

IDNIYRA-Europe
International DN Ice Yacht Racing Association Europe
IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.V.
Minutes and Decisions of National Secretaries
Stockholm, Sweden, 17 to 19 April 2015

Topic 1 Ascertainment of a Quorum

It was confirmed that the invitation to the Annual meeting was issued in time and a quorum was present. Attendance list of the general meeting was collected by the Treasurer.

Present: IDNIYRA Europe Executive Board

Commodore	Joerg Bohn
Vice Commodore	Attila Pataki
Treasurer	Christian Seegers
Secretary	Chris Williams
Webmaster	Dietmar Gottke

National Secretaries

Austria	Roland Travnicek
Denmark	Daniel Hansen
Germany	Bernd Zeiger
Hungary	Attila Pataki
Netherlands	Hennie van den Brink
Poland	Maciej Brosz
United Kingdom	Chris Williams
United States	Deb Whitehorse

Proxy votes

Insurance Manager	represented by Dietmar Gottke
Junior Programme Manager	represented by Hans Adolfsson
Belarus	represented by Joerg Bohn
Czech Republic	represented by Roland Travnicek
Estonia	represented by Maciej Brosz
Finland	represented by Patrik Stenberg
Latvia	represented by Attila Pataki
Lithuania	represented by Christian Seegers
Norway	represented by Patrik Stenberg
Russia	represented by Joerg Bohn
Sweden	represented by Oscar Wersall
Switzerland	represented by Chris Williams

Apologies were received from: Insurance Manager, Junior Programme Manager, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Switzerland.

Topic 2 Opening remarks and Review of the 2014/2015 Season

The Commodore said: First of all I wish to thank our hosts for this year's Secretaries meeting, especially Tomas Lindgren, Patrik Stenberg and Oscar Wersall for the perfect organization! Thanks to all Nations participating and all sailors contributing their input towards the meeting in time and format.

The season 2014/2015 was another challenging one. First of all, running the European Championship at the beginning of March didn't work out for the second year running. It turned out that at the moment the decision had to be made, just one location remained. Finland had weather too warm for the snowice there was, and Sweden either no wind or no hotel capacity at another spot, because of a big car race. Poland and Lithuania were just a little too warm to be considered as primary sites. One week ahead and one week after the championship week there were excellent conditions in Sweden as well as in Finland again! One conclusion already now is to move the event well forward, due to the possible change in global weather.

Regarding the European Championship mistakes were made by me. I came to the conclusion that the Commodore should not have any personal influence on the official procedures in place with protests and appeals. Since Race 5 was not protested at all and nobody complained it should not have been taken out. Only after the outcome of a protest hearing did some people start complaining about Race 5. The result of a protest hearing cannot suddenly lead to a request to take a race out. If someone is not satisfied with a result of a protest hearing he or she can appeal to the EIA. My idea to accept the decisions made by the vote of just some National Secretaries present at a meeting called in the heat of the moment was the wrong one, and it damages trust in the PRC and/or the NIA rules already in place. I would like to apologise to all participants for this incorrect decision made under the pressure of the moment. The responsibility is mine

as long as I am in office. In the past weeks I came to the conclusion that my time as European Commodore is coming to an end.

At this point I think we have to look forward as to ways in which we may improve our existing structure and rebuild trust in our PRC. I am certain we'll be leaving here with new ideas to work on over the summer.

I would like to thank all Board members, all National Secretaries and all volunteer ice scouts for their great work for our class!

JoerG-737

Austria We had normal ice conditions only on small lakes in Carinthia and at Lake Lipno in CZ.

Due to snow covered ice and calm winds at these sites the possibility for regular races was reduced.

Lake Neusiedl had only for three days regular ice conditions. Because of these circumstances we were able to carry out only one regatta at Lake Lipno at the end of the season.

On the other hand the Austrian participants at the Europeans showed positive results.

We would like to stress the 6th place in the silver fleet from Phillip Hribar and the first place from Peter Ullmann in the bronze fleet.

Denmark No sailable ice in Denmark.

Estonia The season started for some sailors in December when several travelled to Latvia. The first regatta was in Riga on Lake Alukse. First official ranking regatta sailed on 10th January on Lake Vortsjajiv.

