

Minutes of the 2004 YCC General Meeting

Thursday 18 November 2004 - Auditorium

CERN

Agenda.

1. Election of the Chairman
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2003 GM.
4. Discussion on 2004 Activities and Presentation of 2005 Activities
 - a. Introduction.
 - b. State of the YCC fleet.
 - c. Courses.
 - d. Windsurf.
 - e. Regattas.
 - f. Jeûne Genevois Cruise.
 - g. Introduction to the new key system
5. Report on the 2004 Budget.
6. Report of the Auditors.
7. Discharge of the 2004 Committee.
8. Proposed change to Constitution.
9. Nomination of the 2005 Auditors.
10. Election of the 2005 YCC President.
11. Nomination of the 2005 Committee.
12. Fees for the 2005 Season.
13. Preliminary 2005 Budget.
14. AOB.

Attendance and Election of the Chairman.

The 2004 YCC General Meeting opened at 18:08 in the Auditorium (the usual Council Chamber being unavailable). An attendance sheet was circulated among the participants. 36 members were present. (List kept by secretary.)

Chick Nichols, Honorary Life President, was unanimously elected chairman of the 2004 GM.

Approval of minutes 2003

Minutes are approved, correcting the spelling of Chick Nichols' name and role.

Discussion on 2004 Activities and Presentation of 2005 Activities.

Gigi Rolandi spoke generally about the season, noting that it has been less active than in previous years, although with a stable membership. Work pressure seems to prevent many of us from taking full advantage of the fleet. The professional maintenance of the Ynglings was the major innovation of the year, by which considerably increased availability of those boats had to be traded against much higher costs, more even than anticipated.

State of the YCC Fleet.

Rob Veenhof detailed the state of the fleet, noting some replacements must be considered imminent. New windsurf boards (and an EW course) had greatly reactivated that discipline. The Lasers were 13 years old but holding up well, better than the 470s whose decks separated periodically. The new RS 400 was a welcome and wise addition, although the ISO is used much less. Catamarans had benefited from careful refurbishment (thank you, Gennaro) and would last some time more.

Surprises remain very popular, and Ynglings even more so. Two Surprise collisions and damage were covered under insurance but inevitably boats were unavailable for long periods, including Match-racing for which Beppe Masala had very kindly loaned his personal Surprise.

The First, Chick'En II, had had the toilet and sink removed to meet current lake regulations. The additional outboard back-up motor had proved a mixed blessing; no other major maintenance had been necessary but it is recalled that this boat should soon be put up for sale.

Thanks were due to Sascha Schmeling, both for looking after the Q-Boat and for organising timely and beneficial training sessions on her.

Courses.

Rob Veenhof, on behalf of Jonathan Cook, reported that as usual, all courses were oversubscribed, some by 300%. Again, there is still a shortage of willing teachers, especially for the wetter boats. This year fewer licences were obtained and later in the year than previously. Pre-regatta courses had been well received and should be continued.

Stefano Fratianni reported for Giovanni Cervelli on the rejuvenated and very successful Windsurf and ExperiencedW courses: 17 students, 15 passed, much more activity, even in strong Bise winds. He noted however that the advanced course was too demanding on teachers (a weekend away, with early bookings, cancellations headaches) and could not be offered next season.

Match Races and Regattas.

Marco Benvenuti presented the season for these activities. Boat damage and unavailability had again been a limiting factor but fewer people turned up. While the formula of several short races in one afternoon was generally appreciated, several Friend Members with keelboats said it was simply unsuited to their boats, invalidated spinnakers, and explained why they (and some others) did not attend regattas. The new Committee was mandated to review this, and investigate combining shorter dinghy heats with a single longer keelboat regatta. Paul Gelissen believes his handicap on Pussycat is wrong; this should be investigated. The 2 pm start was generally endorsed, although it bisects the day.

Nick reported on external regattas, both keelboats on Lake Lemman and the RS 400 (mostly) trailered to events elsewhere in Switzerland: attendance had been down, and very limited (but enthusiastic) respectively. Marco noted that due to personal commitments next year, he cannot plan the regatta season alone, and will need a team.

Jeûne Genevois Cruise.

Sandro Vascotto reported on another successful 2004 JGC, this time to Sardinia, Porto Rotondo and thence to the beautiful islands toward Corsica and Bonifaccio, a spectacular end-point which all four Bavaria boats had reached, although not together.

