

IDNIYRA-Europe
International DN Ice Yacht Racing Association Europe
IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.V.
Minutes and Decisions of National Secretaries
Riga, Latvia, 22 - 24 April 2016

Present: IDNIYRA Europe Executive Board

Commodore	Joerg Bohn
Vice Commodore	Attila Pataki
Treasurer	Christian Seegers
Insurance Manager	Niklas Mueller Hartburg
Webmaster	Dietmar Gottke
Junior Programme Manager	Jerzy Sukow
Secretary	Chris Williams

National Secretaries

Germany	Bernd Zeiger
Hungary	Attila Pataki
Netherlands	Hennie van den Brink
Poland	Maciej Brosz
Sweden	Oscar Wersall
United Kingdom	Chris Williams
United States	Deb Whitehorse

Proxy votes: __

Austria	represented by Niklas Mueller Hartburg
Belarus	represented by Joerg Bohn
Czechia	represented by Niklas Mueller Hartburg
Denmark	represented by Oscar Wersall
Estonia	represented by Mikhel Kosk
Finland	represented by Oscar Wersall
Norway	represented by Chris Williams
Russia	represented by Joerg Bohn
Switzerland	represented by Chris Williams

Apologies were received from Austria, Belarus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Russia and Switzerland.

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.

Topic 2 Opening remarks and Review of the 2015/2016Season

The Commodore opened the Meeting with a welcome to those present and thanked the Latvian hosts for all arrangements made for the weekend.

The 2015/2016 season saw another major challenge from the weather and only enormous help from the scouts in many parts of Europe made the WC/EC possible. In the event only Sweden had sailable ice and sufficient accommodation for the 170 competitors.

Austria As the organising country we hoped to have a normal winter, but it was way too warm. We could sail in regions near Austria, and between Christmas and New Year we sailed on Haidersee in the South Tyrol. Some of us

participated at the Mitropa Trophy on Tisza Lake in Hungary. At the beginning of January we hoped that Neusiedlersee would get some ice for WC/EC 2016, but we did not get enough safe ice. Some sailors tried to sail but a safe regatta there was not possible. Even Lipno in CZ had no sailable ice.

Estonia The season started on the second weekend of January and 2 regattas were held on 2 weekends before the WC 2016. All regattas were sailed on small areas with not enough cold weather for bigger areas. In the Worlds in Sweden the best thing for our fleets was the position of Vaiko Voorema in the top 3. After WC 2016 we managed to sail 2 regattas on Lake Vorstjarv – the only ice in the Baltics. There we managed to organise Junior WC 2016 and for Estonians it was again new wish 1st place in Ice Optimist and 2nd place in DN. At the beginning of March the real cold arrived with 5 to 8 nights at -15 to -22C and after that we sailed on safe ice on lakes Saadjarv and Vortsjarv for 4 weekends. The last regatta was completed on 25.03.2016.

Germany The winter started in early January, first sailing was possible 9-10 January at Neuwarper Lake at the Polish border and at Saaler Bodden near Rostock. Both lakes were sailed from around 40 DNs together. A week later we invited to the Int. German Nationals, 7 nations competed – 60 sailors in one fleet. Very difficult weather with not enough wind on Saturday, one race was tried – but no lap time. Sunday snow showers with about 3-rm/sec. winds. 3 races were sailed, strong showing of the Polish Fleet. The Regatta was won by P31 Robert Graczyk before P55 Romek Zakrzewski and Hungarian M53 Peter Hamrak. 1st German was G107 Bernd Zeiger at 6th place before G679 Bjorn Martin Schneider 7th and G890 Holger Petzke 8th. After that the concentration went to WM and EM so no more sailing in Germany. The ice went away end January. 19 German sailors went to Sweden/Glan to compete WM and EM. Later 4 sailors travelled to the NA's, held in Madison, USA. In March the Swedish Nationals were sailed with 45 actives, 3 from Germany. The season ended in April at Lake Baikal, 4 Germans competed there.