Snow intervened and an ice search found Topu Bay (20 km from Haapsalu) for a one day regatta with 5 Polish sailors. Next good sailing ice on bay between Muhu and Saaremaa ("Vaike Vain") – 4 ranking regattas sailed there before Europeans. Biggest event 3-day regatta Estonian Championships with 43 DNs with sailors from Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Poland and Hungary.

Finland The season started as usual in Week 46 with Johnny Kohler and All Saints Regatta. Three days of close sailing in good conditions with 29 sailors from 6 countries, some with own boats and others borrowed from Finnish friends. In 2015 Week 46 All Saints Regatta will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Overall 6 regattas were scheduled and only one cancelled due to heavy wind and snow. The season ended with the Sunny Ranking in Tampere at the end of March. A very welcome return after almost 20 years as a non-active DN area and now 2 new DN sailors actively taking part in national regattas. EC had an all-time low of 4 Finnish DNs, an issue the Finnish DN Association noted and will work to correct. The efforts to increase DN numbers continues and attendance at National regattas increased by 26%. Two "Try DN Sailing-test" days for invited summer sailors generated much interest (even from Australia and New Zealand!) Three summer sailors were invited and coached to take part in Finnish DN championships with borrowed equipment. This has been shown to be a good way of recruiting new DN sailors. We hope to have a Junior DN and Ice Optimist team at their World Championships in the near future.

Germany Very poor DN sailing seas due to no safe ice. Eight sailors trained in Sweden over New Year. Eight DNs sailed on thin (8 cm!) ice on Lake Altmuhlsee in late February. Three Germans in Worlds and 12 at the Europeans. German Fleet numbers remain constant.

Hungary In Hungary the 2014-15 season was a little bit longer than in the earlier years. We had Velence lake as the only spot for ice sailing. It was three weeks in January with sailable ice. In this period we had ice sailing friends from Holland, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and Poland visiting us and having a lot of fun. Unfortunately the Hungarian Championship could not be organized, because the night before the event we had heavy rain and notwithstanding the good ice we cancelled the event, because there was 5 or more cm water cover on the ice surface and therefore unsafe racing conditions.

In the middle of January we had participated in the event "Choose your winter sport" in Budapest on the artificial ice skate pool. It was a great success and hundreds of kids tried the DN and Ice Opi.

Unfortunately we had not enough room to show them real movement.

This year only one sailor (Peter Hamrak) participated in EC.

The Netherlands Very warm winter with no ice. Many of our DNs sailed in Europe and USA. The Board has been very busy with the organisation of the European Championships.

Poland The Polish season started in early December and ended one week before the Europeans in March. However the number of sailing days was limited by the weather and many sailors did not participate in competitions. There were three weekends when regattas took place and we had lots of guests from Germany, Netherlands, Hungary and Czech Republic. In International regattas Polish sailors took the highest positions. WC and EC were dominated by Poles: WC 1st Karol Jablonski, 2nd Michal Burczynski, 3rd Robert Graczyk. EC 1st Karol Jablonski, 2nd Michal Burczynski, 3rd Lukasz Zakazowski, a very good result. The complete Polish Fleet is now 174 and includes 78 Seniors, 21 Juniors, 8 Younger Juniors (younglings) and 14 Ice Optimists.

Sweden Season started on Daasen December 13/14 with 9 sailors to complete SM2014, won by Eddie Klemets S812 with Patrik Stenberg S726 second and Bengt Sjoberg S609 third. Vaiko Voorema training camp for 12 sailors on 8 and 9 January at Korsika on the Grand Lake. Very good advice and races on wet snow ice. Good theory briefing in the evening. First ranking regatta January 10/11 Stockholm Cup. 2nd and 3rd ranking regattas cancelled due to weather conditions.

SM 2015 at Hudiksvall Bay February 14 to 15 with 29 sailors and good conditions. Won by Tomas Lindgren S81, 2nd Frederik Lonegren S8 and 3rd Rickard Larssen S807. Saturday 14th 5 races on 2 km course. Sunday 15th several races in challenging conditions and uneven ice on 3 km course.

Stockholm Isjakatklub became club champions, winning team included Oscar Wersall, Frederik Lonegren and Rickard Larsson.

UK No sailable ice but K11 and K13 travelled and competed in Europe. K13 now in A Fleet.

