

European annual General Meeting 2010

27 & 28 November 2010
Milan, Italy

Attendance List		
Name	Position	Country Representing
Calle Lindfors	European Region Chairman	Finland
Luc Dumonceau	European Masters Coordinator	Belgium
Elena Papazoglou	European Women's Coordinator	Cyprus
Zlatko Jakelic	European 4.7 & Youth Coordinator	Croatia
Koen Meeusen		Belgium
Yiannos Photiou		Cyprus
Karel Van Asselt		Netherlands
Robert Van Notten		Netherlands
Ron Barak		Israel
Pilar Lopez Fernandez		Spain
Enrique Mas Guerrero		Spain
Ron Hutchieson		Ireland
Jorgen Bue		Norway
Piotr Wetmanski		Poland
Pascal Fischer		Switzerland
Heini Wellmann		Switzerland
Edhem Dirvana		Turkey
Jaun Wickl		Austria
Christian Schmid		Austria
Jean-Luc Michon		France
Gerard de Roffignac		France
Anders Kuikka		Sweden
Anders Landenstad		Sweden
Macrino Macri		Italy
Donatella Macri		Italy
Bernd Buchert		Germany
Observers & Guests		
Jeff Martin	ILCA Executive Secretary	ILCA
Zac Hillier	ILCA Operations Manager	ILCA

1. Apologies for absence & count for Quorum

CL called the meeting to order at 12:00

A count for the quorum was made and 19 votes were represented.

Apologies for absence were received from Czech Republic & Hungary.

There was a discussion about the European by-law allowing written votes with a suggestion that this should be reviewed by proposal in future years.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The 2009 EAGM minutes were approved and circulated in EC405 on the 3rd March 2010

3. Executive Committee Report

The Chairman presented the Executive Committee written reports to the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

4.1 Election of the Chairman

The nominees for the Chairman, Calle Lindfors [FIN] and Macrino Macri [ITA] left the meeting so the voting process could be discussed and a 5 minute presentation from each candidate could be made to the meeting.

RH proposed and HW seconded a proposal for the ballot for the Chairman to be a secret ballot, the proposal was approved, 15 for and 3 against and 1 abstention.

RH proposed and PW seconded a proposal that the result of the election should not disclose the number of votes only who is the winner. The proposal was approved, 17 for and 2 against.

RH proposed and HW seconded a proposal that JCM should chair the meeting for the duration of the Chairman's election and if the vote is a tie then the "status quo" should be maintained with no change to the present Chairman. The proposal was approved, 14 for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

Calle Lindfors was re-elected as the Chairman of the European Region.

4.2 Election of the Vice Chairman

Laszlo Matyas was re-elected as the Vice Chairman for Europe.

4.3 Election of the European Masters Coordinator

Luc Dumonceau was re-elected as the European Masters Coordinator.

4.4 & 4.5 were postponed until to be the final point discussed on Saturday

5. Financial Report & Budget

5.1 & 5.2 Report on financial accounts

CL presented the audited accounts to the meeting.

JLM noted that the contribution from Laser Performance has increased, it is important for the Districts and sailors in each country to recognize and support their local dealer and builder. Each boat bought from the local dealer credits money to your District account. When I go around to regattas I see a lot of boats from Australia, I know these boats can be bought because of the Olympic charter but I don't think it is very fair because you cannot be in-charge of a District and not support the builder. In France we receive quite a lot of money from the builder but we are really careful to make sure the sailors are aware and buy their boats and spares from the local dealer – we should all do that.

5.3 Financial budget 2011 and forecast for 2012

ZH presented the budget and forecast.

RH proposed and EP seconded that the financial accounts, budget 2011 and forecast 2012 be accepted. The proposal was approved unanimously.

6. Proposals from the European Office

HW proposed and RH seconded that because of the changes in the ILCA office 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3 should be deferred until the meeting in 2012. The proposal was approved, 16 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

7. Proposals from the European Districts

7.1, 7.2, 7.3 & 7.4 European By-law changes proposals from IRL

All points were dealt with as one item as was felt the meeting had all had the chance to review the proposals before the meeting and the proposals were bringing the by-law up to date with the current practice.

RH introduced the proposed changes to the meeting.

