

**2008 EUROPEAN ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING MINUTES**

Note – Where relevant, the minutes reflect the order of proceedings in the meeting, not the original agenda

Attendance List

Name	Abbreviation	Position	Country Representing
Jean-Luc Michon	JLM	European Region Chairman	
Ahmet Ediboglu	AE	European Region Vice Chairman	Turkey
Luc Dumonceau	LD	European Masters Co-ordinator	Belgium
Dr. Panayiotis Kontides	PK		Cyprus
Elena Papazoglou	EP		Cyprus
Koen Meeusen	KM		Belgium
Carl Lindfors	CL		Finland
Minna Aalto	MA		Finland
Ron Barak	RB		Israel
Karel van Asselt	KvA		Netherlands
Robert van Notten	RvN		Netherlands
Piotr Wetmanski	PW		Poland
Nicolas Ploquin	NP		France
Philip Lang	PLG		Austria
Fritz Hubauer	FH		Austria
Veronika Haid	VH		Austria
Dorothy Beadsworth	DB		UK
Ron Hutchieson	RH		Ireland
Bernd Buchert	BB		Germany
Peter Siggel	PS		Germany
Jon Anders Quamme	JAQ		Norway
Laszlo Matyas	LM		Hungary
Roberto Beltrame	RBel		Italy
Macrino Macri	MM		Italy
Ants Väinsalu	AV		Estonia
Eva Reintak	ER		Estonia
Zlatko Jakelic	ZJ		Croatia
Enrique Mas Guerro	EMG		Spain
Pilar Lopez	PL		Spain
Heini Wellmann	HW		Switzerland
Pascal Fischer	PF		Switzerland

Observers & Guests

Name	Abbreviation	Position
Zac Hillier	ZH	ILCA Operations Manager
Nico Honor	NH	Laser Performance European Manager
Ferdinand Ziegelmayer	FZ	Laser Germany Dealer

The meeting started at 12am and the 2008 EAGM was chaired by the ILCA European region Chairman Jean-Luc Michon.

1. Apologies for absence & count for Quorum

JLM Welcomed everyone
Apologies for absence from Martine Antoine (FRA) and Jeff Martin (ILCA)
Informed that Nico Honour from Laser Performance Europe will join the meeting

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1. Matters relating to the 2007 EAGM minutes

No comments

2.2. Approval of the 2007 EAGM minutes

The meeting received the 2007 EAGM Minutes, which had been revised to include an amendment requested by HW

RH Please add date to the amended version of minutes so it's clear which document is the amended version

Vote for approval of the amended minutes:

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

3. European Region Chairman's Report

JLM We have now moved on to a standard tool for European championships so each club knows what they have to do and when they have to do it by.

We are now working on Standard Sailing Instructions, which will be done in 2009.

The entry system online is working really well, although some adjustments still need to be made.

On the ILCA website there is European Region section which includes Europa Cup pages and the office has been asked to improve these pages and increase information about the Europa Cup and contact with the host clubs, so that sailors, families and friends who are not at the event know what is going on at the regatta. This is sometimes difficult, however, as we require the host clubs to write reports and put them online and the amount of information we receive varies from club to club.

The European By-Law has been modified to remove any contradictions and to make it easier to understand. There has been no change to the content of the By-Law.

Europe is the most active region in the World. The Europa Cup and Euro Masters Series have been well received and have a very good attendance and I would like to thank everybody for their efforts and help to organize these events.

The European championships have also been very successful. The European Standard Youth Championship was so successful that we had to impose an entry limit. The attendance at the championships is growing. This is not reflected in higher membership numbers but means that the current members are becoming more active.

RB Is there a specific person in the office dealing with the request to increase communication with regards to the Europa Cup?

ZH Yes, Anja Jones is solely responsible for the Europa Cup and Euro Masters series, including the website and the contact with the host.

HW The attendance of the Europa Cup has actually decreased by 300 sailors from 2007 to 2008.

JLM This is true; however, sailors are more active and are attending more regattas. We previously included the Laser 4.7 European championship in the Europa Cup scoring which is not the case anymore, so this affects the attendance statistics for the Europa Cup.

HW The website reporting did also get discussed at the World Council Meeting where the same objectives were mentioned and it was decided in principle that we will make a contract with an outside party. We have one proposal on the table; we are waiting for more proposals. The major objective is that 1 person will ensure reporting from 30 major Laser regattas. This person will not be on site, but will get summaries of regattas from the clubs. The organising clubs must provide the news to that person. I would suggest that it is in the Europa Cup requirements that the organising clubs must provide reports.

ZH This is already included in the requirements document for the European championships and the Europa Cup.

4. Regional Financial Report & Budget

4.1. Report of finalised accounts for 2007

The meeting received the report for finalised accounts for 2007

- JLM Page number 1 shows that the main income for the European Region comes from Laser Performance. We also receive an income from the Europa Cup and Euro Masters sailors, clubs must pay £2 per competitor and this money is used to pay for prizes (cubes and sails). The International office apportions some of its time to the European Region so effectively work for us and this is reflected in expenses and office hours.

4.2. Review of pre-audit accounts for 2008

The meeting received the review of pre-audit accounts for 2008

- ZH The 2008 figures at present are draft figures; these are not the audited accounts for 2007/2008. We have not yet received them from the auditors. As soon as we do have the audited accounts we will circulate them by email. We don't expect the figures to be drastically different from the draft figures.
- JLM When the class organizes a championship, a part of the entry fee goes to the host club and another part goes to ILCA, we pay for the jury travel and championship expenses and we do all the administration. There is an increase in the European office hours. Every time we ask the office to take on a new task the office hours increase and this is reflected in the budget. The office has improved over the last years. In addition, now that the standard tools have been implemented, which took a lot of time to complete, the office can concentrate on other areas. The plaques indicate how many boats have been sold in Europe. The more boats are sold in Europe, the more income we get.
- HW Why are Holt mentioned under Plaques?
- ZH Holt are a separate company subcontracted by Laser to put together the boat packs (rope packs, sail letters, boat parts etc). So Holt buys the plaques from ILCA and then supply them to Laser Performance.
- DB What percentage of the International Office is charged to the European region?
- ZH Staff in the office use time sheets. The percentage is calculated on the hours the staff spends on European region. This year it was about an eighth of the overall hours and we have apportioned expenses like heating, electricity etc on the same percentage.

4.3. Approval of financial budget for 2009 & review of forecast for 2010 & 2011

The meeting received the financial budget for 2009 & review of forecast for 2010 & 2011.

