

Minutes of the 2011 Midwinter Governing Board Meeting – International Lightning Class Association

March 17, 2011 – St Petersburg Yacht Club

Call to Order

The Governing Board Meeting was called to order by President Rob Ruhlman at 9:10 AM

Roll Call by Secretary John Faus. In Attendance: John Faus, Rob Ruhlman, Bill Clausen, Ryan Ruhlman, Brian Hayes, James Taylor, Debbie Probst, Peter Hall, Ian Edwards, George Koch

Reading of the Minutes from the last meeting

Bill Clausen made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes, seconded by George Koch, and unanimously approved.

Reports of Officers

President's Report – Rob Ruhlman

President Ruhlman began by proposing to the Governing Board the ratification of the Executive Committee's decision to contract Laura Jeffers as the new Executive Secretary for the Class. Peter Hall made the motion and George Koch seconded, unanimously approved. Rob continued by Thanking Jan Davis for her 6 years of service as the Class Secretary. He also thanked Laura for pulling double duty and serving as the Class Secretary and the Southern Circuit VP. This year we had 40 boats in Savannah and 30 in Miami and it is projected to be 55-60 here in St Pete. He asked for any suggestions on a replacement for the Southern Circuit VP Position. Rob reminded the group about the Fisher Sportsmanship Award Ballots.

Treasurers Report – John Faus

Due to travel delays Treasurer, Victor Lobos was not in attendance. Secretary John Faus reviewed the 2010 Year End Financials and the proposed 2011 Budget. So far for 2011 donations are trending up. He expressed interest in a Campaign to work on in the future that included fundraising for the Boat Grant Program and a possible Boat Loan Program. Some additional ideas were discussed including updating the Class Website with a donations page similar to what the Flying Scot Class has done. Discussion continued and resulted in the following conclusions, if we want to campaign or raise money for something it should be for a specific cause or program. This cause or program should add value to the Class and support the idea of getting more people sailing. One target segment could be the 20-30 year olds and retaining the involvement of the youth sailors. Brian Hayes made a suggestion to increase the office supply line item, citing that we should replace the computer equipment every 3 years. Discussion ensued. Hayes made a motion to approve the 2011 Budget as presented, Rob Ruhlman seconded, and all approved.

Chief Measurers report – Bill Clausen

Chief Measurer Clausen reported that the Measurement team in Toms River, NJ for the Women's, Master and Junior NA's and the NA's was very organized. They did a great job. The new scale works great and he was available to weigh boats if anyone wanted their boat weighed. The Class has a new set of templates for the angle of dangle. We will also have a new second set of mylar sail templates. One set will be sent to the Worlds in Brazil. Ryan Ruhlman offered to trace the angle of dangle template onto mylar in order to have something for the Worlds.

Secretaries report – John Faus

John Faus reported on the 2011 membership to date. He thanked Darryl Waskow and the team that worked on the changes to our rules in order to be in compliance with the current ISAF Rules. The major changes include our

scoring procedure and the changes that we will need to incorporate into the SI's for the NA's regarding the ability to appeal a protest ruling during the qualifying series.

Vice Presidents and Committee Reports

VP Special Projects - James Taylor reported that the US Pan Am Trials went well and his interaction with US Sailing representatives went very smoothly. He thanked the Davis Island Yacht Club for hosting the regatta.

VP Boat Grant - Debbie Probst reported that Bill Faude replaced Denise Cornell on the Boat Grant Committee. For 2011, two teams have been selected, Caroline Patten from New Jersey and Will Tyner from South Carolina. We have purchased the boat grant boat that was used last season from Allen Boat Company, so the Class currently owns two boats. The goal is to replace these boats every 3-4 years. She wanted to remind the board that this is a marketing program. For 2012 the committee is looking to review the criteria and application process. Looking forward a Boat Grant Financing/Loan program would be helpful to retain these individuals in the Class. Some research has been conducted and much of it comes down to manpower. If anyone has any suggestions please talk to Debbie. She was happy to report that a 4th Boat Grant Recipient is looking to buy a boat this year. We need to continue to spread the word about this program. Bill Clausen added that he has heard other groups talk about our program and are using it as a model.

Ian Edwards thought it would be a good idea to think about expanding this type of program to 40-50 year olds who haven't sailed much to let them try the boat out and see how they like it. Most couldn't make a financial commitment just to try out the Class. Another idea that was discussed was Charter Boat for a Season program. President Ruhlman asked Ian Edwards if he would be willing to look into the Charter Boat Program, he accepted. The Snipe Class has launched a new traveling program where prospective Snipe sailors will be able to try out the Snipe during various local regattas. We should keep an eye on this program. Debbie Probst recommended that we engage the Fleet Captains and District Commodores on more of a personal level to see what types of programs might be needed to retain or boost Lightning activity in their areas.