The meeting discussed if it would be better to record the numbers for, against and abstaining on all votes except when it is an election either for a member of the Executive or a championship.

It was agreed by the meeting to defer the proposed change on by-law 3.10 until Sunday morning so it can be re-worded inline with the meetings preference.

RH proposed the changes to the by-law points 1.5, 1.6 and 3.6.2, HW seconded the proposals. The proposals were approved, 18 for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

7.5 Proposed changes to the by-law from FRA

7.5.1 To introduce a quantitative representation for voting based on the number of members.

JLM introduced the proposal and asked if the meeting was happy with the present system.

RH If this proposal was accepted then there is very little point in many of us presently around this table coming to this meeting.

DB the UK does have a large membership but has very little say in this meeting, most of the items we bring to this meeting are voted down and a lot of other classes do have voting on a proportional representation system. But there are only a few Districts with a large association, but we do provide most of the finance. From the figures on the membership report there are a lot of class associations who have the same membership numbers every year. The UK runs a proper active association with events, we pay £8,000 a year in membership fees and will pay more now but we have no representation at all. It should be asked why some Districts have such large membership numbers. I believe this is because of the work we do in the UK.

JLM proposed the meeting should decide if there should be a change to the voting method, seconded by DB. The proposal was not approved by the meeting, for 3, against 15 and 1 abstentions.

7.5.2 To limit the length of the service as the Chairman to a non-renewable 4 year period.

RH The ILCA Constitution requires us to have the officers elected every year.

HW limiting the period to 4 years is limiting the volunteers too much. One of the biggest assets the Laser Class has is Jeff Martin and he is an asset because he has been with the class for over 30 years so has tremendous experience, which in an organization like this is very important. We should not limit to 4 years if some-one is very good at the job and willing to continue.

JLM modified the proposal to only limit the term of the Chairman from 6 years to a non-renewable 4 years and ZJ seconded, the proposal was not approved by the meeting, for 4, against 10 and 5 abstentions.

7.5.3 Withdrawn because it was discussed earlier.

7.5.4 Deferred to the discussion about development at the end of the day.

7.6.1 Proposed change to the European Laser Radial Youth Championship to under 21

KV introduced the proposal. Most other Olympic classes have their youth regattas up to under 21 and we know that Laser sailing for the girls in the youth championship is very hard because of body weight. We think the difference between youth and the seniors for the girls is very big.

JLM Speaking to the sailors they tell me that the girls like to compete with the boys at the championships and both boys and girls like that the Laser Radial Youth Championships are inline with the ISAF Youth Championships. We have also seen that some girls that come from the youth championships they have gone on to do well at the Olympics.

MA This year in Estonia at the European Seniors Championship, following the decision at the EAGM last year, they had a trophy and medal for the Women's under 21 champion and runner up, which everyone liked very much. If we made this change we would end up with two under 21 champions.

The proposal did not receive a second.

7.6.2 Withdrawn

7.7 To add to all bid forms that the recommendation of the National Laser Class is compulsory for a bid to be considered for an International Championship.

RH I would second this proposal if the comments from the District are not shared with the bidding club as many District Officers I'm sure would not like any negative feedback they may have about a bid to go back to the bidding club.

JLM accepted the amendment, RH seconded the proposal and the meeting approved the proposal, for 16, against 0 and 3 abstentions.

7.8 To have a standard Sailing Instruction on the web site and then distributed at the venue would only be a sheet showing the changes.

PW I think the full set of Instructions should be available at the championships because any new sailors will need the full set of Instructions.

JCM We've had standard SI's for the Europa Cup for a long time. For the championships we would have to publish a set of SI's for each championship as the formats are very different and often the changes to the SI's may be significant because of the varying fleet sizes.

JLM This proposal is for the Europa Cup, we just want to have it published on the web site.

PL It is important that a sailor can ask for the full SI's at the race office and then receive them.

JLM proposed and seconded by EP, the meeting approved the proposal, for 18, against 0 and 1 abstained.