Hungary In Hungary we had sailable ice on the Tisza Lake, where we sailed a few weekends in early January. The Mitropa Cup was sailed on the same location on 8-10 January. Despite the numerous pre-entry only a few sailors came to the event. Parallel events in Poland offered much competition that time. During the week of the WC/EC we had some ice on the Balaton and Velence Lake, thus few sailors not participating on WC/EC had some training there. The Hungarian Championship was planned to sail in early February, but unfortunately the weather turned warm and all the ice on Hungarian lakes melted.

Netherlands Another poor season with no ice. This is now 3 years and has reduced DN membership. There are 20 DN sailors who travel a lot.

North America The 2015-16 DN racing season in North America began as usual on the first weekend in December with the Western Challenge, an unsanctioned DN regatta organised by the Minnesota sailors. 65 skippers participated in the three-day regatta, including three who flew in from Europe.

The racing took place on Lake Christina near Fargo, North Dakota which has been the Western Challenge site many times in the past. The Minnesota sailors have had remarkable success in finding ice for this regatta in the 20 or so years since it began. The new National Iceboat Authority Inline Course was used for the first time.

One month later, 61 DN sailors returned to the state of Minnesota to compete in the 2016 Western Region Championship on Green Lake in Spicer. Fresh black ice, perfect winds, and excellent accommodations made for a successful regatta. Matt Struble US183 marked his return to DN racing after a couple years absence by placing first in the A fleet.

In January, a substantial contingent of North American sailors travelled to compete in the 2016 Gold Cup in Sweden including Eric Anderson US5193, Chris Berger US5166, Mike Bloom US5432, Mark Christensen US4824, Bob Cummins US3433, Steve Madden US4512, Ron Sherry US44, James "T" Thieler US5224, and Eben Whitcomb US4775. Ron Sherry US44 had the best North American result when he won the European Championship.

Lake Monona in Madison, Wisconsin was the site of the DN North Americans in February. 80 sailors competed on ice that had been resurfaced by rain and wind in the days before the event. A variety of wind conditions during the course of the week made for excellent competition. 6 European sailors attended the regatta and had some good results. Matt Struble US183 won 6 of the 10 A fleet races which clinched the regatta for him. A new format was used where racing began on Monday and ended on Friday which allowed weekend travel time for competitors.

The Inline Course was used at the Western Region Championship and the North American Championship. Race committee members and a majority of competitors reported no issues with using the Inline Course. Race committee members believe the Inline Course to be much safer than the previously used course.

Regions that had successful DN racing seasons included the Minnesota DN Ice Sailors, the Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club in Madison, Wisconsin, the New England Ice Yacht Association, and the Canadian region. It was a typical DN racing season in that there was opportunity to sail if one was willing to travel.

Poland The Polish season started in the very first days of January and ended in the beginning of February. There were four 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 medal positions: WC 1st Karol Jablonski, 2nd Michal Burczynski; EC 2nd Michal Burczynski, 4th Karol Jablonski, a very good result. Due to very short season and the uncertainty of weather many sailors didn't show up at regatta. That's why the convincing survey of the number of Polish Fleet sailors is not available. Especially the International Polish Championship was not sailed. At local competitions there were approximately 30-40 senior icesailors, 10-15 juniors, 5-7 DN younglings, 7-20 Ice Optimist.

Sweden This was one of the better seasons in recent years. It started at the very end of the year with great sailing conditions on lake Storsjön in Sandviken and some smaller lakes further north. A training clinic with C-6 Vaiko Vooremaa followed by two national ranking regattas (single day events) were arranged 7-10 of January in Västerås. 16 competitors and 12 races in challenging conditions; gusty cold breeze and moderate snowfall. Vooremaa won the first and S-8 Fredrik Lönegren won the second regatta.

Two weeks later it was time for the WC/EC 2016 which ended up on our home soil (ice?) on lake Glan in Norrköping. Great week with plenty of wind, black ice, racing and comradery as well as relatively good media exposure with several reports on both local and national level.

Only a week after the international championships we had planned to arrange the 2016 Swedish Championship but due to some bad weather with heavy snowfall across the country we were forced to postpone it to the back-up date mid-March.

