

Minutes of the 2008 YCC General Meeting

Thursday 20 November 2008

Council Chamber, CERN

Agenda.

1. Election of the Chairman
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2007 G.M.
4. Discussion on 2008 Activities
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Courses
 - c. Regattas
 - d. State of the YCC fleet
 - e. New boats
 - f. Cruises
5. 2008 Financial Statement
6. Report of the Auditors
7. Discharge of the 2008 Committee
8. Appointment of the 2009 Auditors
9. Election of the 2009 YCC President
10. Election of the 2009 Committee
11. Fees for the 2009 Season
12. Preliminary 2009 Budget
13. AOB

1. Attendance and Election of the Chairman

The 2008 YCC General Meeting opened at 18:05 in the Council Chamber, with the Première of the film produced by Matt Ryan and Marco Silari on behalf of "Open Your Eyes", the CERN Film-making club. It was widely applauded and appreciated as a very suitable souvenir of the YCC 40th Anniversary. An attendance sheet was circulated among the participants. 37 members were present and four had sent apologies. (List kept by secretary.)

Marco Benvenuti, ex-Vice President was unanimously elected Chairman of the 2008 GM. He mentioned having been a member for 17 years, having experience of most portfolios and Club activities. It was agreed by vote to run the meeting in English, and the Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes 2007

The minutes were approved, with no changes.

3. Discussion on 2008 Activities

a) President Tomasz Ładziński opened discussion with a .ppt presentation and noted that the highlights of the season were the *Pogoria* cruise from Lisbon to Rouen which had combined hard work with fun and a new experience: there had been 29 participants, and a separate Club cruise to Croatia had found nine takers: the total of 37 members therefore (because one had gone on both) was high. The purchase of two new boats, the RS 500 dinghy and the SL16 catamaran, continues to renew the fleet and the several 40th Anniversary events maintains Club spirit. He commented that the Party at the UN Beach had been just right, perfectly organised and with weather cooperating, and that the *Neptune* outing for helpers had been timely, after a few years without an event to thank those who make a significant contribution to Club life. (Both are substantially subsidised by Club funds, *Neptune* f.i. to CHF 1600.)

The photo contest seems to have been successfully resuscitated after a couple of years where less happened, and calls for maintenance shift helpers had seen sufficient response. It is nice to record that the fleet had seen no major damage this season, which obviously reflects well on costs - and boat availability. For courses, there had been a total of 73 students, of whom a relatively light 29 had secured licenses. There had been fewer regattas, for various reasons, to be analysed. Regatta training was new and had been very popular: certainly to be continued. The YCC Blog was new, and should be expanded as one of the best ways to communicate: some 70 entries this season. Finally, happily, the Club finances were found to be sound.

b) Marco Silari reported on courses (see papers): 172 applicants (145 in 2007) had rapidly filled the 73 (2007: 70) places available. Very few windsurf courses had been possible, simply because of lack of teachers. There had been many more examiners listed this season, although much work fell on a few individuals.

c) Michał Kwiatek delivered Sebastian Łopieński's reported on Regattas, the latter being absent with a new baby. Internal ones had been good, those held at least, for several were cancelled or abandoned for lack of wind or of Q-boat drivers. Participation had been lower, surely influenced by so many people's duties in CERN this year. Rules on adding regatta points results had been slightly modified. Thanks were expressed to organisers and to Q-boat drivers - noting that we need more of both!

Nick Ziogas enquired why so many fewer keelboats had participated than in previous years. It was thought we do not really know the reasons year by year: perhaps LHC again, perhaps the responsibility of skippering for a sometimes unknown and inexperienced crew?

For Match-Racing, the 31 May Surprise event had been cancelled after a lot of hopeful waiting throughout the weekend: simply no wind. Rescheduling had not been possible in a busy season. Yngling Match-Racing had the opposite conditions: a sustained Bf 5

which challenged several skippers unused to this on the lake. But it had been a good weekend, eight teams (a single dinghy team for that concurrent event had "won" by default). All to be planned for next year. External regattas: see separate notes.

d) the state of the fleet was detailed by Tomasz, John Fullerton being unavoidably absent. In quick review, the two 1991 Lasers continue to amaze by their longevity but need new launching trolleys since the current pair have never been suitable. The Ynglings are hopefully also fairly indestructible despite a lot of learner action. The two Surprises, of 1986 and 1993 respectively, are however ageing rather, and there is a view that they are no longer state of the art (based on dwindling numbers in lake regattas). The GibSea, bought in 2007 but a well-maintained 1996 boat justified our confidence but will get deserved maintenance this winter. The 1993 Q-boat battles on with an active life but seasonal consumption of (expensive) propellers, three so far, must be reduced, mostly by finding deeper moorings.

e) Alex Cerri reported, as one of the main users, on the new dinghy and catamaran of the season, respectively RS 500 and SL16. Both had been appropriate choices and were well integrated to the fleet, participating also in regattas. It was noted, in response to a question concerning both d) and e) that yes, while a varied fleet brought rewards, Match-Racing nevertheless depended on reasonably matched pairs of boats.

f) Luca Canali, as the mystery person who had done both cruises this season, reported briefly: both had been well planned and successful. While a future *Pogoria* event was nowhere on the current horizon, an annual do-it-yourself cruise was well installed as a Club tradition now, most commonly in the Mediterranean.

