

**Minutes of the 2024 J/24 World Council Meeting
Business Virtual Session November 14, 2024**

- 1) **Call to Order and Overview:** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. EST. We have a quorum. Will reflected on his time serving the Executive Committee, and looking forward to new people. Thank you all for your support of the Class!
- 2) **Appoint Secretary:** Will Welles appointed Julie Howell as the secretary. Materials for this meeting are posted in Dropbox: [J24 WCM 2024 - Dropbox](#)
- 3) **Introductions:** Will Welles (Chair, USA), David Cooper (Vice Chair, GBR), Nicolas Cubria (Executive Committee, ARG), Maike Hass (Executive Committee, GER), Aris Pallikaris (Executive Committee, GRE), Mark Usher (Executive Committee, IRL), Dan Busch (Executive Committee, USA), Nancy Zangerle (Past Chair, USA), Curt Barnes (ITC, USA), Michael Peters (ITC, GER), Steve Wright (AUS), Hugo Ottaway (AUS), Simon Grain (AUS), Jeff Jorgensen (CAN), Tim Octon (GBR), Michailos Karvelas (GRE), Mate Kakas (HUN), Gianni Riccobono (ITA), Marcus Rogers (USA), Christopher Howell and Julie Howell (ODAM, USA). No proxies were received at the Class Office.
- 4) **Financials:** Chris and Kat prepared the year-end Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Travel costs have skyrocketed in recent years, and income has become restricted over time as memberships have slowly declined. Chris recalled that dues were increased \$5 in 2020, and the royalty tag cost was increased last year. Therefore, Chris has suggested that One Design Management (Chris & Julie Howell) pause traveling to Continental and World Championships. He thinks that we should rely on more regional Class Representatives, such as a Technical Committee member, at the cost of the OA. Media expectations have evolved over time, and we can lay out a plan involving local representatives (photos, social media, etc.) on an event-by-event basis. Chris and Julie will continue supporting the media function, even though not onsite. Simon inquired about a pre-Worlds visit as listed in our documentation. Chris confirmed that this has been done in recent years virtually, and we will continue this practice. The Regatta Regulations will be updated to reflect this restructured process (specifically related to media).

Nancy Zangerle made a motion to accept the Year-end Financial Statements and 2024-2025 Budget, seconded by Tim Octon. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5) **Elections:** In even years, the IJCA elects a Chair and Vice Chair and annually the Executive Committee:
David Cooper GBR, Chair
Maike Hass GER, Vice Chair
Dan Busch USA, Executive Committee
Keiji Kondo JPN, Executive Committee
Aris Pallikaris GRE, Executive Committee
Mark Usher IRL, Executive Committee
Ramiro Clemente, ARG Executive Committee

Nancy Zangerle made a motion to accept David Cooper as Chair, seconded by Marcus Rogers. The nomination passed unanimously.

Maike has been part of the Executive Committee for many years and involved with Class operations.

Will Welles made a motion to accept Maike Hass as Vice Chair, seconded by Marcus Rogers. The nomination passed unanimously.

Will Welles made a motion to accept the Executive Committee as presented, seconded by Marcus Rogers. The slate passed unanimously.

The Technical Committee is appointed annually. Nominations: Michael Johnson (USA) Designers Representative, Nancy Zangerle (USA), Finn Hadlock (USA), Gianpietro Pollesell (ITA), Nick McDonald (GBR), Hugo Ottaway (AUS), James Niblock (CAN), Tim Winger (USA), Alex Finsterbusch (ARG), Michael Peters (GER).

Curt Barnes made a motion to accept the Technical Committee as presented, seconded by Will Welles. The motion passed unanimously.

Nancy Zangerle made a motion to accept Curt Barnes as the Chair of the Technical Committee, seconded by Will Welles. A roll call was conducted:

For 7: Dan Busch (EC), Gianni Riccobono (ITA), Jeff Jorgensen (CAN), Mark Usher (EC + IRL), Will Welles (EC), Nicolas Cubria (ARG)

Against 8: Maike Hass (EC + GER), Mate Kakas (HUN), Michailos Karvelas (GRE), Tim Octon (GBR), Aris Pallikaris (EC), Marcus Rogers (USA-2)

Abstain 2: David Cooper (EC), Steven Wright (AUS)

The motion does not pass.