St Lawrence Valley District Commodore Peter Hall reported that the Canadian Pan Am Trials are scheduled for July 1-3 in Kingston. Paul Davis is running the regatta and they expect 8-10 boats, showing that there is still Lightning interest in Canada. The sport of sailing is not growing in Canada. Personally on the Fleet level he is seeing a lot of families with new babies and that is stopping them from sailing. Thunder Bay has slowed down a bit and with the separation of the Montreal Fleets into two the sailing in Montreal has slowed significantly as well.

Peter reported that he is now a representative for Canada on ISAF. He reported on the state of issues that ISAF is working on. From the Class standpoint we should continue to express our interest with the respective Regional Games Representatives that we would like to and think it is important for the Lightning to continue participating in the PAN American Games.

VP National Fleets Ian Edwards reported that last year the European Championships were held in Nigeria and we have a new Mexican Fleet up for ratification. Discussion ensued regarding our area structure. Brian Hayes suggested we change to numbered zones rather than geographical named regions. Rob Ruhlman and a committee of Victor Lobos, Ian Edwards, Darryl Waskow and a few others will come up with a proposal that can be voted on at the July meeting in Buzios.

Long Island District commodore George Koch commented that he hears that some are always looking for crew. He reminded the group to look to the Jr Programs and engage the young kids from your area. Brian Hayes

suggested a way to encourage participation would be to have a free crew year. This could be a huge marketing campaign as well as a potential boost for new members the following year of the program.

Laura Jeffers reported that the Wooden Boat Group is becoming more active and there have been many inquiries about refurbishing boats. There are three Woody Regattas planned for this summer and the Class is looking to place a classified ad in Wooden Boat Magazine to sell our plans. At the Deep South Regatta, we had 1 wooden boat sailing in the regatta. It was #7170, sailed by Heidi Dickerson and the boat was once owned by Past President (1963) Marty O'Meara.

Jeffers also reported that there will be a Worlds meeting during the first postponement this weekend. We will be discussing the cost and timing of shipping containers from North America. There was some discussion on the timing of the Worlds and it was suggested that in the future we try not to schedule the Worlds around the same time as the North Americans. The 2013 Worlds in Numana, Italy are scheduled for the 2nd and 3rd week of June.

Peter Hall commented that at the last Youth Worlds there were a lot of protests. It would be a good idea if the Chief Judge was "kid friendly". This event would benefit by being a "coachable event". If we make the event fun and a good learning opportunity the kids will want to continue sailing in the Class.

Charters ratified or revoked

Secretary John Faus announced that we have two applications for new Fleets. The first is in Rosario, Argentina, Fleet 522 and it has 5 registered Skipper Members. The second in Valle de Bravo, Mexico, Fleet 523 and it has 4 registered Skipper Members. John Faus moved to ratify these charters. Bill Clausen seconded, all approved.

Ratifications of Executive Committee Rulings

President Rob Ruhlman reports that the Executive Committee has set the NA Ratio at 1:4, we want good participation from the Michigan District. He reports that the Executive Committee wanted to set the ratio so that people will have a chance to plan ahead with vacation schedules. Ruhlman made a motion to ratify the ruling and John Faus seconded, all approved.

President Rob Ruhlman reported that the Executive Committee voted to award the 2012 North American Championships to Houston Yacht Club in Texas home of Fleet 521. They are very excited and submitted an excellent proposal. Brian Hayes made a motion to approve and Ian Edwards seconded, all approved.

Unfinished Business

Secretary John Faus reviewed the proposed revisions to the Rules Governing All Lightning Class Sanctioned Championships. The main purpose of these revisions is to comply with recent changes to ISAF Regulations. It is proposed that these revisions take effect April 4, 2011. Rob Ruhlman made a motion to approve the revisions as presented and published on the web and in the Flashes, Brian Hayes seconded, all approved.

New Business

Laura Jeffers presented the new e-Flashes format for the Board. A special Thank You was given to our Computer Consultant Sherryl Egy for all of her assistance with this new process.

John Faus made a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Governing Board. It was seconded by Bill Clausen.

President Rob Ruhlman expressed his thanks to all who attended for their support and contributions to the discussions.