- HW The £16000 for subsidy contributions from Laser Performance is much higher than £10000 this year. Why is this?
- ZH Subsidy is on the plaque, not the sale of the actual boat. Holt purchases the plaques in bulk in advance of the boats being sold. They usually order 2000 to 3000 plaques in advance of when they need them, so there is quite an extensive lead time from when a plaque is ordered from the office to actual boats being sold. At the end of this financial year, Laser Performance did not put in an order for plaques which they have put in all the preceding years. Laser Performance pushed back the order with the office only receiving the order at the end of October, hence the increase in the budget for 2009. We do expect Laser Performance to fall back into the normal order pattern.
- HW Regarding the European Championships, the £8000 shown as income is the difference of the entry fees collected minus the administration fee, minus the jury, prizes, minus the payment to the host. Each host has difficulties to organize a championship with the money that they get.
- ZH The European Region needs to generate some income from the European championships in order to sustain itself.
- HW The question is, do we want to finance the European region through the entry fees from European championships? This year it was a substantial amount of £14.000, so this year exceeds the subsidy from Laser Performance.
- ZH This year there were no World Championships inside of Europe except the 4.7 Youth Championship. That meant we ran all of our normal European Championships, and that created a financial gain for the European region. When there are more World Championships in the European region the opposite happens and you can see that by looking at the forecast for 2011 when there will be 3 World Championships in Europe we are likely to make a loss that year so I suggest to look at these figures over a number of years.
- JLM Perhaps we can be more flexible when negotiating the entry fee with the clubs, depending on where the championship takes place. For example, this year's championship held in Douarnenez France, we made a profit of £5862 and the club made €20000 Euros profit. They also received subsidies from the city etc. But there are other clubs that need our help and there maybe we can consider making less profit. For example, the championship held in Belgium did not make any money, the organizers broke even.
- ZH For the Belgian championship we were flexible. Luc approached us to say that the usual £140 entry fee will not work in Belgium and result in a loss. So we increased the entry fee to £150 which helped the club break even.
- MM Some other classes sell their events. I can't understand why we can't sell our events - we should talk to the tourist offices and try to sell the events. A championship has a big impact on the local economy and this could be used to sell events.
- JLM Each organiser tries to find sponsors but it isn't that easy.
- LM There is no sponsorship income whatsoever. If we did have a sponsor, even if it is a modest one, the flow of money would be clear from the sponsorship to the organizing clubs.
- ZH It is important to recognize that we do receive a substantial amount of sponsorship from Laser Performance. It may be labelled in a different way but it is effectively sponsorship.
- LM You cannot call that sponsorship. That money is related to the production of boats, it's not a sponsorship deal.
- PW It is true that we are receiving money from Laser Performance. But it is very little money in terms of the marketing that we do for them. The reason we don't have a sponsor is because there is no-one looking for a sponsor. We are a big organisation and we should have marketing. We should look for internal or external companies to attempt marketing us. We should employ some-one to try and find us this.
- JLM Three years ago we spent 4 hours discussing the membership cards with a similar proposal from Italy and nothing has come of it.
- PW We need a professional who will take care of it. We need proper marketing. We should tender for a company not a person. We do not even have a film of what we are doing. NH produced a 5 minute film about sailing Vago, on this film I have sold 3 boats. Without a film or promotional material, I cannot go to a sponsor and properly show them what we as an organization are doing. In Poland, our boats are 2 to 3 times more expense than in Germany or Italy, compared to the average national income, so having

promotional material will help with sales and obtaining sponsors.

- DB I agree we should look for a marketing company not a person. In the UK we have tried to involve members with marketing knowledge but did not have any luck. We should sell the European championships – perhaps to a car manufacturer? Volvo seems to do a lot of sponsoring in the UK. We have the European championships – that is a lot to sell.
- PW We have the European Championships and the Europa Cup, that is a lot to sell. Even if we make a loss in the first year, in order to see some progress.
- RB I think we should give the task to somebody in the office so that you can connect it to membership. You can see that this year there were fewer members. A proposal should be put together by the office about how we want to proceed with marketing and how we want to publish ourselves.
- LM I think the office has not got enough hours to do this. We should look for specific offers from companies to receive bids from them to market the class. Then at the next meeting we can take a decision based on the offers on the table.
- JLM What do you want to do with this income? What is your goal?
- LM Firstly, we can subsidise the clubs which organise European events to increase the cup quality and variety. There are a lot of clubs that never apply to hold championships because they cannot afford it. Secondly, it would increase the penetration of the class, especially youth. There is a heavy competition between the different classes and if we are complacent and just believe we are the best, then we are doomed. With €50.000 to €100.000 Euros we can achieve a lot of things that would aid the exposure of the class.
- PW We can use the money to do training programs and pay for coaches.
- ZH It is important to develop a detailed proposal with which we can approach any potential sponsors. This proposal needs to include exactly what we want sponsorship for and what we will do with they money we get.
- LM A marketing company would work out this strategy for you.
- HW The Laser name is trademarked and you will need the acceptance of the builders before getting a sponsorship.
- MM I don't believe Laser Performance owns the association or the brand of the association. Laser Performance only owns the brand of the starburst, that's it. The Laser association in another entity. I was talking about selling the events, not the association.

5. Election of Officer

5.1. Proposals relating to the Election of Officers

5.1.1. Change points 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of the European By-Law

- Annual Election at EAGM
- Nominations 8 weeks before the EAGM
- Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Master Co-ordinator willing to stay on do not require nomination
- If no resignation and no nomination is received in time the current holders are elected tacitly
- No limitation in term

- HW The European By-Law was changed many years ago. I don't want to come back to the reason why it was changed but it suffices to say that the problem no longer exists but we still have these complicated rules with annual and by-annual elections. My proposal is a simplification of the rule that all executives are elected annually, that nominations are received 8 weeks before the EAGM. If the present executives are willing to re-stand (this needs to be announced before the 8 weeks before the EAGM), then they do not require nomination. If there is no nomination received, the current holders of the posts are re-elected tacitly and there is no limitation in term. At this moment JLM has already the term limitation by a triple and he has to ask for your approval each time and it is very complicated. So this is a simplification of the current process.
- LM How many times can an officer be re-elected?
- PW And you don't want a limitation in term?
- HW Practically there is no limitation in term.
- RH I feel obliged to say something. I was involved in voting in the current rules. As I understand it, according to the ILCA constitution we must elect the chairman and vice chairman each year. So, we cannot extend a post for life or for 3 years or whatever. Despite what HW tells us that it makes it simpler it doesn't make it that much simpler because an election will still have to be held annually whether we like it or not because the ILCA constitution cannot be changed.
- Secondly, HW declined to tell us the reason why the original problem doesn't exist anymore and has gone

away. I am sorry but I am yet to be convinced that it doesn't exist anymore. A lot of you around this table are relative newcomers to this meeting. I and a few others have been here for a long time and we have been subject to various chairmen who have been in office for a very long time and we all wished they had gone away, they had outstayed their welcome in many cases. The reason for introducing this relatively more complicated system was that to give officers two years time to show if they can do a good job. After the two years this committee can democratically decide if the officer has done a good job. If yes, fine, vote them in for another couple of years. If not, isn't it about time that they left? Now, it's all very well to say that there will be an election anyway and someone can stand against the chairman, but morally it is very difficult to stand against someone who is in an existing position. The whole point of this system was to make those in existing positions at least stand to one side, not stand down, and allow other names to be put forward. And that is a lot easier than the chairman saying, I am really the chairman but if someone wishes to oppose me they can do so I suppose. The system is not actually complicated.