North America

Western Minnesota iceboaters first to sail again (16th November). Wisconsin lakes also froze early, allowing over 6 weeks of excellent DN sailing. Western Challenge sailed in Madison with 80 DNs and Ice Optimists from NA, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Won by Ron Sherry US44.

DN Western Region Championship in January on Green Lake, Wisconsin won by Steve Orlebeke US4926.

Gold Cup sailed eastern end Lake Ontario, Kingston, Canada won by Karol Jablonski P36.

Northern Championships not completed due to snow.

Eastern Region and New England Championships in March, both won by James "T" Thieler US5224.

Central Region no regatta and will try again in December 2015.

Topic 3 Approval of the Minutes of National Secretaries Meeting 2014

These were AGREED and APPROVED.

Topic 4 Matters Arising from Topic 3 not covered by this Agenda

There were no matters.

Topic 5 Financial Report

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report for 2014/2015 and a comparison of costs 2006 to 2015 [**see attached**]. Daniel Hansen checked the figures, declared all correct and was warmly thanked.

The Financial Report showed a significant negative operation result. This was attributed to lower entry numbers (188 in 2014, 141 in 2015), unforeseen costs (moving and ice seeking €1804 in 2014, €3235 in 2015). It was agreed that entry numbers for EC and WC are a major factor in the annual cost of IDNIYRA Europe. It was also agreed that lower cost hotels should be sought for the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer was warmly thanked for his very clear presentation of all the financial information.

Topic 6 Letters to the Board

OE221 When the EC or WC is cancelled due to bad ice and there is no sailing, what happens to the entry fees paid? Answer – The costs are balanced against the income and the difference distributed to the registered entries. The IDNIYRA fee is not returned.

Topic 7 EC 2015 Report

Another difficult year for sailable ice and after much searching in many countries Lake Varsjov (approx. 55 km from Tartu) was selected.

The PRC failed to arrange for the Rule Test at the check-in and their performance over all was very disappointing e.g. poor ice checking with some undetected and unmarked cracks and holes, very poor Darling Marks leading to confusion on the race course, inadequate monitoring of races, and too few DNs in A Fleet. This all caused much dissatisfaction amongst many sailors and led to "National Secretaries" holding an "ad hoc" meeting and voting to discard A Fleet Race 5. This race was subsequently reinstated because only the Race Committee has the authority to discard or cancel a race. Safety overall was a key and vital issue and attention to it was somewhat below the standard required and expected. There was an overriding feeling that the PRC was pro-Polish.

It was felt that with the current global weather changes a major European Ice Sailing event should be held earlier in the season, e.g. late January.

Topic 8 WC/EC Junior DN and Ice Optimist 2015 Report

Organised by Swedish DN Fleet in cooperation with the JPM on Lake Rekyva in Siauliai, Lithuania. Moved from Sweden due to poor ice conditions. Lower cost for most participants.

71 participants from 7 countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland Russia, Sweden and USA. Seven races for each Fleet (DN and Ice Optimist) completed on 17th and 18th February with 16th as training day. Time constraints caused by move from Sweden did not allow EC to be organised or run.

Excellent help and cooperation from Irute Zickuvienne of the Rekyva Lakes School and Sailing club.

Topic 9 Lessons Learned from EC 2015 and Junior WC/EC 2015

EC 2015

- (a) There is an urgent need to review the structure, membership and Terms of Reference of the PRC and it must be International. Attila Pataki undertook to lead on this with Maciej Brosz. Interest in membership/help was shown by Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Netherlands and Poland.
- (b) The structure and role of the EIA requires review. (see Topic 14)
ACTION: Attila/Maciej
- (c) P36 proposals:
 - (i) Start position in first A Fleet race according to ranking This was unanimously rejected.
 - (ii) WC every year in Europe. Unanimously rejected.

- (iii) Redress. Secretary undertook to draft some words for *Year Book* (Europe section) and website. **ACTION: Secretary/Webmaster**

Junior DN & Ice Optimist WC/EC 20215

Some Ice Optimist sail numbers caused difficulty to the scorers by the use of e.g. POL, LAT and LTU with 4 digits. IO sail numbers should be the same format as for the DN and this should be stated in the NOR and the Sailing Instructions.

Topic 10 Junior Programme Report (incl P36 proposals)

The short ice season gave problems in organising many junior races in central and northern Europe.

