

**Minutes of the 2023 J/24 World Council Meeting  
Open Virtual Session October 18, 2023**

- 1) **Call to Order, Roll Call and Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. EDT. We have a quorum. Attendees: Will Welles (Chair, USA), David Cooper (Vice Chair, GBR), Nicolas Cubria (Executive Committee, ARG), Maïke Hass (Executive Committee, GER), Aris Pallikaris (Executive Committee, GRE), Keiji Kondo (Executive Committee, JPN), Mark Usher (Executive Committee, IRL), Nancy Zangerle (Past Chair, USA), Curt Barnes (ITC, USA), Michael Peters (ITC, GER), Steve Wright (AUS), Hugo Ottaway (AUS), Simon Grain (AUS), Tim Octon (GBR), Christos Kifidis (GRE), Mate Kakas (HUN), Gianni Riccobono (ITA), Monica Persson (SWE), Dan Busch (USA), Christopher Howell and Julie Howell (ODAM, USA).
- 2) **Appoint Secretary:** David Cooper appointed Julie Howell as the secretary.
- 3) **Approval of 2022 WCM Minutes:** *Nancy Zangerle made a motion to approve both of the 2022 WCM minutes as posted at <http://www.j24class.org/organization/class-documents/wcm-minutes/>, seconded by David Cooper. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.*
- 4) **Chair's Overview:** Will has limited connectivity, so this will be moved to the Business Meeting.
- 5) **Review of Reports:**

**Executive Director Report:** See Attachment A. Chris clarified that the budget will be reviewed/voted at the Business Meeting. Sail royalty tag sales were down in the fiscal year. At our 2022 WCM, we approved an annual budget in the red, which came to fruition. The Class finances are very healthy overall. We can later discuss revenue ideas, such as increasing the price of sail royalty tags. The updating of measurement certificates continues at a normal pace. The Class Office issues four newsletters per year. Attachment A contains graphs showing a 90-day period of solid activity on our Facebook and Instagram pages during the 2023 major Championships. A new IJCA website has been discussed for a couple years, as its platform had become outdated. Look for a new and modern site in the coming days. Nancy suggested having some folks review the beta site before going public.

**Technical Report:** Curt highlighted that the ITC is increasing its total number of members from eight to nine, adding Nancy Zangerle (USA) for managing regatta document templates and Nick McDonald (UK). Bob Kinsman (USA) has asked to retire. This will be voted on at the Business Meeting.

In 2023, the ITC:

- Updated lists of measurers, now 75 worldwide, and we now have regular communications working with them. Great to reconnect!
- Created a Conflict of Interest policy for the measurers (i.e., can't measure your own boat)
- Wrote guidelines for what to measure at various level events
- Wrote policy on how to become a measurer

- Wrote guidelines for measurers' conduct at events
- Submitted FAQs to the quarterly newsletters, these will become an online reference document
- Shifting acceptance to regatta documents being submitted electronically, a week prior to events. This has been a struggle but becoming more accepted.

## 6) **Championship Reports:**

**2023 World Championship Recap:** Nautical Club of Thessaloniki Greece, September 9-16. Christos said the Worlds was very successful. Lessons were learned regarding having charter boats ready/publicized about one year before the event. Michael Peters came to Thessaloniki in advance to train Measurers and measure local boats. All Worlds races were completed, and the weather cooperated. The hospitality was excellent, and kudos to the Race Committee. If you weren't there, you missed an awesome venue!

Mate thanked the 40+ boats who came to the 2023 European Championship in Hungary. The wind was light, but everyone enjoyed the week and socializing. He also thanked the GRE-JCA for their cooperation between the two events.

**2024 World Championship Update:** Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle, Washington USA, September 28-October 5. The Notice of Race template is being finalized so expect the NOR before the holidays. Simon asked for information to be posted regarding accommodation. The Seattle fleet has a local member on the ITC who is preparing the charter boats.

You can also expect the NOR for the 2024 European Championship in Italy around the same time. This is an open event. There will be four days of racing (10 races planned), preceded by a day of inspection. Gianni acknowledged that Sardinia is not cheap but is a wonderful place for sailing. Reasonable accommodation will be available, as the regatta is not during high season. Hugo agreed that you will have an amazing experience!

**2025 World Championship Update:** Plym Yacht Club & Saltash Sailing Club Plymouth GBR, September 6-14. They will publish travel information regarding ferries, etc. as well as charter boats.