- PW I would like to discuss 'no limitation in term'. We have to have an automatic limitation in term to protect ourselves democratically, e.g. you can only be re-elected two times in a row. This shouldn't be annually because in 1 year nobody will be able to achieve anything.
- JLM There is an election every year.
- RH That appears to be pretty much the same as the status quo except that it brings in the prospect of the second two-year term in office not being permitted. I would like to answer that, by virtue of the fact that I know you said in 1 year you have all the excuses like there wasn't enough time and I couldn't get my head around it so I cannot do very much until the second year. In many cases we are very happy with the chairman of this committee, but we do not want to have someone be situated there for life. If someone is doing a good job and is getting on with that, we can decide if their work was good. If it was not good then we can take action on the 2 year cycle. If it was good then we can decide that he should stay. I don't have anything against somebody staying in office for a number of years provided that we sit around the table each year and have an easy opportunity for one of our members to stand against a current position.
- DB I agree with Ron, I was there when the current policy was implemented. Also, the reason for the bi-annual election was to avoid the situation of having a new chairman and vice chairman in the same year and I don't think that would be good as there would be no continuity.
- HW As I read the by-law there is a fault in the set-up as there can be a chairman and a vice chairman being elected in the same year.
- ZH No, the even and uneven number of years always refers to the chairman, so the election of chairman and vice chairman can never overlap.
- RH Except, after the six year period. But the chances of that are slim.
- LM So, 6 years is a limitation in term?
- RH No, it's not. After 6 years, it becomes an annual election, there is no automatic 2-year renewal.
- HW The proposal I put forward states that the election is annually so that every year you have the opportunity to oppose somebody else if you want. The psychological problem you are dealing with is if the present chairman doesn't want to resign and you wanted him out is also not dealt with in the current set-up. And in certain cases didn't actually work. So my proposal is to have an annual election and if you are not happy with the chairman you can put forward a counter candidate. And if he does not resign and there isn't another candidate then he is elected tacitly. And then you haven't got the problem that the position might be void.
- PW I still don't agree that there should be no limitation in turn. I think a 4 year limitation sounds reasonable.
- HW And after 4 years, what is your idea then?
- PW After 4 years he has to resign, he cannot be re-elected again and we have to find another candidate.
- LM It's very difficult to stand against an existing chairman. If you lose you are in a difficult position, not just personally but because you represent a constituency. We must avoid this situation. Therefore a limitation in term is a reasonable solution. Even if someone does an outstanding job, others should be given a chance to bring in different ideas, perspectives etc.
- MM Many times we have made groups which study things and we never achieved anything. In these groups it is impossible to be useful. Last spring time I said to Heini that I wanted to help the association. How can I do this? He said he didn't know. So I phoned the office and spoke to Jeff and Zac and asked what can I do and the best solution was to be a vice chairman. But this year I cannot stand for nomination as vice chairman so I am forced to stand for nomination as chairman. There is something wrong with the present set-up, because people who want to help the association cannot be voted in. I don't want to push out Jean-Luc, but I want to get actively involved.
- HW Based on what I heard I would like to change my proposal so that the limitation in term is 4 years with 1 maximum renewal. So after 4 years, if they are re-elected, the maximum term will be 8 years.
- RH We cannot elect somebody for 4 years, we have to re-elect every year.
- HW I will reformulate the amendment to my proposal. Annual election, nomination 8 weeks, if the existing officers don't stand down they do not require nomination. If no other nominations or resignations are received, then existing officers will be re-elected tacitly. Then, there is a limitation in term of 4 years. This

means after 4 years all have to re-stand for an election. There is no tacit election after the 4 years. And this can be extended once.

- AUT For the second 4 years, it means he can be elected annually for the next 4 years?
- HW Yes.
- PK It is actually simpler than that. First we decide if we will have an annual election or not. Then we decide a limitation in term, 4 years, 8 years etc. There is no need for 4 years and then another 4 years.
- JLM The election has to be annual.
- JLM Okay, let's vote on HW's proposal point by point. The first point is that there is an annual election.
- ZH You cannot vote on that because you are bound by the ILCA constitution to have an annual election.
The meeting checks the existing by-law
- HW 7.4 of the constitution states that the chairman and vice chairman need to be elected annually.
- RH So we don't need to vote on this change.
- JLM Second point, nomination of officers 8 weeks before the EAGM. Is this a change from the European By-Law?
- DB No, exactly the same as in by-law
- JLM So we don't need to vote on this point. Point 3, chairman, vice chairman and masters co-ordinator willing to stay do not require nomination.
- RB This is related to 5.2 about Executive officers.
- ZH Perhaps this point could be clarified to say regional officers or co-ordinators instead of specific positions, so it doesn't matter how many positions there are.
- PW We cannot vote on this point on its own because it would mean that there isn't a limitation in term and that the officers could be re-elected forever.
- RH I think the only thing we really need to vote on is the limitation in term, all other aspects seem to be covered in the constitution or in the by-law.
- HW Not quite. In 1.2, I would like to eliminate the process about the even and uneven years from the by-law.
- DB So you want to change 1.2 of the by-law. 1.3. stands. And 1.4 you wanted to change to 'No limitation in term' – that was the original proposal. Should you be allowed to change your proposal at the meeting?
- HW If I can get a seconder then yes.
The meeting checks the by-law.
- HW 1.1 should stay as it is, although if the number of executives is increased this should be added. 1.2 I want to delete everything after the first sentence "An election should be held annually". 1.3 stays the same, although in my opinion the masters co-ordinator should also be in there. So change "chairman and vice chairman" to "elected officers". Let's deal with 1.4 separately.
- ZJ Seconds the changes to 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3
- RH The way this amended version of the by-law reads, the masters co-ordinator needs to be elected. No-one has been nominated for this position so as soon as we agree the change, we won't have a masters co-ordinator.
- LM Not really. If the Masters co-ordinator is not an elected officer then the election criteria does not apply to him.
- RH But then the masters co-ordinator could be in office for 20 years.
- LM Yes, but that's a different discussion.
- RH We should look at this proposal as an overall proposal, not as individual bits. We are essentially formulating a new proposal and we are not able to vote on new proposals. We have ruled on this before, the districts must be given enough time in advance of the meeting to evaluate new proposals.
- HW This is only a revised proposal, not a new one.
- EP According to by-law it is possible to change a proposal.
- RH If we do this, we need to discuss all points of the proposal before voting on the amendment.
- HW So, 1.4 needs to be changed. I am not sure which length of term is the best, 4, 6 or 8 years. I am happy to take advice from around the table and amend the proposal accordingly.
- PK 8 years is too much.
- ZH The current situation does not have a limitation in term, but there is a big but there. The difference is that after the 6th year the meeting has to decide to accept the current chairman's nomination to stand again. So effectively, a limitation in term can be applied at any time by the meeting by not accepting the current chairman's nomination to stand again.
- RB If there is a limitation in term we should also consider what if the chairman is wonderful, did a great job and the meeting want him to continue to stand?
- JLM I don't see where the problem is. You can elect a new chairman every year, so if you want to change chairmen elect someone new. Why do we need to change it?
- ZH I would suggest voting on a proposal which first details the present set up where officers can hold a position for 6 consecutive years and after that the meeting has to vote to accept the nomination for the existing officer every year. If this proposal is declined you can then move on to vote on a proposal with a definite limitation in term. This way, at least we can move forward with the meeting.

HW I agree. So for the first proposal I will leave 1.4 as it is stated in the by-law. If this first proposal gets rejected I would then suggest a fixed limitation in term of 8 years.
The meeting then voted on the amended proposal.
Vote of amended proposal:
For: 12
Against: 5
Abstain:

5.1.2. Increase the number of the European Executive Committee from 3 to 5

RBel RBel explains Italy's proposal - the class has changed a lot in 10 yrs. We are still strong but the number of members is decreasing - we need different initiatives. 3 executives were enough with one class, with three classes are 3 people enough? Is there a way to include more people.