Junior DN age limit. It was agreed to raise this from 22 to 23 years. This will be reflected in the *Year Book* and on the website. **ACTION: Secretary/Webmaster**

Good Sportsmanship Award 2015... Presented by Simon Cederholm (S897), the Swedish Junior Programme Manager, to Estonia.

There is growing interest in the Ice Optimist in Sweden with new sailors recruited from sailing clubs in Stockholm, Uppsala and Strangnas. New boats built in Uppsala and imported from U.S. (Ron Sherry). Total of 49 now registered. One-way finish course with 2 Darling marks at each rounding mark for safety – successfully introduced.

DN Junior and Ice Optimist Championships 2016

These will be organised by Estonia with the primary site at Parnu. Dates **15th to 19th February 2016** with 15th February as the training day and 19th as Reserve day.

P36 proposals:

(a) Top 5 ranked Juniors into A Fleet. Switzerland suggested top 3 Juniors into A Fleet with coaching. However this proposal was considered unsafe for both the inexperienced Juniors and the experienced ranked DN sailors. It also denied ranked DN sailors from their well-earned ranking opportunities. This proposal would require a Class Vote.

(b) No entry fee for Juniors. Not supported. The experience of many is that anything for “free” is taken for granted and of little value.

Topic 11 Technical Committee Report

Dag Erikssen reported:

The biggest discussion has been about rope halyards. This resulted in a proposal to allow them, which will go to vote later.

Questions concerning runner and sail specifications were answered by Jane Pegel who has put in a lot of work leading the Technical Committee discussions and formulating interpretations.

Simpler questions from Swedish sailors were answered directly.

Note *Rope halyards were rejected at the NA Annual Meeting so will not go to vote (Topic 13)*

Topic 12 IDNIYRA-Europe Insurance Report

Insurance Manager reported no special issues or claims in 2014/2015.

It was reported that Hennie van den Brink (H313) now has all the money from the insurance company resulting from his 2008 accident and claim. This news was greeted with warm applause by all present.

Following the 2014 suggestion that minimum insurance cover be increased from €500 000 to €1 million the Secretary undertook to email all National Secretaries to assess the impact of this increase.

ACTION: Secretary

Topic 13 IDNIYRA-Europe – NA Contact Report

Deb Whitehorse reported NIA more active with approval for use of alternative course using Darling marks for NA DN class in 2016. Dimensions of the safety zone are to be considered next. NA Annual Meeting held in Kingston (Ontario) and Minutes have been sent to all IDNIYRA-Europe Board, Secretaries and Technical Committee members. Some proposals for Technical and By Law will be mailed for vote in June. Deb was warmly thanked for her valuable and constructive contributions.

Topic 14 European Ice Boat Authority (EIA)

A lengthy discussion concluded and agreed that this essential Authority required a revised structure with membership that allows flexibility. Its use and procedure must be clear and understood when required. It is to be called **The European DN Ice Boat Authority (EDNIA)** and the agreed structure together with a letter to the Board which contains 12 points aimed at improving the Protest procedure are **attached**. The EDNIA structure will be included in the 2016 Year Book and on the IDNIYRA-Europe website. **Action: Webmaster/NA Exec Sec/Sec**

Topic 15 Discharge of the Board of Officers

It was agreed that the Board of Officers (Commodore, Vice Commodore, Insurance Manager, Treasurer, Junior Programme Manager, Web Master and Secretary) had discharged their duties according to the Constitution in a very satisfactory manner.

Topic 16 Election of IDNIYRA-Europe Officers (for 2 year period)

The following were elected for a 2-year period:

- (a) Junior Programme Manager Jerzy Sukow (P345) elected to replace Stan Macur who was warmly thanked for his many years in this key post.
- (b) Secretary Chris Williams
- (c) Web Master Dietmar Gottke

All these officers accepted their appointments.

Topic 17 Determination of Contributions to IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.V and WC/EC Entry Fee

It was agreed that the IDNIYRA-Europe Society fee should remain at €45 for all entries.

A proposal from Bernd Zeiger to have a graduated entry fee to encourage early entries was discussed and the following agreed:

Early entry: €135 for 14 days, then raise to €170

Late entry: €300.

Action: Treasurer

Topic 18 Budget 2015/2016

The Treasurer presented the Budget for 2015/2016 [**attached**] and was warmly thanked for his clear and concise presentation.