**2026 World Championship Host:** Over the years, the IJCA had a rotation of every fifth year's Worlds being hosted in "other than North America and Europe." During the pandemic, this schedule got off track...are we ready to return to this? The IJCA has received an Expression of Interest to hold the 2026 J/24 Worlds in Australia, following curiosity for this idea from competitors in Thessaloniki. Steve said that the AUS-JCA has a lot of enthusiasm from Sandringham, just outside of Melbourne. They don't have a lot of new boats, but we could manage the local entries. The facility/club is quite experienced and competent, and there is plenty of accommodation. The J/24 Worlds were held there in 1996 and 2006. Nancy asked them to use the proposal template available online, as they proceed with a formal bid. She recalled a past requirement regarding lifejackets there, but Hugo confirmed this is only needed above 22 knots. Steve expects 35-40 boats would attend, and they are excited to move forward with their proposal.

Nico shared that the ARG-JCA may also like to make a proposal from Patagonia.

Nancy mentioned the Regatta Regulations, with a goal of having our World Championships scheduled four years in advance. We could attempt to schedule both 2026 and 2027. Chris noted interest also from Rochester Yacht Club in New York USA.

#### 7) **New Business/Open Discussion on Future Strategy:**

Nancy asked for feedback regarding running four legs versus five legs as our standard for World Championships (maintaining two races per day for five days). Hugo has attended many Worlds and thought the races in Greece were the best: 10 races/4 legs/2 races per day, with time also for socializing and enjoying the local area. The racing there began in late afternoon due to the seabreeze, but the RC announced the later starting times so teams had flexibility earlier in the day. Hugo prefers to keep our WC standards as they are now, focusing on length of the legs/starting line more so than adding a fifth leg. Monica supports the Worlds and Continental five-day format but would prefer Monday to Friday racing. She would generally favor four-leg races. Gianni thinks it's more practical to plan four legs so that time is not wasted between races. The group decided that selection of the PRO is most important.

Nico has been in contact with Chile, and they are trying to rejuvenate their NJCA in 2024, hopefully hosting a future South American Championship.

Curt shared that in the US, they have been trying to reduce the number of days needed for a National or Continental Championship, such as one day of inspection followed by spot checks during race days.

Nancy asked: what is the ideal amount of race days for National and Continental Championships?

AUS – 4 days, 3 races per day (helps for crew specifically)

SWE – 3 days National, Friday 2 races / Saturday 4 races / Sunday 2 races; 5 days

Worlds/Continental, Monday-Friday 2 races per day

GER – 5 days, 2 races per day

ARG – 3 days Nationals / 4 days Continental, races and their lengths depending on # of boats

JPN – 3 days, 3 races per day

ITA – 4 days, 10 total races, race length 60-90 minutes but dependent on conditions and fleet size

Hugo spoke highly of the recognition for Corinthian placings at the 2023 Worlds. It really enhanced the regatta...let's keep this going for future Championships!

Simon asked opinions on the balance between the racing side and the social side at Championships? If people came all the way to Australia, perhaps they would seek more tourism. Nancy recommended OAs to provide detailed information on how to support local businesses, as large sponsorship is often hard to come by.

8) **Closing Remarks:** See you on November 9 (note date change from November 8)! Thank you for joining today.

## **ATTACHMENT A: Executive Director's Report, Christopher Howell**

### **Administration**

We are now marking 11 years of administering the IJCA, and we feel we are contributing to the vitality of this 45-year-old Class. It was great to be onsite throughout the IJCA's active year at the World Championship in Greece, European Championship in Hungary and North American Championship in Ohio USA. Meeting J/24 racers and seeing friends from over the years is very rewarding, and we feel blessed to be part of this Class.

### **Financial**

The fiscal year ended on 30 September, and as projected the P&L shows a negative income this year. Royalty tag sales came in below expectation, which was a surprise. But the Class is still strong financially with over \$84,000 on the Balance Sheet (almost two times our yearly budget). This is a healthy sign for any non-profit organization. After Executive Committee approval, we produced promotional stickers (not originally budgeted), which should last three years. That expenditure is somewhat offset by a better price on hull stickers. The Executive Committee is looking for ways to strengthen revenue to keep us in the black year to year. An increase in the sail royalty tag fee from \$35 to \$50 would be my recommendation. This is in line with many other one-design Classes.