7.9 & 7.10 Withdrawn as accepted by CL as already being executed

7.11 To Eliminate the Laser Standard U21 European Champion awarded at the European Senior Championship.

ZH explained that this was an error written into the by-law when the by-law was re-formatted and is a duplication of the European Under 21 Title awarded at the European Youth Championships. The first under 21 sailor in the European Senior Championships should only be a prize and not a Championship Title. We need the agreement of the meeting to correct this error.

HW proposed and CL seconded, the meeting unanimously approved the proposal.

At 5pm the meeting agreed to start a discussion about development and the redefinition of the European Coordinators.

4.4 Proposal to change the Women's coordinator and Youth & Laser 4.7 coordinator roles.

CL introduced the proposal to change the Women's coordinator and the Youth & Laser 4.7 coordinator roles. This was originally discussed with Elena, Zlatko Laszlo and I, we talked about what has worked and not this year and how we may better define the roles so that more can be achieved. Through discussion we felt that a person concentrating on development – to share ideas across Districts and encourage the youth sailing was very important. Then secondly we find that there are a lot of discussions through the year about European Championships and with the change to the selection process for the championships this is going to increase further what is needed. So we feel that a person specializing in the Championships will be beneficial to the European region.

MM I agree with the principle but I think we should be adding more roles not removing the two old roles. We are such a big class and have so many things to do that we should be adding more people to concentrate more specialist activities. From the people in this room we have a lot of skills and if we can use these skills to help the class then all the sailors will be helped.

EP We can have as many people as we like, but if there is no communication nothing can be done. But having only my good ideas at home in Cyprus is getting nothing done. Renaming the roles and changing the functions but without the tools in my hand to do the work then nothing can happen. The office is already overloaded with a lot of work so with the new roles do you think the ideas would be implemented in the office or will the volunteers outside the office put these ideas into action.

CL That is exactly as I meant, the volunteers need to have their ideas and the ability to act on them and not to expect the office which does not have the capacity to take on this extra work.

JLM Trying to cover all of Europe it is very difficult to get to all of the countries and talk to people, with the language barriers and the distance to cover I think it is difficult to do. With a more regional approach it might be easier to talk to the countries around you. The idea is good but it is a big task for all of Europe.

RB I think we made a mistake two years ago, we created two titles and selected two names but we did not give a description of what had to be done and how they could do the task. We just expected that in a year's time it will all have happened. We have not supported them with money or ideas. In the 470 class they have used a young trainer who they have paid to fly to the championships and provide training.

PW I believe that the roles are too large and it is impossible for anyone to do. I suggest we should change the roles so that the coordinator is instead collecting ideas from everyone else, the people around this table and to then present them later on to this meeting. Once there are some decisions on what should be done the

coordinator can then ask other people to do the various functions, so the person is organizing the activities instead of doing it.

JLM we need to find the right person for the role. We need some-one who is interested to do the role and that ability. Maybe the person is not from in this meeting, it is some-one from outside of this room. It could be some-one that the Executive finds that is not a District Committee. Maybe we need to hire some-one to do this.

AV We really need to think and agree what will be the scope of the roles and what will be the resources available to do these jobs. Everyone here is a volunteer and had full time work and many things to do, we need to find the right balance in all of this.

CL two years ago we decided to have more people involved to get development in the Laser community, we had a long discussion back and forth and finally decided let us have new coordinators for youth and women and we got some volunteers, now two years later and we haven't achieved anything. Now we have tried to define something that is a huge task but is more clearly defined.

MM The most important thing is awareness. We have the chairman and vice who are already busy now we need a team who will drive the rest of us and improve Laser for everyone. We need to identify four or five people who can all work together to help achieve and do different activities.

ZJ We need to declare what we want to achieve. Is it the number of boats in each country, the number of sailors at championships or the quality of the regattas.

CL A lot of people here are showing they are keen to be involved and want the class to move forwards, we need defined goals like everyone is saying, secondly we need people who can take an idea and move it forwards. So we need to decide what we want to do. Should we change the two roles we have right now and find the people to do those roles or do we want to have a committee of a larger group of people who will discuss the roles and come up with a plan for what we will do?

DB When I look at the descriptions of the role here I think these are very big tasks and maybe more than I or anyone else can do as a volunteer.

JCM there are lot of good ideas around the table and maybe what we need to do is think about this overnight and for people come back tomorrow with an idea of if they can do parts of the roles. Are there some small parts that are achievable by each of us to help move the development forward.

