracks

The meeting once again expressed a strong desire for the Year Book and *Runner Tracks* to be put on the internet. Concern was expressed because some National Secretaries had not received them. It was agreed that the present arrangement for the European Board, the European members of the Technical Committee and all European National Secretaries to receive both publications funded by IDNIYRA-Europe should continue. Any additional copies of the Year Book for European members who are NOT IDNIYRA-NA members (US\$25 per year) could be bought at a cost of approximately US\$6. All National Secretaries must inform the European Vice Commodore by 1st August each year of the number of additional copies wanted.

Topic 12 Internet Communication – IDNIYRA-Europe

The Webmaster Dietmar Gottke, provided a comprehensive brief on use of the IDNIYRA-Europe website. There had been well over One Million hits since the start, from well over 40 countries. The most used sites were "background" and "forum". It was pointed out that the DN community could make much more use of the website e.g. many more ice reports and National regatta calendars, which could be in any language required providing the Webmaster has arranged for that language to be available. It was agreed that the Junior section should be re-named "Ice Sailing Junior Programme".

National Secretaries were encouraged to provide the Webmaster with their membership lists – unique access passwords would be provided. Swedish experience from two seasons' use of the Java-based Scoring Programme was reported as excellent. Webmaster undertook to enable downloading of the scoring programme from the website with a full explanation.

ACTION: Webmaster National Secretaries

Topic 13 IDNIYRA Constitution Report

It was reported that the "tidying up" of the IDNIYRA Constitution was completed in April 2004. This had produced an "easy to read" document which would be placed on the IDNIYRA-Europe website as a "draft document". It was also reported that Jane Pegel had pointed out that IDNIYRA has Articles of Incorporation filed in the US State of Michigan and that any re-writing of the Constitution could be contrary to Michigan Corporate Laws. It appeared that some of what was now in the Constitution might need to be moved elsewhere. It was reported that a more fundamental proposed restructuring of the IDNIYRA structure was under discussion within IDNIYRA-NA and might come to a ballot vote in due course.

ACTION: Secretary/Webmaster

Topic 14 Racing Rules

Discussion revealed that a number of Racing Rules were still being broken and some in full view of the Race Committee. In particular Running illegally, Starting early or some way in front of the Start line, and not having a Parking Brake. It was agreed that the responsibility for enforcing Racing Rules rested with all sailors (Protest or warn), the Race Committee and the sailing instructions. It was hoped that there would be an improvement in 2004/2005.

ACTION: All DN sailors, Race Committee, Host Nation (Sailing Instructions)

Topic 15 Anti Doping Policy

Following the briefing on anti-doping matters given at the Tallinn meeting the Secretary presented an Anti Doping Policy discussion paper [*attached*]. The meeting agreed that an Anti Doping Policy was needed in the interests of "Fair Sailing". Secretary undertook to continue to develop an IDNIYRA-Europe Anti Doping Policy with the intention of implementation for the 2004/2005 season. It was pointed out that the great majority of countries and sports world-wide have anti doping policies in force. Within IDNIYRA the only countries not at present signed up to the Copenhagen Declaration (Anti Doping) are Belarus and Lithuania. This would not affect their requirement to be subject to the IDNIYRA-Europe policy.

ACTION: Secretary

Topic 16 EC 2005 (Holland)

The Netherlands confirmed their offer to host the EC 2005 and the event would be held (12 – 19 February) with Registration on 12th and first Race on 13th. If in the Netherlands it would be in the Monnickendam area.

ACTION: Netherlands

Topic 17 DN Juniors and Ice Optimist EC 2005

Poland's offer to host this event was gratefully accepted and the planned dates are 4 – 6 March 2005. The entry fee was agreed at €20 per entrant with IDNIYRA-Europe providing an additional €20 per entrant.

ACTION: Poland, Treasurer

Topic 18 WC/NA 2005

John Harper provided the dates for the WC/NA event as 15 – 22 January 2005 with Registration on January 15th and first races on 16th. The primary site would be in Wisconsin.

ACTION: NA Secretary

Topic 19 Host Secretaries Meeting 2005

It was agreed to approach Latvia with a proposal to hold the 2005 National Secretaries meeting in Riga from 22 – 24 April 2005.

ACTION: Commodore

Topic 20 WC/EC 2006

It was agreed that Finland would be asked to host the WC/EC 2006. If not possible Sweden undertook to arrange WC/EC 2006.

ACTION: Sweden

[*Post Meeting Note: Finland has kindly agreed to host the WC/EC 2006*]

Topic 21 Winter Olympics report

The Secretary briefed some significant changes since the last report. A full summary would be provided with the meeting minutes [*attached*]. The effect of the changes was an amicable ending of the ISAF Affiliate Membership and a pause in the campaign until a way ahead became clearer. The "Audi project" [*separate report also attached*] was a potential key to further progress in terms of increased media interest.

Topic 22 NIA –question of European participation – nomination of candidates

Following discussion it was agreed that Christian Seegers should remain as a candidate for consideration by the NIA for election to their Board as a DN representative when a DN vacancy occurred. Secretary undertook to provide a list of the present NIA Board.

Jack Ripp representing North Western Ice Yachting Association

Bob Pegel representing the Renegade and Skeeter classes

Tom Nicholls “ the Skeeter Class and the Eastern Ice Yachting Association

Jane Pegel representing the DN Class

Paul Goodwin “ “

Skip Boston “ “

Jane Pegel serves as Secretary/Treasurer to the Board

In response to a suggestion from Germany to form a European Ice Boat Authority for the purposes of hearing Appeals following a Protest Committee decision, it was pointed out that this had been tried for some years and never used. In the IDNIYRA Europe Constitution approved at the Tallinn meeting 2003, EIA was deleted. It was considered that any such European matter could be dealt with by the European National Secretaries and the European Board.

Topic 23 Technical Committee report

It was agreed that reaction to technical questions had improved as had the associated communications and this was welcomed. An interpretation on the sail cloth issue was expected shortly. It was recommended, and unanimously supported, that all Technical Committee questions submitted and the decisions/interpretations resulting should be placed on the website and in *Runner Tracks*. This would increase DN class knowledge and interest in technical matters.

ACTION: Chairman & Members of Technical Committee

Topic 24 Election of IDNIYRA-Europe Officers

Commodore and Secretary issued a joint apology for not indicating in advance of the meeting which IDNIYRA-Europe officers were eligible for re-election. The Vice Commodore/Treasurer, Rob Schutte and the Top Sailor, Stan Macur were re-elected for a further 2 years. Secretary briefed that at the 2005 meeting the term of duty would expire for the Commodore, the Secretary, and Technical Committee member Dag Eriksson (on completion of Anders Cederblad's 6-year term).

ACTION: Secretary

Topic 25 Any Other Business

(a) DSQ Discard Bart Reedijk had questioned the possibility of bias within the Protest Committee when deciding whether a sailor should be allowed to discard a DSQ. The meeting considered that adequate anti-bias measures already existed in the Protest Committee selection process.

(b) Fishing huts, rotating lights and batteries sold to IDNIYRA Sweden

A condition of sale was the availability of the huts for EC and WC in Europe. It was confirmed that the equipment would be available for EC and WC in Europe if requested.

ACTION: Netherlands

The meeting closed at 1200 on 25th April and the Commodore thanked everyone for attending and contributing to such a constructive forum. Johan Tolsma was congratulated on the excellent meeting, accommodation, transport and social arrangements.