LM Firstly, can I suggest an amendment to remove 1.2. Also, to be in line with the other classes, you should have one Olympic chairman and one Women's chairman

JLM I believe the number of sailors training to go to the Olympics is very small. We need to look after the seniors instead. I suggest we have senior men, senior women, youth and masters instead of Olympic. We should also amend the title from chairmen to co-ordinators.

PW We need to know what these new roles will entail, how much money will it cost, how much time will it take, what responsibilities will be involved.

MM I do not think this is aspirational – the main point is about our objectives as an association, can we go on and what our goals are. It is not so important how much money or time it will cost. We need to have a plan about our strategy for the future, with regards to communication, development etc. Instead, we spend all our time in this meeting on administrative things.

RB I think no one is against what MM suggests, but we have to think about it - volunteers need to know what they are going to be asked to do. We need people to drive the non-Olympic classes like the Masters and 4.7. The Olympic classes almost run by themselves and the numbers stay relatively the same. I do not think adding names to the executive committee is a good idea as this will stop things being done. Perhaps we should concentrate on the areas that we want to develop.

LM I agree it's about Senior and Junior sailing not about Olympics.

HW I agree we have to develop the class. We need to identify the opportunities to grow the class, there are some countries where the 4.7 has not taken off like in other countries and there we will need to act quickly so as not to lose out to the Byte. We should start with a youth position (whose main action would be the 4.7). There is also an issue in the senior standard where we have less participation because the average sailors are never winning compared to the full time sailors.

PW I support the 4.7 activity as this will include the seniors.

JLM I suggest that this point will be deferred until tomorrow. This way, Macrino can revise his proposal and take into account the comments from the meeting, and also it gives people time to think about whether they would like to be involved and then we can hold elections tomorrow morning.

5.2. Election of the European Region Chairman

RB We should defer the election until after the voting on MM's proposal Sunday morning.
Vote for deferring election until Sunday:
For:16
Against:2
Abstain: 1

The meeting returned to 5.1.2 Sunday morning

MM Explained his amended proposal to have 1 chairman and 4 vice chairman. The tasks assigned to these roles could either be based on classes or on specific functions such as fund raising, communication, events co-ordination, relationship with ISAF, World Council etc.

HW With regards to the functional development, at the moment, the office deals with all the co-ordination of the events, regatta planning etc. Are you planning to take this away from the office?

- MM Not at all. The purpose of this proposal is to have a better vision, to be better connected. If we want to take advantage of the market situation to protect us for the future then we need to have a system and we need people to do fundraising, get sponsorship etc. I don't want to replace the office, instead I want people to help the office, the office cannot do everything.
- PW We talked yesterday about goals such as marketing, pushing 4.7, pushing female sailing. If there are people who know how to do this and are interested in the positions, why don't we elect people for the roles and then see what they can do for the association.
- PW I second the proposal from ITALY
- JLM Do you want to have 4 vice chairmen or co-ordinators?
- MM By calling some-one vice chairman it makes it easy for them to talk to the federations etc.
- DB Why can they not be co-ordinators? Having several vice presidents in the Region is quite complicated.
- KM Is there any difference between vice chairmen and co-ordinators?
- ZJ Why not have 4 co-ordinators and 1 of them is vice chairmen?
- LM If you are going to another organisation and you are a coordinator it is difficult to get anywhere and make an impact – if you are a chairman then it is far easier to get a response.
- PW I would not interfere with the current set-up. Adding people will only create more administration work. We need to move forward with new ideas, for example with regards to marketing. This should be completely separate from the office because the office has not got the time for things like this. If the proposal concerns people which will be elected from outside the office then I will support it, otherwise not.
- RB I think we are confusing two things. We talked yesterday about how we need to promote Laser 4.7 and Laser Radial. We also said that the Masters co-ordinator is working well. We are not talking about money. Why for example were there no German sailors at the Polish Europa Cup, when it is a neighbouring country? We need somebody to push and motivate people to attend events. We need people dedicated to a particular class. With regards to fundraising, that's a big professional job which should be done by a company outside the class and we will need to pay for that.
- HW I agree with RB, for the 4.7 youth there is work that needs to be done - I believe anyone in these roles should be part of the executive committee so that they are included in all communication. Secondly, we have the position of the vice chairman – what is his role exactly? If we have clear goals like marketing, fund raising and communication, then, if everyone agrees, this role should be assigned to the vice chairman. ISAF recently created a marketing executive position and looking at the website the results are very good.
- JLM I agree that we need more people in the executive committee. It is important to include people so we have a progression, so that people can be trained towards the vice chairman and chairman role. Also, looking at the budget, there is only so much we can ask the office to do. This year again we increased the workload and so the cost increases. We can only use the money we have in the bank. If we could increase funds that would be good. I also think we should have at least one woman in the committee. We have many women sailors and we should send this message to the class. Finally, if we elect people, they have to be able to do the job. They cannot rely on the office; the office merely administers the class.
- PW Can I assume that we are we looking for marketing executives and coordinators? If ISAF have created a marketing role, then maybe we should create one too.
- LM The problems we have are fund raising, communications, marketing and market penetration in the youth and female sector. We should increase the executives by 2 people and assign duties to the existing vice chairman.
- ZH The existing vice chairman position should be referred to as first vice chairman to make it clear that he/she will represent the European region at the World Council.

Vote on increasing the number of the European Executive Committee from 3 to 5

Proposal seconded by: Austria

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

The meeting then voted on the name of the newly created position.

Co-ordinator: 11

Vice Chairman: 8

- HW I am unclear what the role of the Women's coordinator will be, especially in relation to the 4.7 co-ordinator and 4.7 Youth girl sailing.
- PL Maybe we should leave it to the candidates to develop the role and not define or restrict it now.
The meeting decided to elect the chairman and vice chairman before electing the new co-ordinators.
- MM I am withdrawing as candidate for the chairman position. My aim was not to be number 1 but to help the association. So instead I will stand for the position of 4.7 coordinator.
JLM was re-elected as chairman of the European Region.
AE stood unopposed so was tacitly re-elected as vice chairman of the European Region.

The meeting then returned to 5.2 Election of European Chairman and vice chairman

The meeting then returned to the election of the European Laser 4.7 & Youth co-ordinator and Women's co-ordinator

- PL, DB and EP prepared to stand for the position of Women's co-ordinator.
- HW I would appreciate if the candidates could introduce themselves and tell us what they will do.
- PL I work for the Spanish district; I deal with the communication with ILCA and technical things. I don't know what work would be involved in this position but I am in contact with the sailors and talk to them a lot.
- EP I have been the technical advisor of the Cyprus Yachting Association for 3 years. I studied economics in Germany. We are a small association so I do almost everything there. We organise a lot of events and my aim is to make sailing a top sport in Cyprus and tell people what sailing is about because I think it's the most fascinating sport in the world. I think I can help develop the sport. Being a woman and a sailor, I think I can help.
- DB I have been involved with Laser for over twenty years. I have represented the UK at the EAGM for about 12 years. I was on the working party with Heini when we decided that the European Meeting and Region needed improving. I run the office in the UK, I set up all our 9 events, I attend them all and I meet all the sailors. So I am in contact with the sailors and female sailors often email me to let me know what's going on, so I feel I can represent the women's side. I have also been appointed to the Council of the Royal Yachting Association so am now also member of the National Authority in the UK.
- JLM We are voting for only 1 person, if she gets over 50% she gets elected, if not, we exclude the candidate with the lowest score and vote again.
In the first round of elections no candidate achieved a majority. PL achieved the lowest number of votes and was excluded and the meeting voted again. EP was elected Women's coordinator for the European Region.
The meeting then voted to elect the Youth and 4.7 co-ordinator. RB, MM and ZJ prepared to stand for election.
- RB I started as a sailor about 30 years ago. I then became a coach, and moved into race management and judging. I have been very active in the class as international measurer and coach.
- MM You all know me fairly well, I have been coming to the EAGM for a long time. We have had a lot of success with developing the Laser 4.7 class in Italy and I can bring my experience and expertise to the European Region.
- ZJ I am a volunteer in the class and have been working for the class for 17/18 years and have been the district officer since 2001. I am the class secretary in Croatia; I'm also a national judge and race officer.
In the first round of elections RB and ZJ both received 6 votes, while MM received 7. The meeting then voted to decide who to exclude between RB and ZJ. ZJ received the majority votes, so the meeting proceeded to vote between ZJ and MM. ZJ was elected as the Laser 4.7 and Youth co-ordinator.

