

Minutes of the 2007 YCC General Meeting

Thursday 15 November 2007

Council Chamber, CERN

Agenda.

1. Election of the Chairman
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2006 GM.
4. Discussion on 2007 Activities
 - a. Introduction.
 - b. Courses.
 - c. Regattas.
 - d. State of the YCC fleet.
 - e. New boats.
5. Report on the 2007 Budget.
6. Report of the Auditors.
7. Discharge of the 2007 Committee.
8. Nomination of the 2007 Auditors.
9. Election of the 2008 YCC President.
10. Nomination of the 2008 Committee.
11. Fees for the 2008 Season.
12. Preliminary 2008 Budget.
13. AOB.

Attendance and Election of the Chairman.

The 2007 YCC General Meeting opened at 18:15 in the Council Chamber. An attendance sheet was circulated among the participants. 45 members were present and four had sent apologies. (List kept by secretary.)

Giovanni Cervelli, ex-Committee Member was unanimously elected Chairman of the 2007 GM.

Approval of minutes 2006

The minutes were approved, with no changes.

Discussion on 2007 Activities.

a) President Tomasz Ładziński opened discussion of this item by noting that this had been the season of the big new boat purchases: both the relatively (to the club budget) costly GibSea 264 and the Xenon dinghy which was also successful, ensuring that her bigger relative did not overwhelm her. He commented that Club life centred (maybe too much?) on regattas: the internal regattas continue about the same level of popularity, the Match-Races are up in attendance on the previous season, but external regattas, other than for a few regular participants, often with their own boats, have not regained the interest of five seasons ago. His Committee believed that other Social activities would be very welcome, whether dinners, barbeques, whatever, and would be glad of suggestions, including offers to organise them. He did note too that a couple of the Winter events had had very good attendance: these will be continued but of course several depend on external circumstances.

Tomasz also mentioned the perennial problem of maintenance and, even more, those few volunteers (all too few!) who go looking for work. The Club should be aware that relatively few maintenance problems this season were more a tribute to hard winter work by a devoted few: excellent preparation, particularly in the dinghy class, counted for a lot.

It should also be recorded that it had been a more difficult year for Surveillance: both fewer - and last-minute call-ups - drivers, and periodic problems with the Q-boat, like the non-functioning bilge-pump which it had not been possible to get repaired fast.

b) Marco Silari reported on Courses: a fair number of licenses had been granted, including an improving pattern of dinghy "keys". Sixty licenses to non-students (i.e. those who simply qualified with private or Thursday outings, and then asked to pass a test) was unusually high this season, heavily increased by the commissioning of the GibSea and the then familiarisation outings. Marco noted that he had received 149 applicants for course places (less than 2006), for 68 places (later raised to 70, identical to 2006). 30% of "first-choices" were offered their chosen place. Some of those disappointed were no doubt to be counted among the 60 passes cited above, on praiseworthy individual initiative!

The CK course had taken place, even with the students knowing that Chick 'En II was to be decommissioned: those students should be prime candidates for passing the new GS key at the earliest possible opportunity.

The recent system of forcibly registering a first (of two required for a license candidacy) Q-boat outing as a crew member had worked very well, the random choice of dates even seeming to cause relatively little angst (or efficient swapping!). However, candidates were slow and late to sign for their second, revealing a lack of places available - for which the system does not take responsibility. Candidates were delayed in getting their license as a result, and must take the initiative of clearing the outings early, next year.

Bjorn Halvarsson asked why the Club finances were so "healthy". Tomasz noted that courses bring in a substantial and steady income, and that Treasurer Luigi Serio has been strict on expenses, and with happily fewer major repairs.