HW this was an interesting discussion but I think people should go away over night and think where are the opportunities we haven't taken. From my point of view they are, improving National Laser Associations some of you are very good, but there are many here with very little activity. Help to organize good events, our product is good regattas and the third is increase the attractiveness of Laser events, there where things said about Twitter and I personally think tracking is also very important.

CL Closed the meeting for Saturday

CL Opened the meeting on Sunday morning

CL Thanked Asso Laser and Laser Performance for the nice evening meal.

CL Last night we had several discussions and people came forward with ideas of how to proceed with the coordinators. The Executive would like to change the roles of the two coordinators, but we recognize that the demands on the job descriptions are very demanding and we may need to reduce the tasks to be able to go forward. MM has said he is happy to stand for the development role. RH has also said he would be happy to stand for the championship related role. I see these roles as coordinating, so they should ask other people in the Districts to help with doing to the work and the coordinators arrange who is doing the different jobs.

HW Yesterday we had a good brainstorming session. Now we have a proposal that gives a structural solution, but I believe this solution is putting the carriage before the horse. In my opinion what should be done you should first under the leadership of CL look at the current situation of the European region, at the current issues and current opportunities and this should all be documented. Then from the list of points you identify you select a maximum of 4 or 5 these should be the ones with the biggest problems and the biggest opportunities. Then you work out a solution for each of the points. Then the right person should be found for each solution. And I believe to do this you need a group of people to help and that the group should contain the people who have questions and thoughts on the topic. So maybe EP, ZJ, LM, DB, RB, RH and MM. The group should then be charged to look at the issues and opportunities, describe them, then select the major points and propose solutions that could be procedural, could be special actions or could be structured and then set for these clearly targeted who is going to do what and when. We did something similar with JLM and DB for the Europa Cup and created the EMS. I think it would be wrong to decide now the structural decision before we have looked at the problems and opportunities.

JLM I think it is a good idea that we have a working group with many different people from all over the region we can then we can come with a good solution. We do not need to go too fast.

KM In the initial stage it may better to let everyone contribute what are the key point to be considered.

HW I agree that in the first stage of identifying the opportunities and problems having everyone here send an email to the working group of the points that could be considered is beneficial.

JLM It may useful to take this slowly and have a report at each stage along the way. So come to the next meeting with a list of the problems and opportunities.

MM I think we need to come out of the room today having taken a decision, we need to start something today, we do not have a lot of time. When the proposal was sent out it asked for comment from everyone, but no comments where sent.

JLM But I don't think we should go too fast, the working group is a good idea they can come up with ideas and we can then discuss, there is no need to go fast it is good to have time to have discussion on what is best.

CL So we have a proposal from HW and seconded by JLM to form a working group of EP, ZJ, LM, DB, RB, RH, MM and led by CL to identify the opportunities and issues and come back to this meeting next year with a list to work from. The proposal was approved, for 18, against 0 and 1 abstention.

7.4 Re-written European By-law changes proposals from IRL

RH Introduced the proposal. The proposal was seconded by PW and unanimously approved.

7.12 For voting on selection of the World Championships at the World Council to be according to the EAGM's recommendation

JLM Introduced the proposal.

RB How can any decision be made if everyone around the table cannot review the bids for the World Championships.

CL There is no change from what has happened in previous years to what is happening now. Whilst the vice chairman does not attend the World Council meeting I and LM spoke before the meeting and agreed on how we would vote on each point.

JLM I withdraw the proposal.

7.13 To change the Parental Consent Form

JLM Introduced the proposal

MA I have faced this as a coach but we are talking about the legal matter. It is important that we do this all correctly. The organizers need to know who is responsible for each child.

ZH This is a legal requirement in some countries, we cannot remove this if we want to have championships through-out Europe. The form is required to be filled in before the championship so it can be read and checked. With out this the forms can be useless. There was a situation previously where a 16 year old boy was at a championships on his own. The class has a responsibility to protect the sailors, our members, and to protect the hosts. It only has to go wrong once and we could have big problems.

JLM I withdraw the proposal.

7.14 To allow Great Grand Master to sail the Standard rig and be scored.

JLM Introduced the proposal.