6. Report of mid year World Council Meeting

- HW One thing that is not covered in the report but might be quite interesting to you is the issue about complaints procedure with builders. There is a persistent unhappiness from sailors that the builders do not treat quality complaints the same way and with an even hand, it depends a lot on the importer or

the dealer who is the first contact. Some sailors were unhappy with the response from their dealer but have no way to get around the dealer. We decided that there will be a complaints form for sailors to fill in which will be sent to the Technical Officer and he will take it up with the builder. The main role of the technical officer is to inspect the builders' factories in order to make sure that builders stick to the Laser Construction Manual so that all Lasers are the same.

- NH Sailors should first go through the normal complaints procedure with the dealer.
- ZH The technical officer will only deal with cases where a sailor who has a warranty-type issue has taken it to the dealer and has not had what he considers a satisfactory resolution, has then subsequently taken it to the manufacturer and still has not had a satisfactory resolution. In this case the technical officer would step in. Sailors must provide clear evidence, photographs as well as written correspondence with the dealer and manufacturer before the class will take it up. It is a last option for the sailor to try and get some further resolution; it is not intended to replace the existing complaints procedure.
- RB Could we publish the percentage of people who are getting resolution after going through this procedure? This will stop rumours and provide sailors with a clear picture. We can request this information from the builders.
- PW For spares or the mast it is quite easy to find a compromise with the sailors. But when it comes to the hull, the situation becomes complicated. You can ask the sailors to send a picture of the hull to the manufacturer, but you need a very good camera to show damages on the hull, often you cannot see the damage on a photo. So, if the sailor thinks he is in the right, the next step would be to send the boat itself to the manufacturer which costs several hundred pounds. So it's important to find a compromise. In general I think the rumours about the quality of the boats is much worse than the quality itself.
- NH I don't think we track stats on the number of returns.
- HW We also decided that Jeff Martin should develop a job description for the district committees which we will then approve at the World Council. Obviously there are the constitution and by-laws but they are very difficult to read. And I found out that at the European level there isn't a clear understanding of what our job is. The document will set out what is mandatory and needs to be done and what is recommended. The deadline for this is the end of January and will then be approved by the World Council. It will then be sent to the districts so they can review if they are set up to do the kind of things that are set out in the document.
- HW We had a long discussion on the Masters side about whether great grand masters can sail either in the Standard or the Radial rig, or if they have to sail in the Radial rig. There has been no change to the current rules.
- HW We also discussed problems at regional championships in Europe and Latin America. A South American championship was held without a measurement and sailors used replica sails. A proposal was passed detailing that at least 18 months in advance of a regional or continental championship and before the dates, venues and Notice of Race of such championships are published, the venue and date shall be submitted to the World Council for approval. By approving the venue and date the World Council checks that the championship does not violate any bylaws or impedes the quality or fairness of the competition. The ILCA SI's are submitted to ILCA for approval and the measurement needs to be done.
- HW The 2011 and 2012 championships were discussed as well as the function LaserWorld, the handbook and the website. The publication of the LaserWorld on the website was approved and followed through. It was decided to rebuild the website and combine it with the Events website and to improve regatta reporting from major Laser regattas on the website. There was a further discussion about advertising on the website. This idea was not rejected, but will not be executed, meaning that we believe that our non-advertising policy is good for the moment but that we might come back to this idea.
- HW The next item we approved was about Safety Guidance for Laser Class events. There are currently no safety guidelines provided by the class for championships outside of the ILCA championships. The Executive Secretary was charged with developing a best practice guidance. Once approved, the guidelines will be published on the ILCA website.
- HW We decided to extend the Measurer's By-Law, particularly that at regional and national championships measurers must compile a report and send it to the chief measurer. Each measurer should be certified. We will publish a registry for each district which details all the certified and uncertified measurers and create a measurer's forum.
- HW We also had a big decision about the Youth Olympics and ISAF's decision to go with the Byte instead of Laser. This is very disappointing. At the national level, the federations now support the Byte instead of Laser 4.7 because they want to send their sailors to the Olympics, so this is not very good for the

Laser 4.7.

7. Report of October Technical & Measurement Committee Meeting

The meeting received the Report of October Technical & Measurement Meeting

8. Report of November ISAF Meeting

Deferred point - to be done electronically

9. Review of Restructuring the European By-Law

9.1. Proposals relating to the European By-Law

9.1.1. To allow if required a nominated custodian to act as European Chairman for a fixed period (suggested 8 weeks) whilst a European Chairman be elected.

No comments

Proposed by: RH

Seconded by: LM

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9.1.2. Point 3.1 if no quorum is present then minutes and the respective votes should be circulated by email rather than postal ballot.

No comments

Proposed by: JLM

Seconded by: ZJ

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9.1.3. Section 4 Annual Meeting Notices, point 4.2. "The proposals shall contain: The submission, Current Position (if any) and Reason for Change" this will give a better structure to any proposals and aid everyone in preparation before a meeting

No comments

Proposed by: RH

Seconded by: AE

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

9.1.4. To remove or clarify the reference to point 3.7 from point 5.1 of the European By-Law. The meaning of this reference is not clear - are guests not allowed to attend or do they not require the chairman's permission to speak?

No comments

Proposed by: RH

Seconded by: HW

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10. Proposals from the European Executive

10.1. To change the European Laser 4.7 Championship titles from under 15 to under 16

No comments

Proposed by: JLM

Seconded by: PW

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10.1.1. To change the Europa Cup Laser 4.7 from under 15 to under 16 to follow in line with the European Championship

No comments

Proposed by: JLM

Seconded by: PW

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

10.2. Whenever the World Laser Standard Youth Championship is held in Europe, there should not be a separate European Laser Standard Youth Championship

No comments

Proposed by: JLM

Seconded by: AE

For: 16

Against: 1

Abstain: 2

10.2.1. The host of the 2010 European Laser Standard Youth Championship (Poland) should be given the choice of if they still wish to run the championship.

PW We have decided to run the championship.