Jean-Pierre Merlo enquired if the Club could provide training on the GibSea motor which, since it is over the Swiss *Permis C* limit (unlike the motor of Chick 'En II), necessitates passing a Swiss test for some CK holders. Tomasz regretted that as the test would have to be passed outside the Club, with the Lake Police, the Club preferred not to intervene in this field; neither is it within the Statutes' intentions.

c) Sebastian Łopieński reported on Regattas, covering Match-Racing also for Michał Kwiatek (apologies for absence). Eight internal regattas has been found a practical maximum over the seasons, and eight had been held in 2007. Sebastian briefly highlighted (with some excellent pictures like the ducks studying gibing technique from the wall) the characteristics of each: varying winds, a welcome record 14 turn-out (the Monthly II), the Drag Races fitting in a surprising 9 + 11 individual heats, the unusual turn-out of 12 for Monthly VI October Closing (maybe those thirsting for fame realised this was their last opportunity ..). Sebastian remarked that no big changes in the regatta schedule had been found advisable for 2007; a laptop for calculating regatta results was a welcome addition and the way of calculating championship points - by regatta, not for individual races - was fairer. It is nice to record that we had more participants (both categories, but a remarkable increase for dinghies) than in previous years - and we could accommodate still more!

See the web for Sebastian's presentation, and Season's full results: note that Angelika Lippitsch carried off the Dinghy skipper award, Alex Koschik the D crew, and Michał Kwiatek the keelboat skipper prize (and if you wonder why we do not award "keelboat crew"), Sebastian would be happy to enlighten you there too!).

As for Match-Races, we have happily put behind us the shock cancellation of SU the previous season: enrolments (if last-minute, as always: is there something about Human Nature?) were high, a record 45 individuals triumphantly reversing a three-year decline,

over the three pairs of races. Michał's presentation (well worth a visit on the Web) was equally vivid, including showing the redoubtable D35s as a backdrop (seemingly ignoring our yellow penalty flag). And to crown our professionalism, Sebastian and Michał called in Google Earth, some imaginative software and generated animations - Valencia does not do better!

Participation (excluding Match-Races)

	Keelboats	Dinghies	Both
2003	48	40	88
2004	35	38	73
2005	39	38	77
2006	33	40	73
2007	36	52	88

d) the state of the fleet was detailed by John Fullerton. Most classes in our fleet showed an increase in use (always healthy, although see strictures on corresponding wear 'n tear/maintenance elsewhere), dinghies of + 6% (thanks to winter overhauls), Ynglings a resounding + 20%, and Surprises + 18% (an extensive winter 2007 on-land overhaul Of *Miss Match* doubtless helped; *Mic Mac* is to be the winter 2008 project). Two negative statistics of use: catamarans - 31%, underlining that a decision needs to be taken on how far to try to keep two ageing Cats both operable (one was out for the whole season), and CK - 6%, obviously before the new GibSea came on steam. Biggest news here was new sails for the Ynglings. John believes, again, that overall the state of the fleet is better than before, while bearing an extra years age in mind since last reported.

Despite an extensive and expensive overhaul of the Q-boat motor early 2007, she leads a hard life, and more work will be needed this coming winter. Bjorn Halvarsson asked for more detail, and Sascha Schmeling reported it to be work on the trimmer (which Nick Ziogas reckons could amount to CHF 3000, because of accessing the solenoid) and more minor points like a bilge-pump, and the impenetrable lighting wiring.

Marco Benvenuti requested further detail on the under-used catamarans, unkindly proposing that the spaces should be given to real boats. John commented that they were not-always-suitable as to size and manoeuvrability, the previous Dart 16s being more appropriate for the less-experienced than these *Mystère* 18s. But they are not, frankly, terribly saleable at the moment, so the decision will be more that of how long to keep one + spares going.

e) Gijs de Rijk reported principally on the "new" GibSea, 11 years younger than her predecessor. She was a lucky find, after a two-year search, and the stop-press news was that Chick 'En II has also been sold (incidentally liberating the Club buoy below Port Choiseul) at a fair price. See the Web report. John gave further details on the new Xenon, and her major asset of being able to take three comfortably (unlike the Lasers of course). The Lasers live on, amazingly robust (John is looking forward to the day when they are older than their students) whereas the solitary 470, with some irreparable structural damage, remains a question-mark.

Financial Report.