Luckily the ices recovered quite quickly and we could have two single day regattas on Stora Värtan just north of Stockholm in the end of February. 25 sailors from Sweden, Finland, Czechia and the Netherlands competed in light conditions on slightly bumpy surface. First regatta was won by S-81 Tomas Lindgren and second regatta was won by CZ-92 Martin Vacula.

Next up was the postponed Swedish Championship which was held 12-13 of March on lake Mälaren in Västerås. 45 sailors with fantastic international attendance, 26 entries from Poland, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Conditions were tricky with a mix of crusty and soft ice surfaces and gusty winds. But the racing was very tight with first and second place sailors P-155 Lukasz Zakrezewski and Z-39 Jean Claude Vuithier finishing on the same points after 10 races. S-8 Fredrik Lönegren claimed the Swedish Champion title being 4th overall.

The season came to an end where it 3 months earlier had started on lake Storsjön in Sandviken during the Easter weekend.

United Kingdom No ice, no entries, but Protest Committee Chairman provided.

Topic 3 Approval of the Minutes of National Secretaries Meeting 2015

These were AGREED and APPROVED.

Topic 4 Matters Arising from Topic 3 not covered by this Agenda - The Dyneema halyard

Following considerable discussion and a vote to try the halyard in EC 2017 it was concluded that this was not simply a European issue but a Class Specification, requiring a class vote in accordance with the Specification Management System articles VII and VIII. For a class vote a proposal needed to be forwarded by 31st May, with a stipulation that if agreed, it should take effect on 1st January 2017. The Commodore undertook to request Peter Hamrak to draft the proposal.

ACTION: Commodore

Topic 5 Financial Report

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report for 2015/2016 and a comparison of costs, 2006 to 2016 [see attached]. Hennie van den Brink checked the figures, declared all correct and was warmly thanked. The report showed funds maintained at a satisfactory level with a positive operation result. Of note was the negative effect of the "early entry reduced fee", which will therefore not be used in 2017. Tanja Kapahnke accompanied the Treasurer to the meeting

and was thanked for her efficient and excellent support over many years. The Treasurer was thanked for the very clear presentation of all the financial information.

Topic 6 WC/EC 2016 Report

The Commodore expressed his thanks to the ice scouts in several countries (Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Sweden) who enabled the sailable ice to be found in Sweden at Norrköping 2 days before the start was scheduled. 170 sailors from 14 countries participated. Only one day was not sailable due to too strong wind.

An International Race Committee, led by Daan Schutte with the assistance of Hennie van den Brink, was used for the first time. [Daan's full report attached]. This revised PRC was judged to be a success with some lessons for the next major regattas. Daan and Hennie were warmly thanked for a successful week.

Topic 7 WC/EC, Junior DN and Ice Optimist 2016 report

15th to 19th February 2016. Host Nation Estonia. First major Junior event for new JPM Jerzy Sukow P345. [A full report is attached] JPM was congratulated on completing a successful regatta.

Topic 8 Letters to the Board

There were no letters to the Board.

Topic 9 Lessons Learned from WC/EC 2016 and Junior WC/EC 2016

Several Lessons Learned were identified in Daan Schutte's report [Attached]. In addition:

- a. Yacht positions on the start line. A significant number of sailors continued to attempt to start straight upwind. This should be a DSQ.
- b. For a major regatta (WC and EC in Europe) the following should be established at the Registration stage:
 1. Each participating nation to nominate one person to the Protest Committee.
Nominated persons to be briefed to communicate with Race Committee Chairman at end of sailing day to check whether they are required for the Protest Committee and if so, when and where.
 2. Notice boards both on and off the ice to contain Time and Place of Protest Committee Hearing each day and names of Protest Committee members.
 3. Responsibilities of the Protest Committee should be covered in NORs for major regattas.

ACTION: PRC and Host Nation

Topic 10 Junior Programme Report

- a. The Proposal from Mihkel Kosk to raise the DN Junior age limit to 24 years was agreed and approved.
ACTION: JPM
 - b. The JPM proposal to establish separate categories: Boys and Girls in the Ice Optimist class during the Ice Optimist World Championships and European Championships was welcomed and agreed.
ACTION:
- JPM**
- c. The JPM proposal to establish separate categories Men and Women in the DN class during the DN Junior Worlds and European Championships was welcomed and agreed.
ACTION:
- JPM**
- d. Following a proposal from the JPM it was agreed that in the JWC regatta the European Championship would replace the Euro-Cup but not start until 7 World Championship races were completed.