### **Measurement Form Administration**

In the most recent FY, the Class Office has processed new measurement certificates or changes of ownership for more than 75 hulls. This procedure starts with working with Measurers around the world to obtain accurate and completed Measurement Input Sheets. The data is then inputted at the Class Office into the master measurement file and merged into a Word document for conversion to PDF when distributed to the owner. This merge process is also utilized when revising certificates following a change of ownership.

### **Newsletter**

Since 2013, we have distributed 39 editions of the newsletter with four per year since 2016. The archive of all editions is at <http://www.j24class.org/newsletter/>. Thank you to all the NJCAs for their 2023 contributions. The Class Office distributes the newsletters via e-mail in a PDF format to supplement the distribution of Class information amongst all NJCAs. The next issue will be sent in December. We appreciate the continued photographs and content from NJCAs, and North Sails and Quantum Sails as advertising supporters.

### **Public Relations Efforts**

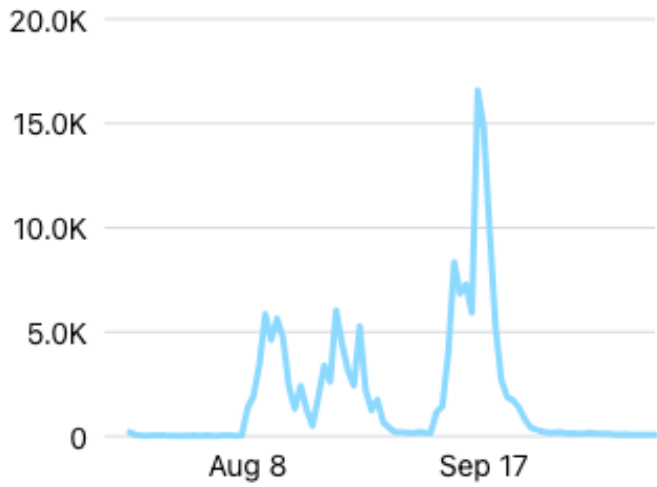
The IJCA website will debut a brand new and modern look in the coming days. This has been discussed for awhile now, and we are excited to finally go live!

Social media continues to give the Class exposure worldwide, as the first means of distribution of news and events. At major Championships, Julie and I post live updates/videos from the water as well as daily post-race photos. This is supplemented by daily press releases to the sailing media. The International J/24 Class Facebook page has more than 6,500 followers, better than many comparable Classes. The Class Instagram account has more than 2,300 followers. The graphs below show reach of social media. We feel it is this effort that continues to show to the world that the Class is alive and well. By demonstrating the strength of the Class, we protect the brand and the value of boats.