Refer to the printed version of the YCC consolidated 2008 budget for details, as prepared by Luigi Serio and circulated separately. Committee-candidate Johannes Gutleber had done a great deal of preparatory work and answered questions both as to expenditure last season and intentions for the next. The happiest event was that expenditure on repairs was well below predictions - are we getting more careful? The result was a higher cash sum currently available for possible purchases: the new Committee will study this and make recommendations, it being agreed that they be left

to consider options rather than allow the meeting to make proposals - all no doubt contradictory.

Report of the Auditors.

Christian Carli and Wolfgang Lerche, as YCC Auditors, had confirmed the 2007 budget, and expenditure, noting a very healthy financial situation, despite heavy outlays during the season. They would recommend an annual assumption that KCHF 50 is habitually available to the Club per annum. Wolfgang Lerche wished to stand down, so Giovanni proposed, and the meeting accepted, that Christian Carli and Tom Wegelius be appointed 2008 auditors.

Discharge of the 2007 Committee.

The YCC 2007 Committee was considered to have fulfilled its mandate, and was discharged (unanimous).

Election of the YCC President.

Tomasz Ładziński was proposed and accepted unanimously as the 2008 President. He thanked the meeting and records that it is a time-consuming post, last year had been particularly tough for many reasons (now mostly behind him) and, while happy to continue one more year, he must regard that as the limit.

Nomination of the 2008 Committee.

Tomasz proposed a 2008 Committee, with which he would be happy to work, mentioning some new blood as Johannes Gutleber as Treasurer, Christian Mester for External Regattas (Christian incidentally holds another praiseworthy record, that of having used most boats the most!), Danielle Moraes for Social events and the Shop, and Luca Canali (another very active sailor) with responsibility for a Cruise and for IT support. These proposals were approved by the Assembly. The members are:

President: Tomasz Ładziński

Vice-President: Gijs de Rijk

Secretary: Elena Gianolio

Treasurer: Johannes Gutleber

Committee members:

Allain Gonidec

Haude Morel

Luca Canali

Gennaro Ruggiero

John Fullerton

Michał Kwiatek

Marco Silari

Tim Hancox

Danielle Moraes

Reiner Geyer

Rob Veenhof

Christian Mester

Sascha Schmeling

Sebastian Łopieński

Stefano Fratianni

This represents a slightly smaller Committee than last year. Tomasz particularly thanked those previous Committee members who were retiring: Sandra Sequeira, Sandro Vascotto, Nick Ziogas, Enrico Bravin, Marion Lindsay, Luigi Serio. Portfolio responsibilities will be decided at the first meeting of the new Committee.

Fees for the 2008 Season.

The proposal that the 2008 fees remain unchanged was accepted.

For 2008, 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 2008 Budget.

Johannes presented his provisional budget, which is also available on the Web. He noted that some CHF 30,000 is theoretically available for new boat purchase, Tomasz commenting that it would probably be generally agreed that "light" boats should have their turn next - catamaran or dinghy, to be exhaustively discussed in Committee.

Joanne Yeomans requested clarification whether such a purchase budget represented replacement boats or additions to the fleet. Tomasz responded that the biggest problem with additions was not the cost, it was where to park (or moor) them. But they were not excluded among the options. We should also remember that dinghies were statistically underused, relative to availability. We have enough money available for an instant purchase if needed (countermanding one CK occurrence in 2007). John deduced from this that the membership might be looking to better quality of dinghy, not quantity.

The 2008 provisional budget was approved as submitted.

AOB.

1. One point was raised, by Jean-Pierre Merlo: who was the actual person responsible for the new GibSea? Gijs agreed that "lines of authority" had not been fully clarified: Sascha was "in charge" whereas he himself had taught most on it, and Tim Hancox had done most of the familiarisation outings. This would be addressed.
2. Tomasz reminded members that the Post Office account had been closed and had ceased to exist - do not attempt to use it!

The Meeting closed at 19:45 and participants adjourned to the Smash Restaurant for Apéros (thank you, YCC) and a most excellent dinner.