ACTION: JPM & Race Committee

The Ice Optimist Button The Secretary was aware that during the 2016 season some doubts had been expressed concerning the need to have the IODA button on the Ice Optimist sail. This is in fact an absolute requirement and an essential element in the legal agreement between IDNIYRA-Europe and the IODA. This agreement enables the use of the Optimist rig, the Optimist sail, and the right to use the name "Ice Optimist". IODA buttons can be purchased from

IODA at cost price, and have been obtained by Sweden in 2016. As is well known Optimist sails are usually supplied with buttons already attached

ACTION: JPM

Following recent contact with IODA (the Secretary General Fiona Kidd and Regional Vice President-Europe Carla Stanley) keen interest has been expressed in their attending an Ice Optimist event. The WC/EC Ice Optimist event in 2017 is suggested and Sec. IDNIYRA offered to assist in arrangements.

ACTION: Sec &

JPM

Topic 11 Technical Committee Report

European member Dag Eriksson had emailed a short report ahead of the meeting which indicated two questions which await answers:

- a. Identify the location of the front of the cockpit – is it the measurement at the deck or at the floor?
- b. Is it allowed to have heavy chock plates which can be removed to change the weight at the end of the runner plank?

Answers are awaited.

ACTION: Dag Eriksson

Concern was expressed by the meeting at the reduced feedback from the Technical Committee and it was hoped that this would increase in 2016/2017. The presence of a representative of that committee at the annual European National Secretaries Meeting would be very welcome and helpful.

ACTION: European Technical

Committee

Topic 12 IDNIYRA-Europe Insurance Report

Insurance Manager reported: Fortunately this year there were no severe damages so there were no big insurance claims. Almost all sailors sent correct confirmation of cover. There are sometimes problems caused by a change of insurance company.

Although most sailors have cover €1,500,000 or more, the required minimum remains at €500,000 because in some countries it is difficult to obtain TPL-Insurance cover for more than €500,000.

Starting with the 2016/2017 season the Insurance Check for the Juniors and Ice Optimist sailors will be combined with the online Entry procedure.

ACTION: JPM, Insurance Manager & Webmaster

Topic 13 IDNIYRA-Europe - NA Contact Report

Eric Anderson US5193 is running unopposed for North American Commodore and we fully expect him to be elected to office. Eric has raced many times in Europe and you will find him a good communicator Canadian Rear Commodore Warren Nethercote KC3786 is running unopposed for North American Vice Commodore. Warren has extensive experience with soft water sailing rules and race judging.

There has been discussion regarding simplifying the Specifications and Interpretations. It was agreed that the rules are too complicated and in some cases contradictory and a general revision with some IDNIYRA Europe participation would be welcomed.

DN Western Region Rear Commodore Mike Miller US5415 is in charge of 2017 Gold Cup which is slated for the Western Region (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Indiana.) He has already appointed Joe Norton and Dan Heany as the co-PROs. DN North America had an excellent team in place in Madison for the North American Championship and we expect most of the same personnel for the 2017 Gold Cup. At the North Americans, we had the luxury of 4 Race Committee ATVs, a dedicated weather mark observer, a married couple from Toledo who served as the official measurers, and plenty of others who helped to set lines, move marks, and change courses. DN Europe is very fortunate to have a Professional Race Committee and we continue to strive to achieve those same professional standards. The RC was able to run 10 races each for the A and B fleets over a two day period during the North American Championship.

The National Iceboat Authority (NIA) Board recently announced Jane Pegel's retirement from the board after over 50 years of service. Current members include Steve Schalk, Ron Sherry, Jay Yaeso, Tom Nichols, Dan Clapp, Paul Goodwin, and Tim McCormick. DN North American Vice Commodore Eric Anderson (and future Commodore) wrote a letter to the European Board and Secretaries which was

read at the 2016 European Secretaries' Meeting in support of European involvement with the NIA, be it having the NIA hear appeals from Europe or having European representation on the NIA.