4. Financial Report

Johannes Gutleber had prepared very detailed papers, which Rob Veenhof presented for him: refer to the printed version of the YCC consolidated 2009 budget for details, the balance sheet of ownership and liabilities. Points mentioned, some in response to questions, concerned increased costs of insurance, largely explained by newer boats and a need to cover extensive use (therefore "Casco complet" on more boats, also covering regatta activities). Johannes' proposed 2009 budget was also discussed in detail: the proposal to spend a relatively very large proportion of savings on a new boat(s) elicited much interest.

Marco Benvenuti asked if the Committee was generally happy that an ageing fleet can be both sustained, and replaced as necessary? Rob believes yes, based on these figures. Suzanne Brudon enquired why the Ynglings had cost so much more to maintain than the Surprises, a supposedly more sophisticated boat? It is partly three vs. two boats, partly proportionately higher use of the smaller category, but principally that the Ynglings are all under a comprehensive professional (Phil Durr) contract for weekly maintenance, whereas Surprises rely on volunteers. Obviously, the Club would benefit

greatly from more volunteers, but a weekly (Monday) checkover of boats should not be underestimated either, even at some CHF 80-90 per hour. Enrico Bravin's personal efforts at Ynglings maintenance were noticed and appreciated.

6. Report of the Auditors

Christian Carli and Tom Wegelius, as YCC Auditors, had confirmed the 2008 expenditure figures, as far as is possible, noting again a very healthy financial situation, which in their view should encourage further purchases were need was discerned. Their report was read out, at Nick Ziogas' request, he making the point that evaluation of papers only presented during the meeting did not allow full reflection. The Committee agreed to review practices on this.

7. Discharge of the 2008 Committee.

The YCC 2008 Committee was considered to have fulfilled its mandate, and was discharged (unanimous).

8. Appointment of the 2009 Auditors

Marco Benvenuti's proposal of thanks to Christian and Tom was applauded. As the Committee had announced for its recommendation, Christian Carli and Tom Wegelius were re-appointed 2009 auditors. A proposal was made that they might beneficially separate further their confirmation of accounts and personal recommendations.

9. Election of the YCC President

Tomasz Ładziński was proposed and accepted unanimously as the 2009 President. He thanked the meeting and, rather as during the previous GM, commented that it is a time-consuming post, especially last year for widely known CERN reasons.

10. Election of the 2009 Committee

Tomasz proposed a 2009 Committee, with which he would be happy to work, particularly thanking those 2008 members who for other commitments or departure from the area, would not be presenting themselves again: Marco Silari, Alain Gonidec, Christian Mester. The following Committee was accepted by the meeting:

President: Tomasz Ładziński

Vice-President: Gijs de Rijk

Secretary: Elena Gianolio

Treasurer: Johannes Gutleber

Committee members:

Haude Morel

Luca Canali

Gennaro Ruggiero

John Fullerton
 Michał Kwiatek
 Marco Silari
 Tim Hancox
 Danielle Moraes
 Reiner Geyer
 Rob Veenhof
 Sascha Schmeling
 Sebastian Łopieński
 Stefano Fratianni
 Paul Aspell
 Alex Cerri

Portfolio responsibilities will be decided at the first meeting of the new Committee, but the intentions might be that Luca would also take on external regattas, John expand with more dinghy and catamaran course responsibility. New members Paul Aspell and Alex Cerri would cover courses generally and dinghy specifically, respectively.

11. Fees for the 2009 Season

The proposal that the 2009 fees remain unchanged was accepted, despite a note of inflation and the fact that they had not increased for several seasons. But Club finances are healthy. Marco Benvenuti proposed that this point might be taken after 2009 budget discussion (below) in the future, as a decision might be influenced: the new Committee will consider this.

For 2009, 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

12. Preliminary 2009 Budget

Rob presented Johannes' provisional budget, which is also available on the Web. The biggest point would be possible replacement of *Mic Mac*, the older Surprise. Nevertheless noting the need for Match-Racing pairs of boats (Marleen van Nes), a newer concept of boat should be considered too: for instance a 7-m length, with 25 sq.m. sail area was proposed (therefore slightly smaller than Surprise).

Lively discussion followed, usually rather requests for further explanation rather than disagreement with the proposals. Detlef Swoboda queried an apparent inconsistency between a "cautious" assessment of income and yet fairly extensive expenditure: Rob noted that the Club sum of money available was almost "too healthy"! - allowing one-off

large sums next year. Sandro Vascotto asked why a replacement boat, rather than an additional boat, was proposed: the answer was that the first scenario was still under consideration but came up against the perennial problem of finding moorings. Also, of course the older boats, if kept, could be expected to require increasingly onerous maintenance expenditure.

Marco Benvenuti expressed himself put off by the diversity of dinghies, with the Lasers remaining the solitary "pair": was there an intention to duplicate a recent new purchase with a second identical boat? Tomasz confirmed that a second RS 400 or RS 500 was a distinct possibility but noted that many Club sailors enjoyed the variety too. In response to Michał Ropka's question as to what the KCHF 60 might be spent on, the preliminary answer now (subject to Committee discussion) is another - or a replacement - keelboat, desirably with Port Choiseul moorings already. A small subcommittee will be named to investigate this, with authority to make a rapid purchase.

AOB.

1. At the Chairman's invitation, Michał Kwiatek then reported on the Photo Contest. It had elicited many and good entries, the voting system on-line had worked well - and results would be made public at the imminent Closing Dinner! This now being due, the meeting adjourned to the Smash Restaurant for Apéros (thank you, YCC) and a most excellent dinner.