This year, fewer people, 24, but good weather and winds (some very strong) and a mixture of cruising in companionship and meeting in evenings. Plans are afoot for next year: Corsica, Isole Pontine (near Rome), Croatia or Turkey (necessarily two weeks, it would be suggested) are under active consideration. A question as to why not Brittany again (after eight years) was answered that the cold and less predictable weather (if not the tidal questions) discouraged many.

New key system

At Gigi's invitation, Gijs de Rijk explained the electronic key system which he, Enrico Bravin and Sandro had been developing, partly from cheaply purchased CERN discards. He mentioned the better boat control and surveillance which would result, improved safety aspects and simplified access. There were numerous questions and much discussion, centring around practicalities. Gijs believes there will be teething problems but so far experiments have been encouraging. The system should be operational by next season. Thanks were expressed to the innovators.

Financial Report.

Refer to the printed version of the YCC consolidated 2004 budget for details, as prepared by Udo Wagner. The unusual new expenditure on the professional Yngling maintenance was agreed to be a regrettable but necessary counterbalance to general disinclination to do the work with "volunteers": costs however were therefore doubled. Some discussion on other points, how to increase income, were made to the future Committee.

Report of the Auditors.

Stefano Buono and David Holman, as YCC Auditors, had confirmed the 2004 budget, although neither was able to be present. They made two recommendations: that because of the large and valuable Shop stock, it should be inventoried, and that the accounts should contain receivable and payable lines. This was agreed. Neither auditor finds it convenient to continue in 2005. They were thanked for their terms of office. Gigi proposed, and the meeting accepted, Christian Carli and Wolfgang Lerche as 2005 auditors (unanimous).

Discharge of the 2004 Committee.

The YCC 2004 Committee was discharged, as having fulfilled its mandate (1 against, 1 abstention).

Proposed change to Constitution.

Marco Benvenuti explained his proposed Amendment, the main purpose of which was to allow Friend members to teach for the Club, when invited by the Committee. (They are currently precluded from using YCC boats by the Constitution.) After some discussion, this was agreed, 2 against, 2 abstentions.

Election of the YCC President.

Gigi was acclaimed. He however invited the Club to consider a new Chairman for 2006.

Nomination of the 2005 Committee.

Gigi thanked his current Committee, particularly those members who are not restanding for election: Giovanni Cervelli, Christine Détraz, Robert Herzog and Antonio Perin. He proposed a 2005 Committee, which was approved by the Assembly. The members are :

Chairman: Gigi ROLANDI

Deputy Chairman: Marco BENVENUTI

Secretary: Elena GIANOLIO
Treasurer: Udo WAGNER

Committee members:

Enrico BRAVIN,
 Jonathan COOK,
 Stafano FRATIANNI (new),
 John FULLERTON (new),
 Sarah FULLERTON (new),
 Timothy HANCOX,
 Vincenzo INNOCENTE,
 Tomasz LADZINSKI (new),
 Gijs de RIJK,
 Gennaro RUGGIERO,
 Sascha SCHMELING,
 Sandra SEQUEIRA,
 Sandro VASCOTTO,
 Robert VEENHOF,
 Nick ZIOGAS.

Fees for the 2005 Season.

The proposal that the 2005 fee for active members remain unchanged was accepted (0 against, 3 abstentions).

As of 2005, YCC fees are therefore as follows:

Category	Annual Fee	Entry Fee
Active members	250 CHF	100 CHF
Active juniors (a)	100 CHF	50 CHF
Friend members (b)	60 CHF	0
Honorary members (b)	0	0
Temporary members (c)	100 CHF/month	0

Preliminary 2005 Budget.

The printed version of the YCC provisional 2005 budget was made available by the Treasurer and may be consulted for details. There was some discussion, notably of ways to increase income to cover increased keelboat maintenance; ideas were referred to the new Committee.

The 2005 provisional budget was approved as submitted.

AOB.

1. Rob Veenhof mentioned the dates of the forthcoming Winter Evenings (see Web).
2. Paul Gelissen invited the Committee to consider charging per boat-use, as a means of increasing income. Chick Nichols decided that the Committee had a mandate to consider options and proposed no further discussion at this point: ideas could be forwarded to the Committee during the season.
3. Chick asked that the weekly CERN Bulletin should contain much more regular notice of YCC events, both as a means of publicising the Club and to ensure that it is clear to the Staff Association that we are active. This was agreed.

The Meeting closed at 20:25 and participants adjourned to a drink and snack: thanks to Rob, Marco, Chiara, Sarah, Elena for preparing it all.