The DN North American website is scheduled to be revamped over the summer by DN Executive Secretary Deb Whitehorse. Deb welcomes any suggestions or comments regarding the new website. There have been early stage discussions about eventually having one portal website page that will link to North America, Europe, and Asia.

Jane Pegel has retired from the IDNIYRA Technical Committee. Steve Orlebeke, an engineer with Harken, has accepted a position with the TC. Jane Pegel's role as chair of the TC has not been filled and that position needs to be determined by the members of the TC.
(Minutes of 2016 NA Annual Meeting are attached)

Topic 14 Discharge of the Board of Officers

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

Topic 15

a. Election of IDNIYRA-Europe Officers (for 2 year period)

Commodore	Attila Pataki
Vice Commodore	Maciej Brosz
Treasurer	Jerzy Henke
Insurance Manager	Niklas Mueller Hartburg

All elections were unanimous and all officers accepted their appointments.

Joerg Bohn was thanked warmly for his immense contribution to World and European ice sailing and the organisation of IDNIYRA-Europe throughout his time in office as Vice Commodore in 2010 and his 6 years as Commodore, 2011 to 2016.

Attila Pataki was thanked for his 6 years as Vice Commodore and welcomed as the new Commodore. Christian Seegers was warmly thanked for his exceptional 11 years as Treasurer, and the immaculate maintenance of the Accounts at a stable and healthy level.

The Secretary and Webmaster gave notice that they were unlikely to stand for further election when next due in 2017. Insurance Manager announced that this was his last year in the post and requested that someone else be found within the year so that he can retire in 2017.

b. Election of European Technical Committee member for 6 years/3 years

Tomek Zakrzewski was elected for a further 6 years. Peter Hamrak was elected for 3 years to complete the term of office of Andreas Bock who had notified his intention to stand down.

Both elections were unanimous.

Topic 16 Determination of Contributions to IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.v. and WC/EC Entry Fee

- It was agreed that the IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.v. fee should remain at €45 per registered starter and member nation.
- Entry fee for EC 2017 €175 per registered starter. A total of €220.
- Junior DN sailors €87.5 per registered starter (50% Senior DN entry fee and no IDNIYRA-Europe e.v. fee).

ACTION: Treasurer

Topic 17 Budget 2016/2017

The Budget for 2016/2017 [copy attached] was given by the Treasurer and Tanja Kapahnke who were warmly thanked for their clear presentation .

Topic 18 Various Proposals

IDNIYRA WC/EC for Women. The proposal (emailed ahead of the meeting) from Maciej Brosz to be more inclusive of women in ice sailing was discussed and welcomed and agreed by all present. The start in the 2017 season would be 3 trophies for women DN sailors (Gold, Silver and Bronze). Gold to be European Champion in 2017. Maciej's offer to design the trophies and order them was welcomed as a very good first step in encouraging women to sail and compete in DN regattas.

ACTION: **Maciej Brosz**

Topic 19 Year Book and Runner Tracks

One of the topics of a recent North American board conference call was discussion on how best allocate limited resources for class publications and the website. It was decided that the Yearbook would continue to be offered both in a printed format (for a nominal fee) and a modified online version because it is a reference for critical information such as specifications and class history. DN Europe has increased their contribution to the Yearbook in the form of a record of past European class officers and European championship regatta history.

The Executive Secretary has asked that each Secretary review their membership lists to make sure that they as accurate as possible. Membership lists will consist of names, sail numbers, and email addresses. Addresses and phone numbers will not be included for reasons of privacy and efficiency.

Runner Tracks will continue to be published online though it may decrease from 4 to 3 times yearly depending upon how much time the Executive Secretary will have to devote to the new website. Some North America board members suggested that Runner Tracks include articles of more general interest to attract more members. The Executive Secretary encouraged members from North America and Europe to submit articles for Runner Tracks.

While advertising helps to offset some of the costs of the Yearbook and Runner Tracks the North American board would like to explore sharing costs with the European board as both continents benefit from the publications.

