

F18 Sailors Meeting
Ballyholme Yacht Club

10 July 2014.

As a Council Meeting would not have been quorate, then a Sailors Meeting was held chaired by President. Views expressed will not be binding upon Council but no doubt Council will take note of the sailors opinions.

The agenda had been published on the Worlds Regatta Notice Board and copies distributed to sailors.

Agenda.

1. Netherlands proposal for Brest 2016. Removed as a proposal.
 2. Rules re-write. Sec. General to present.
 3. Marketing programme. Jasper to present.
 4. Cloth List. Sec. General to present.
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 5. Builders opinions. Open discussion on future development of F18's.
 6. Rule change. TWO piece masts: Sec. General to present.
 7. Championship Rules. Sec. General to present.
 8. Weight / Result analysis.
 9. French Proposal for easing measurement for sailors. Sail makers declaration.
 10. New regattas. F18 South Pacific Championships New Caledonia. Nordic F18 Championships..
 11. Canting daggerboards. Received from Gianni (03.07.14) from Chair Italy.
 12. Any other business.
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1. The Netherlands had withdrawn their objection to Brest as dates have been moved to early July 2016. There were still two dates available, and an examination of the tide situation would decide which week to choose. The Sec. Gen. was asked to examine the tidal situation. However concern was still expressed that regattas in Ireland, Germany and France were still giving an "Atlantic" feeling whereas William Sunnucks thought the Mediterranean venues should be examined further. He was asked to put forward a proposal to Council in December

2. Rules re-write. The Sec. General explained that he recognised that this work needed attention, but Alain Bujaud had started and so it was correct to work on it. These changes are ADMINISTRATIVE and are NOT rule changes. When there are changes they can be discussed by Council in due course. The main point for discussion was the carrying of a tow line. It was felt by some that this was unnecessary and that the spinnaker sheet can perform the same function, but this was NOT accepted by all. Some sailors questioned whether it was suitable for long distance racing and not part of the rules for "round the cans". The Chairman was strongly in favour of retaining the rule as written. The subject can be taken to Council in December.
3. Jasper van Staveren detailed promotional ideas for the Class. The meeting was delighted to have Jasper "on board" and congratulated the Chairman and Sec. General for their decisive action with this decision. There was concern in one area, which the Sec. General said he would pursue, that was the costs to competitors of purchasing high definition photos while at the event. The Sec. Gen. explained the current agreement, that Jasper is paid a monthly fee equating to one days' work a month, then in addition he is paid on a daily basis for attending a "five to seven" day regatta. The low definition photos were available to all and were placed on the website, the high definition were charged for whether for commercial use or for sailor competitors. There were suggestions that while the IF18CA were paying a "daily fee" then the high definition ought to be owned by the IF18CA and provided free of charge to sailors and the IF18CA ought to charge if they were sold commercially to other trade companies. This matter will be reviewed. A full review of the 2014 Worlds will be presented by Jasper shortly.
4. The Cloth List. The Sec. General pointed out that three cloth makers had emailed to suggest corrections as there were errors in the current Cloth List. This subject had caused much discussion but sailors wished to have simplicity, and to leave the Cloth List as it was and only add new cloths that fitted IF18CA requirements of world wide availability and value for money.
5. Builders opinions. Three builders present, Mannu Boulogne, Brett Goodall and Gunnar Larsen who led the discussion were VERY clear that changes were NOT required in boat design. They were VERY positive now for the future of F18 and wished to thank the "management" team for the work that they had done. Gunnar stressed that it was because of the support from "Olivier, Pierre-Charles and Don" that they and other builders had donated monies to the IF18CA. This brought a strong applause support from the meeting. Gunnar stressed that there were many boats available for 10,000 Euros which offered real opportunities for sailors to come and enjoy large scale competitive f18 racing. He thanked Ballyholme YC as the best event that experienced sailors with worldwide knowledge had even attended. There were suggestions of allowing total weight to be considered for boat and crew. The

Sec. General will distribute the Measurement Report for 2014 Worlds as prepared by Chief measurer.

6. A suggestion from one Australian builder that the two piece masts be accepted. The Sec. Gen. to write to the Tech. Comm. to get further thoughts.
7. Championship Rules. The Sec. Gen. detailed the current situation, the DRAFT copies had been around for a long time, and Council had not made a clear decision at a time when regattas were been “granted” to countries who clearly had not agreed to the Championship Rules. Further points were still needed to be added in the Rules, as the definitions of Master and Youth sailors were not expressed in the current DRAFT Rules.
8. The detailed work concerning total crew / boat weight and results from Ad Noordzij en Marion Alards (Netherlands) was appreciated but many found it confusing stretching their mathematical knowledge. William Sunnucks from the UK agreed to write a “simple guide” as it was very positive for F18 and could be used as a sales aid for builders. The meeting thanked Ad for his careful and authoritative work. The Sec. Gen. agreed that it would be placed on the IF18CA website.
9. The importance of the Sailmakers Declaration was discussed. It was agreed that this was NOT a measurement certificate, but certainly placed pressure upon any sail maker if after measurement the sail did not fulfil IF18CA rules. The Sec. Gen. was asked to write again to ALL sail makers ensuring that the declaration was supplied with each new sail produced.
10. New regattas. It was agreed that sailors can’t go to all regattas and so will decide between which ones to attend. New regattas, Nordic Rregatta 15th – 17th August, Copenhagen, and the New Caledonian, September 2014 were discussed briefly.
11. The Sec. Gen. was asked to write to the Italy Chairman as it was felt that their concern about “canting daggerboards” was misplaced and confusing a previous issue from Grosseto which had now been resolved.
12. Andrew Gallagher proposed a vote of thanks to “Olivier, Pierre-Charles and Don “ for their outstanding service to the F18 Class. Passed unanimously.
13. The meeting closed.