## Reach

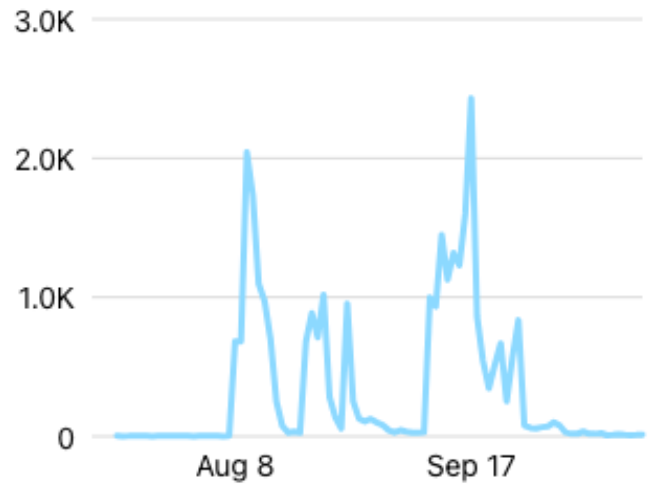
Facebook reach ⓘ

78,495 ↑ 694%



Instagram reach ⓘ

11,650 ↑ 1.0K%



## Page and profile visits

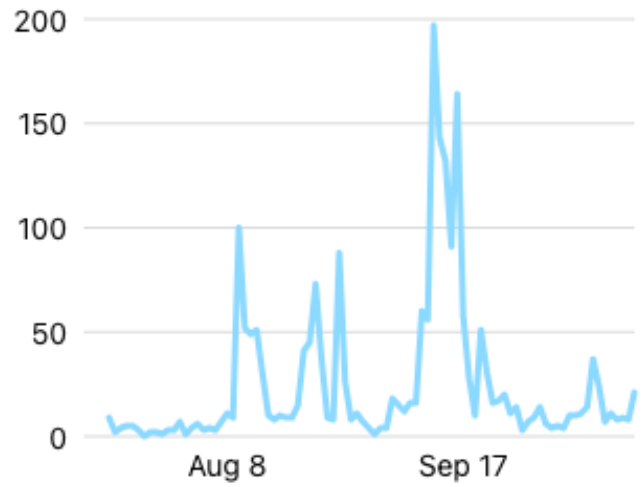
Facebook visits ⓘ

21,137 ↑ 1.7K%



Instagram profile visits ⓘ

2,201 ↑ 362.4%



**Audience**

Current audience

Potential audience

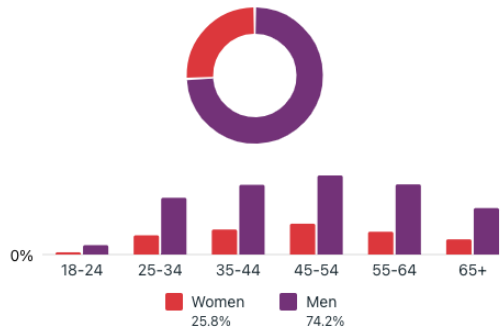
Facebook followers ⓘ

6,598

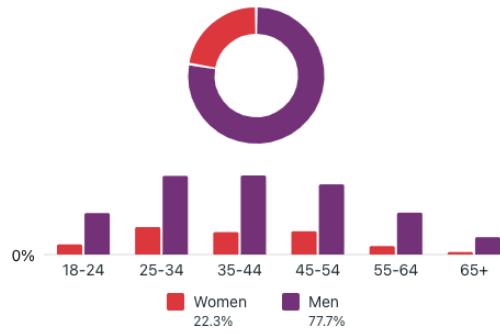
Instagram followers ⓘ

2,365

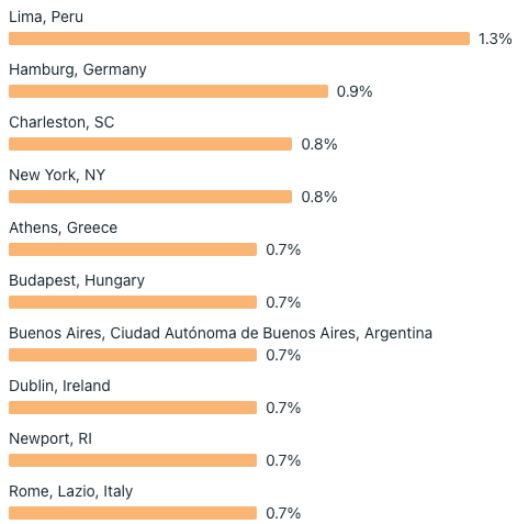
Age & gender ⓘ



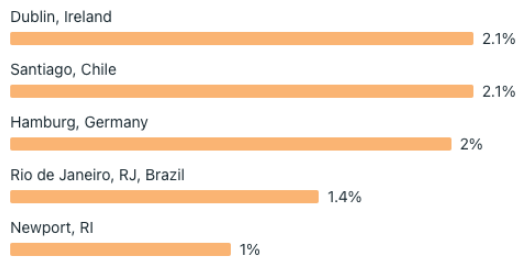
Age & gender ⓘ



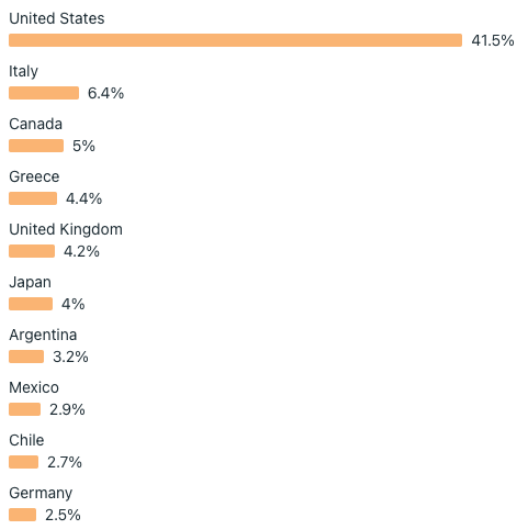
Top cities



Top cities



Top countries



Top countries