Proposed by: JLM

Seconded by: RH

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11. Proposals from European Districts

11.1. The European Masters Championship should be held in age category fleets. In the case of grouping together of some fleets, the results shall be extracted for each category from the overall results

No comments

Proposed by: LD

Seconded by: RH

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11.2. At the European Masters Series Regattas and at the European Masters Championship, women should be classified in age categories and grouped together with the Radial Men which shall be sailed in age category fleets. The final results for the different age and gender categories shall be extracted from the overall results

No comments

Proposed by: LD

Seconded by: PW

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

11.3. To introduce an under 19 and under 21 category for the Olympic class Laser Radial women to fall in line the Olympic class Laser Standard Men

LM Which events should this be applied to?

JLM European Championships and the Europa Cup

ZH To clarify, we are adding two new prizes to the championship. We are not adding a new championship.

MA This will duplicate the radial youth champion for under 19.

JLM We should have Under 21 only in women's championship. BB's idea is to give the girls something to aspire to, a reason to compete.

ZJ We should have the same as for the Laser Standard.

JLM This was discussed last year and dismissed.

Last year's minutes were checked. A similar proposal was made from Netherlands and Germany. The

proposal had not been dismissed but referred to this year's EAGM.

HW Last year we discussed the possibility of increasing the youth age limit from 19 to 21 and no decision was made. BB proposes a separate Under 21 prize in the Senior Women's championship. They are two different things.

The meeting voted on last year's proposal:

Proposal NED & GER: Women's Laser Radial should be in line with the present Men's Laser Standard championship with a Youth Championship with an upper age limit of 21.

For: 3

Against: 13

Abstain: 3

JLM BB, are you happy to change your proposal to introduce only an Under 21 category for the Olympic Class Laser Radial women?

BB Yes.

Proposed by: BB

Seconded by: LM

For: 16

Against: 0

Abstain: 3

11.4. Change of deadline for ranking sailors at European Championships

LM Explains his proposal

DB Seconds proposal

RH We have got around this by asking the people who have applied and asked them to pay us for the place.

LM I do not have the legal position to collect the money from the sailors.

PW For the Europeans we are telling sailors if you do not pay we will take your sailing licence away.

RB In our district, we get our funding from the federation; this doesn't happen until next year. At the moment we cannot make any commitments about how many places we can take until our budget is confirmed.

LM 90% of European districts will have to declare a late ranking date. Any regulation where 90% of the cases are an exception is a joke and needs to be changed. We will receive government funding but not until April. As district we cannot take this risk to pay for places.

RH We have for all events on the ILCA site a list of the people who have applied to go the event. For more than 20 years anyone who wanted to go to an international event from Ireland had to notify me by Easter.

DB You are putting a lot of financial strain on the class associations when our financial situation is not as good as the Region's. Why can't you ask sailors for the credit card details or for a deposit directly?

LM I don't see the reason for paying for places 6 months in advance. If we reserve places and they are not taken by our sailors we will fulfil our financial obligation to ILCA. But I am not prepared to do this 6 months in advance. It cannot happen because of the limited cash flow of the associations.

DB It takes a huge amount of time to contact all the sailors to ask for money upfront and some of the applications aren't serious.

MM We don't have the parent's confirmation for sailor's application so we do not know if they are serious applications.

ZH When we developed the championship system, one thing we always bear in mind is that it applies to all districts, if useful, we can develop a tool on the admin site that will allow you to select a group of or all sailors on the list, hit a button and it will send the same email to the sailors you selected. This way you won't have to send a 100 letters and you can create and pass on a message in your own language to the sailors.

DB That would be very helpful.

JLM I have another question about the system. If I have 5 places, I have 10 applications and I rank them 1 to 10. The first three sailors enter, 4 and 5 decline. The problem is that 6 and 7 do not get the places.

ZH If sailors 4 and 5 decline the places then place offers will be passed on to sailors 6 and 7, the places stay within the district. However, if the sailors do not act on the place offers and let them expire, the district will lose those places. So, if the sailor makes a positive action by declining the place, the district keeps the place. But if the sailor does not act and lets the place offer time out, then the district loses the

place. Without this process, smaller districts will not get any places.

- LM The districts should at least be warned that their place will be lost and given the opportunity to decline the place offer.
- ZH They do. 3 days before the place offer expires, a reminder email is sent to the sailor with a copy to the district officer warning them that the place offer is about to expire.
- JLM If the sailor does not decline the place, are district officers allowed to decline a place offer on the sailor's behalf?
- LM The district should be given 5 days warning.
- ZH Okay, we will change it to 5 days.
- Vote on Change of deadline for ranking sailors at European Championships:
For: 15
Against: 1
Abstain:3

11.5. To request that the European region make a submission to the World Council that the Laser Masters World Championship should be run as two events, one for Laser Standard competitors and a second for Laser Radial Competitors.

- DB Explained her proposal.
- HW The first reason that allocations for the World Masters were introduced was safety because some sailors who attended the championships were not able to sail well enough. The second reason was to stop local swamping of the event. In Terrigal we worked on a first come first served basis and of 375 entries, 230 were Australians, so that there were not many places left for sailors from other countries.
- ZH The allocation system has been put in place to protect your sailors. If we had left it on a first come, first served basis, there would have been 150 entries from North America in 2 days. Also, the entry limit has not decreased; it is as high as ever.
- Proposed by DB
Seconded by PW
For: 2
Against: 9
Abstain: 6
- The meeting was adjourned until 08:00 Sunday.

- NH On behalf of Laser Performance, I wanted to thank everybody for doing such a good job with for the class. I hope you enjoyed yesterday's meal and I wish you a good sailing year.
- JLM All the district officers would like to thank Laser Performance for the very nice meal and their support.

11.6. Reduction of the ILCA membership fees

- DB Explained her proposal
Cyprus seconded proposal.
For: 3
Against: 6
Abstain: 8

11.7. Delete from the prizes in the Europa Cup Series 2009, for the Laser 4.7 rig the Overall prize category

- LM Explained his proposal.
- ZH Last year, it was decided that women should be able to sail against the Laser 4.7 boys and that's why we had the overall prize. If there are only 1 or 2 women at the championship, they need something to compete against. Competing against the Under 18 boys will give them someone to compete against. If there is only a Women's prize, then it might be only 2 women competing against each other.
- JLM Until last year, there was no overall prize because we included the results from the European 4.7 championship in the Youth Grand Prix and so the ranking of boys and girls were separate. This year we took out the European championship. We did a survey and a high percentage of women sailors said they want to compete against the boys in the Europa Cup. That's why there is an overall prize.
- JLM I think there should be more promotion that women are able to compete in the Laser 4.7 class on the

website and in the Notice of Race.

There was no seconder for the proposal.

12. European Championships

12.1. Report on 2009 European Championships

No comments

12.2. Report on 2010 European Championships

No comments

12.3. 2011 European Championships

HW Zac asked me to inform you what the decisions for the World Championships in 2011 were. The World Council decided on preferred regions. 2011 Masters will be in North America. This is the same for the 4.7 championship. The Standard Men and Radial Women will be in Perth at the ISAF worlds. The Laser Standard Junior, the Laser Radial Men and the Radial Youth will be in Europe. As per the constitution, when a World Championship is held in Europe it is also the European championship. So, any bids for the European championships may be potential bids for the World Championships at the World level, the venues have not yet been selected.

ZH The proposal could be that the European Region suggests to the World Council that the best bid to host the championship in the European Region is the one selected here. So if you attain the Youth European Championship for 2011, the European region suggests to the World Council to upgrade the championship to a World Championship and would then become World Laser Standard Junior and Laser Radial Youth Championship.