Topic 20 Internet Communications

a. Summary of the season 2015/16 from Webmaster:

1. The good news is that there was no worrying news, because the website had no problems over the last season. Mainly a new spam protection procedure prevents the registration of not wanted users. It is always a task to have a good balance between easy access for users and at the same time a strong protection against hacks. I think this is done very well at our site. Just to give an example, from Oct. 2015 to now 530,559 significant spam attacks were fended and at the same time I could take away the annoying math question or capture out of the login. I'm happy with my new solution now.
2. Online registration went without problems. The fact of quite different keyboard layouts of that many European languages generates problems with displaying names and other text in lists. That cannot be solved because there is no standard combining all languages. The most including charset is "UTF-8" but also not really satisfying. It only would be solved if all sailors would use American keyboard layout, but that is illusion, it is an open site.
3. The decision of last year to have the registrations for Junior events also on our IDNIYRA-EU website was not implemented, due to very late reaction from the Juniors organisation side. I was not able to do this in between some days, because there were also other tasks for the seniors to do. I hope that we will setup the Juniors registration in preparation for the next season starting early in September.
4. The online rule test worked without technical problems and should be continued. The test was taken 3,215 times till now and 2,360 sailors passed. One can say this is a real success to help for a better rule knowledge of the sailors.
5. My duty as webmaster will come to an end after the next season and I will not stand for election again. I think that the time has come for a change because I'm in charge since 1999 when I first introduced the advantages of internet to the Board and the members of the Sec. Meeting in Kiel. The internet is a very quick developing medium and therefore I suggest to switch to a young successor. The last years I looked around for who could be a very good person for this position and I found that Oskar Wersäll from Sweden did a good job with the Swedish website using all new web technologies. I asked him and he probably is willing to become my successor. I offer all my knowledge to help the new webmaster getting in the job.

b. KWINDOO

Attila Pataki provided a brief on KWINDOO: This is a software solution to assist regatta organizing, managing and evaluation. It is much more than a simple tracker being a complete system of workflow management as well as a communication tool. At present it exists in beta version, but the developers are working hard to turn it into a useful tool for both organisers and competitors. Good partnership with the developers is ensuring that all DN-specific features can be incorporated in the final version.

We have already discussed the present workflow, tracking issues, communication before, in between, and after the races. It can be a good tool to involve sponsorship for the events through broadcasting/replay features and make our sport more popular, involving relatives, friends and other people interested in DN racing.

Topic 21 EC 2017

Host nation: Czechia [*Agreed with Commodore after the meeting*]

Saturday 19th February to Friday 24th February 2017

Online entry:: 03.01.2017 (1200 CET) – 22.01.2017 (2400 CET)

NOR published: 07.12.2016

Insurances (to be checked for a regular entry) must be sent latest 18.01.2017 (2400 CET)

Topic 22 WC/NA 2017

The Gold Cup and North American Championships will be held 22nd to 28th January 2017 hosted by the Western Region which includes Minnesota, Wisconsin, the upper peninsula of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa.

Topic 23 Host National Secretaries Meeting 2016

Poland's offer to host in Warsaw was accepted with many thanks.

21st to 23rd April 2017, venue to be confirmed.

ACTION: Poland, Secretary & Commodore

Topic 24 WC/ EC 2018

The offer by Estonia to host the WC/EC 2018 was accepted with many thanks. This would celebrate 100 years of Ice Sailing and 130 years of Estonia as a country.

Dates 5th to 11th March 2018 *to be confirmed*.

ACTION: Estonia

Topic 25 Other Business

a. **Ranking List** Sail Numbers vice Names

Insurance Manager requested that only sail numbers be used on the Ranking List. Use of sailor names has caused misspelling and confusion with this important list

ACTION: Insurance Manager & N. American Secretary

b. **Standardisation of Notice of Race** (NOR)

It was agreed that a standard NOR would be very helpful and Niklas Mueller-Hartburg undertook to provide the draft for further agreement. Publication on the website is preferred since this provides the flexibility for changes when necessary. The *Year Book* would not allow this flexibility. **ACTION: Insurance Manager**

The Commodore thanked all present for their valuable contributions to DN Sailing throughout the season and the Meeting closed at 11.30 .