In the absence of confirming the ITC Chair here, the Executive Committee is Constitutionally required to bring forward another name for Technical Chair. Nancy referred to her proposal, see Attachment A. The ITC Chair position is heavily administrative, and there's a lot of responsibilities. Will is disappointed in how this whole matter has devolved. We are volunteers, and he hopes we are fully representing our NJCAs. As we did not make our Constitutional review period for Nancy's proposal, this will need to be approved by the Executive Committee separately and then voted by mail.

- 6) **2028 World Championship:** The Italian Class submitted a letter stating that given the success of the 2024 European Championship in Porto Cervo, they would be glad to host the next J/24 World Championship to be held in Europe. They would propose for the World Championship location in Porto Cervo Sardinia again with the organization of the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda. Documentation and a video were distributed in advance of this meeting. Aris asked about charter boat availability, which was listed at 6-10, but more is likely needed. Gianni thinks that by 2028, this number will increase. Nancy inquired whether the OA will be making provisions for discounted ferry rates to get to Sardinia? Gianni stated that they have ferry arrangements via the Italian Federation (for the EUC 2024, there was a 25% discount). Maike thought it worked well this summer for the Europeans; both Hugo and Tim agreed.

Hugo Ottaway made a motion to accept Italy's proposal to host the 2028 World Championship, seconded by Tim Octon. The motion passed unanimously.

- 7) **Other Business:** At our previous WCM, Steve suggested a membership tier for youth: That the World Council consider setting up a membership tier for Junior/Youth sailors with a discounted J/24 Class Association membership fee payable. It is suggested the discounted fee be set at half the full adult fee.

Supporting discussion:

- With a multitude of choices for junior sailors, the NSW and Australian J/24 Class Association are trying to encourage participation and remove any barriers to having new young crews sail and learn on a J/24.
- For many sailors in the past, and no doubt into the future, a J/24 may be the first keelboat that a young sailor sails on and the first time a team of more than two works together.
- As we all know, the one design nature of a J/24 is absolutely educational to any new crew wishing to develop skills for a lifetime of sailing.
- However, increased costs of living pressures are definitely on parents and teenagers minds when looking at new sports and participation. This is also seen in sailing across the world where lower cost one design racing remains popular for all ages over more expensive custom designs.
- In almost all sailing Classes, declines in numbers regularly racing are being seen and fleets are being sailed by older and older sailors.
- Encouraging greater participation by both younger sailors and women and girls we see as key to keeping the J/24 Class thriving into the future.
- In NSW, an experiment to encourage greater junior participation was undertaken in 2023 through the subsidization of junior sailor fees - those that were high school age or students (not working). This seemed to help in terms of encouraging more juniors to sign up for J/24 Class Association membership. The fee was set at half the regular membership rate (the association subsidizing the other 50%). This in turn we believe helped in achieving increased participation by juniors either on 'all junior' sailed boats or within other more experienced teams as new crew members.
- With new 'all Junior' crewed boats, the Association was actually gaining five, or in some cases six, new members per boat. We now see these sailors becoming part of other teams and one junior even participated in the recent World Championships in Seattle.
- The J/24 remains a great all-around boat for young people to get into sailing and racing - its size and one design pedigree making it an ideal first step into keelboats and real team sailing. The participation pathway provided by regattas at local, state, national and even World Championship level, in fleets with other younger sailors, is a great incentive for young sailors to choose to sail J/24.
- Adding an additional lower cost membership tier for junior sailors is worthy of consideration to remove any barriers to joining. Simply having a separate fee suggests that we are encouraging young people to join and that there are already junior members sailing.
Note: the applicable age being under 25.

Chris wondered of the budget implications to the IJCA, such as are these new youth members

or part of the currently established membership count? Hugo predicts mostly new members. Chris recapped that \$20 of every membership is paid to the IJCA. Marcus said that full members are counted in the USA-JCA for the IJCA. Countries handle crew membership differently (some require crew memberships, others only owner/helm). Aris explained that they've had no fees for University students in Greece, but expenses are primarily at events. Tim thought that NJCAs usually manage their under 25s within the country. Nancy summarized that there is significant variety in how NJCAs operate, and the Executive Committee should consider this further in order to evaluate effects for all NJCAs as well as the IJCA budget and Constitutional wording.