HW I would like to point out that the venues presented here may not be selected as world championship venues. For example, there is a big difference between hosting the European Masters and the World Masters with regards to entry numbers. Also, at World level, there is a fixed procedure for selecting championship venues. The events committee discusses the venue, a site visit is made etc and then a recommendation is made to the World Council.

ZH Just to be clear, the world championships only affect the Laser Standard Junior and Radial Youth, not the Masters or 4.7.

DB If we decide on a venue at the EAGM and then the World Council decides to hold the World Championship at a different venue, then our venue will not host the championship. Is that correct?

HW Yes.

LM With this new information, maybe hosts would like the opportunity to change their bids.

JLM Would any hosts like to change their bids?

None of the districts wanted to change their bids.

12.3.1. Confirmation of the 2011 European Senior Championships being awarded to Finland as part of an Olympic Classes Championship.

12.3.2. Review bids and award 2011 European Youth Championship

JLM Will it be a problem if we attach the bid for the Radial Men's Championship to the Laser Radial Youth and Standard Junior and extend it to two weeks? Firstly we would need to approve this, then we need the approval from the clubs that they are happy to include the Radial Men's into their bid and then we can vote. I think this would be a better solution because it would provide more visibility for the Radial Men's championship.

PW My concern about this approach is that by increasing the numbers of sailors at a venue, we are decreasing the number of venues who can accommodate big numbers so that we will end up with two or three venues all in Western Europe.

LM To verify, the European Youth Championship, if the World Council decides to go with a different venue, then the venue we decide on here will not get to run the European championship

ZH Potentially. There is a consistent policy in place which says that whenever there is a world championship held in Europe there shall be no separate European championship. However, this has been overturned in the past and there is no reason why it couldn't be overturned again.

JLM I am just wondering about the Radial Men's championship. It is included in the Olympic event in Finland.

Laser Radial Men is not Olympic and may be overlooked there.

- HW On the World level you will be able to make a bid to host the World Laser Radial Men's championship. So it may well be that the Worlds are awarded to a different venue. So we need to speak with the Finnish host about this.
- ZH I have already spoken with the host and they are happy to either run or not run the Laser Radial Men's championship.
- JLM Shouldn't we have asked for bids for Laser Radial Men's championship to be held somewhere other than Helsinki, maybe together with the youth or the week after?
- HW ZH and I had a look at this scenario. The expected entry numbers would be 120 for the Junior Standard, 280 to 300 for the Radial Youth and 100 for the Radial Men, so a total of 500 sailors which means two course areas with 4 starts each. For the worlds when expected entry numbers are even higher, this means the championships would need to run over two weeks. Or you run it on two sites, 1 for the Radial Youth and 1 for the Standard Juniors and Radial Men, again with 2 course areas. This would allow us to accommodate all the sailors and not have too few allocations for each country which has been a criticism.
- JLM Let's now vote to add the European Laser Radial Men's championship to the Laser Radial Youth and Standard Junior Championship.
- ZH But the Laser Radial Men's Championship has already been awarded to Finland. It is one thing to say that if the Laser Radial Men Worlds will be held in a different venue then Finland will not host it. But taking it away from Finland is a very different decision.
- HW I believe that the decision about these championships should be delayed so we can see first what happens with the Worlds. The decisions about the World Championships in 2011 will be made at the World Council Meeting in Halifax in September. So the countries which presented bids today can also represent bids for the World Championship.
- JLM I invite all the bidders here to make a bid for the World Championships if they comply with the requirements.
- ZH The World documents are an extension from the European bid documents, but more detailed information is required on financing, sponsorship etc. So you have already done most of the work.
- MM Would it be possible to overlap some events to give countries room to run their national events?
- ZH 2009 has been one of the most difficult challenges in terms of scheduling. The championships have been arranged in the only way they will fit in with the other major championships in Europe. It has been an exceptionally challenging year but hopefully things will get easier over the next year, especially as we move from Standard/Radial grouping to Senior/Youth grouping which simplifies our scheduling in July and August.
- The meeting voted to delay the decision about the European Laser Standard Junior and Radial Youth Championship until the EAGM in 2009.
 Seconded by Austria
 For: 18
 Against: 0
 Abstain: 1

12.3.3. Review bids and award 2011 European Laser 4.7 Youth Championship

Three bids were received from Italy, Netherlands and Poland.

- EP Cyprus would like to bid for the championship as well.
- MM Presented the bid for Sardinia, Italy.
- HW How well protected is the launching/landing area in southerly winds?
- MM It is totally protected.
- KvA Presented the bid for Workum, Netherlands.
- HW How well protected is the launching/landing area in westerly winds?
- KvA There is a channel with a slip way.
- JLM You can always land on the beach.
- HW When there is heavy westerly wind, it is technically quite difficult, especially for young 4.7 sailors, to land because at the end the water is so shallow.

- KvA There are hardly any ways at the end.
- PW Presented the bid for Puck or Gdynia, Poland.
- HW So you are proposing Puck as venue?
- PW Yes, but because the championship is so far away, in case anything goes wrong we can fall back on Gdynia.
- PK Presented the bid for Limassol, Cyprus.
- LM As far as I can remember you organised containers to transport boats to Cyprus. Would you organise something similar?
- PK Yes, the only restriction would be to have the Lasers to two or three different locations throughout Europe and then to stack the Lasers on the trolleys
- NP How much would it cost for sailors to attend the championship?
- EP For the RSX 2007, we had Cyprus Air as sponsors so that sailors were able to get a discount on flights. As for hotels, there are a lot of possibilities and include all classes. For the boats, it is difficult to say what the price for transporting the boat will be in 3 years time. But we are approaching the carrier company to ask them to part sponsor the container so that the cost will be lower.
- PK You can either bring your own boat on a trailer or use the container.
- The meeting voted to decide the host of the 2011 European Laser 4.7 Youth Championship.
Workum, Netherlands was selected as host of the 2011 European Laser 4.7 Youth Championship.

12.3.4. Review bids and award 2011 European Masters Championship

- JLM We have 3 bids for the Masters Championship.
- MM Presented the bid for Sardinia, Italy.
- BB Presented the bid for Hamburg, Germany.
- JLM Presented the bid for Douarnenez, France.
- HW What about the ramps for the boats?
- JLM This year we had a lot of boats, around 400, which was not that easy, but they did their best. For the Masters it will not be an issue.
- HW What about the mobile homes? That's quite important for the Masters.
- JLM There is a big parking lot about 20m away from the venue. There is also a camp site within 1 km of the venue which has electricity.
- HW Will the mobile home parking be free?
- JLM Yes, in September there will be a lot of space.
- In the first round of voting, none of the venues received a majority vote. Germany with the lowest votes was removed and the meeting voted again.
France: 9
Italy: 8
Douarnenez France was awarded the 2011 European Laser Masters Championship.

13. Europa Cup & Laser Youth Grand Prix

- JLM As per our discussion, the Laser 4.7 Youth Championship has been excluded so this is reflected number of sailors.
- HW The numbers for Andora concern me a little bit. The target is to have over 50% non-nationals, so the Europa Cup is not just a national regatta upgraded to a Europa Cup regatta. In comparison to 2003, half the non-nationals are not attending anymore. There were some comments about the Italian Europa Cup last year.
- ZH We have moved forward since last year. I have been in discussion with Macrino about course limitations. There is a new venue planned for the 2009 Europa Cup venue.
- PW The numbers for figures are not correct for Poland.