RB From a race management view this is very dangerous, if it is windy then we cannot sail.

ZJ At the Finn Worlds this year there was a rule that the fleet will not race in over 20 knots, that decision was based on the physical ability of the older sailors.

CL Do we know how many sailors in Europe who really want to do this?

LD 3 maybe 4.

HW This topic was already discussed at the World Council for the World Championships and the decision was Great Grand Master should sail Radial for safety. The World Council do not want to encourage people of that age to sail the Standard sail. This is a question of responsibility, as the Class President I might have to appear in court if something happens. We may end up with a million dollar claim against me. If the judge decides it is negligence from the class to allow these people to sail then I want it clear that I am against this proposal.

JLM proposed and LD seconded, the meeting did not approve the proposal, for 2 (LD, JLM), against 14 and 3 (DB, EP, JW)

7.15.1 Only 3 Europa Cup regattas to count instead of 4 for the overall winner.

HW introduced the proposal.

The written comments from LM where read to the meeting.

HW withdrew the proposal.

7.15.2 Withdrawn

7.16.1 & 7.16.2 Control of membership at Europa Cup Regattas

HW Introduced the proposal, RH seconded the proposal, the meeting unanimously approved the proposal.

7.17 To clearly define the objectives of the Europa Cup

JLM Introduced the proposal.

HW I propose that 7.17 & 7.18 are given to the working party to be discussed, seconded by JLM, the meeting unanimously approved the proposal.

7.19 European Membership Cards

HW Introduced the proposal.

ZH Asked how the region is going to pay for the production of the membership cards.

HW Through sponsorship, Farzad Rastegar the owner of Laser Performance has said he will give the class 1 million dollars per year. We can find the money.

PL In Spain we save on postage and costs by emailing an image of the card with the sailors name on that the sailors prints at home.

HW proposed DB seconded, the meeting approved the proposal, for 15, against 0 and 4 abstentions.

7.20, 7.21, 7.22, 7.23, 7.25, 7.26, 7.27, 7.28, 7.29 & 7.30 CL Agreed that these are all actionable items that the Executive will take on.

7.24 To allow more than one EMS regatta in each country

JLM Introduced the proposal

LD I am against this proposal, the calendar is already full. But I think that the country that organizes the European Masters Championships should be allowed to have a second EMS regatta.

JLM amended the proposal to be only for the country that is hosting the European Masters Championships, seconded by HW. The meeting approved the proposal, 17 for, 0 against and 2 abstentions.

9 European Championships

9.1, 9.2, 9.3 *Where received and noted by the meeting.*

9.4 Confirmation of the 2012 European Championships

CL asked for any comments or discussion.

The meeting voted to approve the 2012 Championships, for 18, 0 against and 1 abstention.

9.5 Review of 2013 European Championship bids

Each of the bidding countries made a presentation to the meeting.

9.5.1 European Laser 4.7 Championship, bids received from:

Mornar Split, Croatia

Croatia removed it's bid from all other championships as they are the only candidate for the European Laser 4.7 Championships.

9.5.2 European Laser Senior Championship, bids received from:

Gdynia, Poland

Balatonfured, Hungary

9.5.3 European Laser Youth Championships, bids received from:

Gdynia, Poland

Balatonfured, Hungary

Dun Laoghaire, Ireland

9.5.4 European Laser Masters Championships, bids received from:

Royal Swedish Yacht Club, Sweden

Puck, Poland

Balatonfured, Hungary

10 European Masters Series

The meeting noted the EMS report.

CL and the rest of the meeting thanked LD for his work through-out the year.

11 Europa Cup Report

The meeting noted the Europa Cup Report.

The meeting noted the Europa Cup Calendar for 2011.

12 European Youth Ranking Ladder

The meeting noted the European Youth Ranking Ladder report.

13 2010 Membership Analysis

The meeting noted the membership report.

14 Date & Venue of the next EAGM

The bid received from Tallinn in Estonia was reviewed and warmly accepted by the meeting.

The Next EAGM will be in Tallinn, Estonia on the 26-27 November 2011.

15 Any other business

JCM made a presentation to Asso Laser on behalf of the European region to thank them for organizing a wonderful EAGM