Michailos discussed an app that would bring our community closer, and keep our countries updated on regattas and current events. If countries want to use it, the cost should be minimal. Nancy noted the J/24 Sailing Facebook group. Michailos described that the app would allow people to select which countries they want to be included in, similar to social media. He will forward a demonstration to review.

- 8) **Date and format of next meeting:** In recent years, we have held a mid-year virtual World Council Meeting in the spring.
- 9) **Closing Remarks:** David thanked everyone, and let's keep continuing on! Thank you Will for serving as Class Chair and to Nancy as Past Chair. Will stays on now as Past Chair and Nancy on the Technical Committee.

Adjourned 1005EST.

ATTACHMENT A: New Proposal Submitted by Nancy Zangerle

Prior to the 2020 WCM, the ITC chair was to be nominated by the members of the ITC and voted on by the members of the World Council. This was a logical action, as the active members of the ITC would be most familiar with and capable to assess the talents and abilities of their fellow committee members. I believe that the language was changed in 2020 because for ten (10) years, Mr. Tim Winger was repeatedly elected to this position. At the time of his retirement, I believe the nomination and election of the ITC Chair in 8.8.4.1 was eliminated as unnecessary.

Current:

8.8.4 Annually, vote on the slate of members of the Technical Committee as submitted by the Chairman of the Technical Committee. The process of nominating new members shall be specified in the bylaws. Technical Committee members shall be approved individually.

8.8.4.1 Annually, vote for approval of the Technical Committee Chairman and the ITC members as nominated. In the event that the World Council does not approve the selection, the Executive Committee shall nominate a new individual as ITC Chair until approval is obtained.

8.8.4.2 The recommended slate of International Technical Committee members, including the chairman, shall be submitted to the Executive Director at least four (4) weeks before the meeting to allow for distribution to the World Council and the Executive Committee.

Proposed:

8.8.4 Annually, vote on the slate of members of the Technical Committee as submitted by the Chairman of the Technical Committee. The process of nominating new members shall be specified in the bylaws. Technical Committee members shall be approved individually.

8.8.4.1 Annually, vote for approval of the Technical Committee Chairman **to be nominated by the International Technical Committee**. In the event that the World Council does not approve the selection, the Technical Committee shall nominate a new individual until approval is obtained.

8.8.4.2 The recommended slate of International Technical Committee members, including the chairman, shall be submitted to the Executive Director at least four (4) weeks before the meeting to allow for distribution to the World Council and the Executive Committee.

Comments:

Because of activities and behavior displayed by some individuals in regards to the International Technical Committee (ITC) and its Chair, I propose the World Council reverse changes made in 2020 regarding the selection and approval of the ITC membership and leadership. The proposed changes are shown as red text. The proposed 8.8.4.1 is shown in its previous state. The change in 8.8.4.2 is a typographical correction.

Currently, 8.8.4.1 is poorly written and duplicative of 8.8.4, and I am guilty of writing it.

While there has been comments made about personal performance of individuals in the role of event Technical Committee chair, there is been little discussion about the duties and responsibilities of the ITC Chair. An event Technical Committee at an event is appointed under RRS 89.2(c). We limit the

actions of the event Technical Committee to the last sentence of RRS 60.4(a), (b), and (c). They are responsible for the interpretation of class rules (RRS 64.4(b)).

A review of the duties of the Technical Committee (ITC) as detailed in the Class ByLaws Item 2. extend far beyond the performance of an event Technical Committee Chair at World and Continental Championships. The ITC Chair is an administrator and leader to the ITC. The ITC is responsible for recruiting, certifying and supporting a world-wide network of Class Measurers. They are responsible for Class rule changes and those changes approved by WS. They must keep abreast of technological changes, maintain communications with Class members; maintain and update the Measurement Manual.

With so many vital roles to play, I believe that the ITC members are best positioned to elect the leader of the ITC and I trust their assessment.