13.1. Analysis of Entries

13.2. Feedback from the ILCA representatives

- HW It is very difficult to give any feedback or have a discussion here because the organizers of the events are here. I think the office should handle and follow up any issues identified by the ILCA rep.
- HW For the regatta in Warnemünde, the overall score is very low, but looking the comments about the event, it says that the event was okay.
- ZH I think the problem is that the scoring on numbers is a very subjective thing. Also, the office does act on any issues arising from the report.

The meeting received the Laser Europa Cup Calendar.

- HW There is a huge increase in the number of Europa Cups. There are two new venues.
- ZH There was some discussion over the last two years to try and set up a three series of Europa Cups in Austria, Hungary and Poland, similar to the three series at the beginning of the year in Hyères, Andora and Lugano. These have been very successful and everyone has benefited from this. So we have tried to deliver something similar to the sailors at the end of the year. It does mean adding some additional Europa Cups but hopefully it is at the right time of the year, not in July or August.
- JLM It also gives a balance so that both sides of Europe have a three series event.

13.3. 2009 Europa Cup Calendar

13.4. Review of 2010 Europa Cup bids and preliminary 2010 Europa Cup Calendar

- JLM The Europa Cup calendar is only a provisional calendar; we are still in discussion with hosts at the moment.

14. European Masters Series (EMS)

14.1. Report on 2008 EMS

- LD There will be two new countries next year, Poland and Norway.
- PW At the moment we only have 3 masters sailors, so we would like to invite Masters sailors from other countries to promote Masters sailing in Poland.

14.2. 2009 EMS Calendar

15. Report of 2008 District Report Questionnaire

- JLM If you go on the French Laser website and look at the ranking, we have 1300 people ranked. But there is a number of people which appear in the ranking that have not paid their membership fees. They go to regattas, but because membership is not enforced by the French federation they are not a member. So actually we only have 662 members. I think this situation is the same in many countries where sailors are attending events but they are not members and only when they go to big events membership is checked. This means that the actual number of Laser sailors is much bigger than just our paid membership base.
- DB At major regattas we do check membership, but at the club racing level, although we ask clubs to check membership, they are not going to turn a sailor away just because they are not members.
- JLM I think it's also to do with the economic situation. People are starting to try and save money and belong in the Laser class is not essential for sailors. So maybe we need to think about how we can either enforce membership or how we can attract sailors to the class.
- AE Can we ask districts to also report the actual number of Laser sailors, not just the paid up members? This would be useful information for the purpose of promotion and marketing. It would show us the potential.

16. Date & Venue of the next European Annual General Meeting (EAGM)

16.1. Review of bids and selection of the venue for the next EAGM

Bids were received from Cyprus, Austria and Andorra.

Vote on venue of EAGM 2009. The meeting decided to hold the EAGM 2009 in Linz, Austria.

16.2. Suggested date for the next EAGM 21 – 22 November 2009

The meeting agreed to hold the EAGM on 28th and 29th November 2009.

17. Any Other Business

17.1. Rule 18 of Racing Rules of Sailing (submitted by Italy)

- JLM The new rule is for 3 boat lengths but this can be modified by the Sailing Instructions.
- HW On the world level I have proposed that for the Laser we go up to 4 boat lengths. It has not been decided yet, we are still working on the Standard Sailing Instructions.
- JLM On the European level, perhaps we can have a discussion between the European executives and ask the European districts for their opinion, and then make a proposal to the World Council?
- RH Why aren't we just following the recommendations from the World Council? We should keep the European and World Championships the same.
- RB It is worth keeping in mind that for the Olympics, the 3 boat lengths advised in the RRS will be applied. We need to establish some kind of consistency with the professional sailors.
- ZH The Olympics is just for a minority of sailors. However, for all grade 1 events, world cup events and the majority of all other events that include Laser will go by the RRS. That's not to say that we can't be different, but it is a consideration.
- JLM I propose that the districts test the new rules by the end of March. You will receive a form which you have to fill in and decide if you want 2, 3 or 4 boat lengths.
- Seconded by: AE
For: 16
Against: 0
Abstain: 3

17.2. Choice of hotel venue at EAGM (submitted by Poland)

- PW Could we please take a vote on what type of hotel the meetings should be held in? Recently, the hotels are very expensive and I would like to know if the majority of the districts are fine with this.
- ZH We should add the note 'where possible' to any future recommendations.
- PW I think this meeting is very expensive, but I do not know if the majority of district officers think the same.
- JLM I don't think we need to vote on this. The host for next year gets the message and will do its best.
- ZH Could you suggest an approximate price for the nightly rate per room, so that the office has something to work with?
- PL I think Piotr's suggestion of under €100 EUR is fine.
- RB Maybe we do not need to stay in the City Centre because there they prices will always be inflated.

17.3. Rule 42 of RRS (submitted by Netherlands)

- RvN Explained NED's proposal to disregard Rule 42 in races above 12 knots and to allow certain sail and body movements, controlled by the race officer.
- MA I agree with this proposal but the limit should be even lower, maybe 10 or 11 knots.
- AV We support this proposal.
- RB I think this discussion was started in Puck about 10 years ago and the sailors said we want Rule 42 to be maintained because breaking a rule is cheating. It's not about breaking the rule but how we control it. In the 470, beyond 8 knots it's a rock and roll, it's not sailing. In the Laser we maintain the rule so that everyone can sail the same, so it's up to a sailor's ability, not his/her strength. I think this an important issue, we need to establish a policy and we should discuss the issue in more detail and prepare for it.
- JLM I have asked Jeff Martin to prepare a paper on this. It is also not just about the Olympic sailors, but all sailors, the women, masters, 4.7 etc. We need to establish equal rules for all.
- ZH We discussed yesterday the drop of the number of sailors in the Senior Standards and we attributed this to a lack of a challenge or the lack of ability to get to the front of the fleet and if we accept a proposal like this we will further accentuate that. This is actually about all our sailors. We are not only representing the few professionals, but the majority who are club sailors and who are not able to pump all the way

downwind in 12 knots.

RvN It's a sport, it's a competition.

ZH Sailing is, and in the UK certainly, often described as a game of chess on the water. There is more to it than just physical ability.

AE What the sailors are complaining about are unfair flags. We have a lack of quality IJs - we should focus more on the quality of the IJs in the races.

JLM At each European Championship we try to provide the best jury possible.

ZJ It has improved in the last few years and it keeps improving. Laser is one design more than a Finn or 470, it should show the technical skill of sailing rather than the equipment.

MA I don't think sailing fast using your body is cheating. If it can't be tracked then it is un-fair.

DB Because we did not have any notice of this proposal, we have not had the chance to discuss this with our sailors.

The meeting decided not to vote on the proposal and invited NED to submit the proposal again to the EAGM 2009.

17.4. Youth Training Camps and measurement seminars

EP Last year we discussed a youth training camp before big Youth championships, nothing has been done we should follow this up for this year, and also the measurement seminar.

JLM We could organise a measurement seminar in February, perhaps in Istanbul again? It was a good venue, not too expensive.

RH I would prefer a venue in central Europe where everybody can get to easily.

JLM We will send a circular shortly to ask who would like to host the measurement seminar.

HW An International circular will be sent out to clarify the issue of nationality at our championships.