

Report from the J/24 World Council Meeting – Ireland, August 5th / 6th 2006

Representatives from Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, USA, Canada, Ireland, UK, Italy, Greece, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands all gathered in Loch Erne, Northern Ireland a few weeks ago to plot out the future of the J/24 class worldwide. It was a very positive atmosphere which generated some great discussion and energy for the future development of the most successful one design production keel boat in history. There were close to 2,500 active members of the class association represented at this meeting.

Some of the highlights of the meeting included the bulk of the proposed rule changes being accepted. These will need to be approved by ISAF before coming into effect sometime early in 2007 prior to the Mexico Worlds. To net it out; there are a number of items that would move to optional equipment from the required list. This would be for navigation lights, fog horns, the sink reservoir bag, flashlights etc.

The world council voting structure has changed to allow one vote for every country and one extra for every 250 members. We should work to keep our annual paid membership at that level instead of letting it dip in off-continent worlds years.



The next venues for the Worlds will (likely) be:

- 2007 – Vallarta, Mexico
- 2008 – Porto Rotundo, Italy
- 2009 – Annapolis, MD, USA (proposed)
- 2010 – Puerto Plata, Argentina (proposal pending)

We are currently talking with the US and Mexico to revive the J/24 Junior North Americans to stimulate interest in the class for junior club and university aged sailors. We are looking to add this as a shoulder event to the NA's as they move around the continent.

We are also re-visiting the rotation of the North Americans to better reflect the geographic regions of the continent instead of by membership numbers so to ensure the event will be within a reasonable distance every couple of years.

To see what others are doing to get sponsors onboard and promote the class check out what they have done in Sweden: www.sailsyndicate.com



For an upcoming anniversary of the J/24 it was suggested that we have a “24 hours of J/24 racing” where we would have regattas running around the world spanning 24 hours. Each venue would submit their results and would have sub-teams (ie. Red team, blue

team, green team) that would contribute to an international team score. The results will be posted on www.j24class.org as they come in.

Speaking of the website – there will be additional discussion groups added for ‘best practices’ from everything from district management to event management to help governors with growing the class at a local level. There will also be a front-end page which will be created as a map of the world with direct links to country sites as well as having navigation which will allow for digging deeper into the IJCA site.

Sponsorship efforts for individual teams and event sponsors are to be supported by a global data base of photos to help showcase possibilities for other potential sponsors. This will be set up on the international website as well.

On a Canadian front, please join me in noting BC’s Lorne Chapman becoming the chair of the ITC (international technical committee). Lorne is a long-serving member of the class and is also one of three Canadians who have been Chairman of the IJCA. (Geoff Evelyn and Rudy Wolfs being the other two). Geoff Evelyn was recognized at this meeting by being named to the “Council of Honour”- congratulations Geoff!!!

As for the venue, our Irish hosts pulled out all the stops to ensure that everyone was supplied with enough Guinness to facilitate international relations in a very picturesque setting.

If you have any suggestions on rule changes or how to better promote the class locally or internationally please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



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PS. We hope to see many of you at the Canadians and North Americans happening in a few short weeks in Toronto and Rochester respectively. Should be some great racing with both the Mexican Worlds and Pan Am games on the line!!!