Topic 19 Various Proposals

- OE221: (a) Register with own sail number even if using a borrowed boat. It was acknowledged that this is the norm and any deviation causes confusion to scorers and subsequently ranking. It could also be an Insurance cover issue and should not be allowed by the PRC
- (b) There should be a minimum size of a regatta for ranking points. This was not agreed.

Topic 20 Year Book and Runner Tracks

Year Book – a print version continues to be available and will be mailed to the IDNIYRA-Europe Board and National Secretaries.

Runner Tracks – The online version continues and Deb was warmly thanked for its easy to read version.

Topic 21 Internet Communications

The Webmaster briefed:

- (a) The Facebook channel and the website have now both been working well for 3 years. The splitting of entertainment between Facebook (pictures, videos, chit-chat) and the website (official information) has proved successful and guarantees clear and wide circulation. All posts on the website are posted immediately and automatically to the Facebook channel as well, so that every sailor is kept fully informed. Not everyone knows this and some National Secretaries only post their information on Facebook, so it does not appear on the website. It is recommended that the first place to put their information is the website, then it is provided automatically to Facebook. I will send a reminder to all National Secretaries before the start of the new season. **Action: Webmaster**
- (b) The Junior section is now fully integrated into the website including insurance check and online registration.
- (c) The new IDNIYRA Safety Test and the easy and quick use of it were up and running on the website. To date about 2000 tests have been done and one can say that this is an excellent way to obtain more and better knowledge of the Right of Way rules.

Topic 22 WC/EC 2016

Host Nation Austria. **Saturday 23rd January to Saturday 30th January 2016**

Check-in: Saturday 23rd January 0800-1600 (CET)

Racing Days: Sunday 24th January to Saturday 30th January

Registration: Opening date 01 December 2015 – 1200 (CET)

Closing date 09 January 2016 – 2400 (CET)

Payment closes Wednesday 13th January 2016.

Topic 23 NA 2016

Central Region USA 20th to 27th February 2016.

Topic 24 Host National Secretaries Meeting 2016

Dates 22nd to 24th April 2016

Venue to be decided but must be economic.

Action: Commodore

Topic 25 EC 2017

To be decided at 2016 National Secretaries Meeting.

Topic 26 WC/EC 2018

Estonia offer to host the WC/EC 2018 was accepted with many thanks. This will be an important part of their celebration of 100 years of Ice Sailing in Estonia.

Topic 27 Other Business

It was agreed to dispense with the 50+ trophy and offer it to the Berlin Ice Boat Museum.

Action: Vice Commodore

The meeting closed at 1125 and the Commodore again thanked the Swedish organisers for their excellent arrangements, and all who attended for their valuable contributions.

Note:

See also the EDNIA notice to the IDNIYRA-Europe board below.

Notice to the Race committee and the IDNIYRA-Europe Board

Dear Friends,

we as EIA (Daan Schutte and Dietmar Gottke) saw that there were some incidents concerning the Protest Jury and Protest Hearing at the EC 2015 which should not happen like they had. This led to unclear problems in the front end of our cases. Fortunately we could solve these problems and came to rule compliant decisions.

Please take note of the following points to improve protest procedure:

1. Jury members and Chairman must be clearly published at the race board on ice and at the race office before the regatta starts. Protest forms and NIA rulebook should be at hand on ice. All this is a question of a good preparation.
2. Jury members should be on ice to have their own impressions what's going on and what ice and weather conditions there are.
3. Jury members must be from a different fleet than those involved.
4. RC shall score the Top Mark roundings by writing them down.
5. RC shall write down every rule infringement at the Top Mark noting sailnumber and lap.
6. Rule books and office supplies should be provided to the jury by the RC.
7. A quiet room that can be closed off for privacy is a prerequisite for a smooth protest procedure.
8. There should be no pressure on the protest committee for time.
9. A written decision should be on file with the results
10. The written protocol (incl. Facts found, Drawing and Decision) of the Protest Hearing signed by the judges shall be stored by the PRO and/or a member of the IDNIYRA-Europe Board. This prevents the loss of papers. The chairman of the protest hearing is responsible for this.
11. The course marks and signs shall clearly differ in color and shape.
12. If Sailing instructions are made by word of mouth before the race they should also be published at the score board on ice.

Daan Schutte

Dietmar Gottke