



OFFSHORE CLASSES AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Meeting

held from 15:00 – 18:00 UTC/GMT
on Saturday, 31st October 2020 via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Bruno Finzi (ITA) – chairman, Vasily Alexeev (RUS), Joaquin Barenys (ESP), Steve Benjamin (USA), David Bartol (SLO), Thomas Blixt (SWE), Jose Frers (ARG), Zoran Grubiša (CRO), Patrik Lindqvist (FIN), Ecky von der Mosel (GER), Thomas Nilsson (NOR), Edoardo Recchi (ITA), Wolfgang Schaefer (GER), Akis Tsalikis (GRE), Dirk-Jan Zweers (NED).

Apologies were received from: Jose Martinez (ESP). Joachin Bareyns (ESP) attended as his alternate.

Observers: Holger Ambroselli (GER), Gennaro Aveta (ITA), Michael Berghorn (GER), Per Boeymo (NED), Paul Bradley (IRL), Fintan Cairns (IRL), Edward Cesare (USA), Dobbs Davis (USA), Willem Ellemeet (NED), Pablo Ferrer (ESP), Bruno Frank (SUI), Bojan Gale (SLO), Edward Dougall (CAN), Jaroslaw Gorski (POL), Robert Jacobsen (GER), Agnes Lill (EST), Alberto Pindozzi (ITA), Fabrizio Pirina (ITA), Christian Plump (GER), Michael Quist (DEN), Panayotis Papapostolou (GRE), Roni Raviv (ISR), Raymond Roesnik (NED), Teresa Rios (ESP), Sukru Sanus (TUR), Nicola Sironi (ITA), Johan Tuvstedt (SWE), Roy van Aller (NED), Patricia Young (USA), Godwin Zammit (MLT), Matteo Zuppini (ITA)

1. Approval of Minutes of 2019 meeting

Minutes of 2019 annual meeting were unanimously approved as well as minutes of the 27 March 2020 and the 22 May 2020 meetings.

2. Submissions

SWE 1 - National team title at ORC Championships

Submission is supported with a note that its intention is not to replace the Offshore Team World Championship. Instead it creates a new title within existing ORC World and Continental Championships that will be awarded to the Country with a team of the best-scored entries within each class. There was discussion on which requirements are really needed to represent the country; the general feeling was to continue to use the simple formulation currently existing in the Green Book (nationality defined by the owner or charterer or borrower who entered the boat). Final wording for this new national title will be included in the next edition of the Green Book.

SWE 2 - Equal championship points from offshore and windward/leeward races

The submission was discussed at length with a good exchange of opinions on this subject, but acknowledging that the submission is still too general, SWE withdrew the submission with the intention to present a new submission with a more detailed proposal on how the format of the championships may be improved.

SWE 3 - Doublehanded class at ORC Championships

Submission is not supported in the portion that proposes to include a DH class at existing ORC championships because this may include sailors that would also like to participate in the fully crewed event and also make additional logistic requirements to the organizer to accommodate DH fleet both on the racing areas and on the moorings.

However, recognizing the strong development of DH racing with more than 2300 ORC DH certificates issued this year and following the position of the Management Committee, the Offshore Classes and Events Committee will recommend to the Congress to establish new ORC DH Classes within one or more rating or measurement bands for which separate Continental Championships may be organized annually starting from 2021.

USA 3 - Championship racing formats

Following decisions on submissions SWE 2 and SWE 3, the USA agreed to work with SWE for a new formulation of submission SWE 2 accepting also the decision of establishing new ORC DH Classes as a positive response also to their submission. Therefore, there was no need for vote on this submission.

3. Green Book: Current status and updates for the future

In addition to the changes to the Green Book coming from submissions (eg, establishing a National team title and new ORC DH Classes), the Committee is asking the Staff to perform the usual "housekeeping" of the Green Book particularly in checking Standard NoR and SI with the latest version of the Racing Rules of Sailing that will be valid for 2021 – 2024. Final Green Book draft will be circulated to the Committee for final check and approval.

4. Report about Super Yachts 2020 season and future plans

The Superyacht season was strongly affected by the pandemic with only 2 events completed: the Millennium Cup in NZL and the Antigua Superyacht Challenge, while all other events after March were cancelled. Hopefully next year will be more successful with two events planned in New Zealand, Antigua, the Bucket Regatta in the Caribbean, the Loro Piana Superyacht Regatta in Porto Cervo, the Superyacht Cup Palma and the Perini Cup in the Mediterranean.

5. Calendar of future Events:

2021 Championships reports on current status in preparations

ORC Worlds in Tallinn (EST) – Just a few days after the launch of the event's website, 47 entries are already received. A joint press release from the ORC and the organizer will be published soon.

ORC Europeans will be held in Naples – Capri (ITA) as the event has been postponed from 2020. When the postponement was announced there were more than 120 boats entered with a similar turnout expected next year as well. The only difference is that in 2021 ORC Europeans will be separated from the Maxi Yacht Capri Trophy which will resolve possible problems with mooring places in Capri.

ORC Sportboat Europeans has also been postponed from 2020 and it is planned for the second half of August under the organization of the Turkish Sailing Federation. It is expected that this event will also help in the further development of ORC racing in Turkey.

2021 Multihull events

The ORCmh VPP and rule is in its final beta stage and it is expected to have the first certificates issued in 2021. Most of 2020 multihull events were not held due to the pandemic, but it may be expected that OMA events will take place in 2021 and ORC will work with organizers of these events. Depending on the speed of both development and acceptance of the new ORCmh rule, possible ORCmh Championships may be planned to start from 2022.

2021 Double Handed events

Following the decision on submission SWE 3, the Committee is inviting clubs and MNAs to present their bids to host ORC DH Continental Championships from 2021 and thereafter.

2022 bids and expression of interest received:

The bid to host the 2022 ORC World Championship was received from Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in Porto Cervo (ITA), the venue where the first IMS World Championship was held in 1999. The Committee is pleased to accept the bid and recommend to the Congress to have the 2022 ORC Worlds held in Porto Cervo. ORC will try to involve RORC so that the event will become a joint ORC/IRC World Championship as originally planned. YCCS is anyway committed to organize the championship even if it will be ORC only.

Two bids were presented for the ORC Europeans 2022 from Tel Aviv (ISR) by Israeli Yacht Club and from Valetta (MLT) by Royal Malta Yacht Club. The Committee is thanking both bidders for very well-prepared presentations. However, after a long discussion, it had to be noted that this year is different from any previous one with the World championship in the USA cancelled and two others postponed due to the pandemic. All this affected the regular and well-accepted schedule of exchanging World and European championships between the North of Europe and the Mediterranean. The Committee will therefore ask the Congress permission to make a final decision by the end of this year extending invitations for possible bids from Northern Europe but also acknowledging that with the addition of the newly proposed ORC DH continental championship that bids will be accepted for:

- ORC European Championship 2022
- ORC Sportboat Europeans 2022
- ORC DH Continental Championships 2021
- ORC DH Continental Championships 2022

6. Organization of the Committee

Unfortunately, Paolo Massarini, Chairman of the committee, passed away in February. Bruno Finzi has been acting as interim Chairman since 2018, and it was agreed to have him now assume the role of Chairman.