

Minutes of the 2009 YCC General Meeting

Thursday 26 November 2009

Main Auditorium, CERN

Agenda

1. Election of the Chairman
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of 2008 G.M.
4. Discussion on 2009 Activities
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Courses
 - c. Regattas
 - d. Cruise
 - e. Our boats
5. Report on the 2009 Budget
6. Report of the Auditors
7. Discharge of the 2009 Committee
8. Changes to Constitution
9. Election of the Auditors
10. Election of the 2010 YCC President
11. Election of the 2010 Committee
12. Fees for the 2010 Season
13. Preliminary 2010 Budget
14. AOB

1. Attendance and Election of the Chairman

The 2009 YCC General Meeting opened at 18:07 in the Council Chamber (after running several films mostly produced by member Matt Ryan: they are all available on the Web). An attendance sheet was circulated among the participants. 58 members were present and four had sent apologies. (List kept by secretary.)

Marco Benvenuti, ex-Vice President (for some six years), was elected Chairman of the 2009 GM unanimously.

2. The Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of minutes 2008

The minutes were approved, with no changes.

4. Discussion on 2009 Activities

a) President Tomasz Ładziński opened discussion with a .ppt presentation and commented on several points of the season: membership was at a record high with 351 members, of whom 320 Active Senior category. He said that the trial joint YCC-CNV courses, to accommodate so many would-be dinghy students, had been a success, while also probably putting extra strain on the boats and the Thursday trainings. A new Competent Crew course had also started, with a good take-up.

Tomasz also noted that the sound financial situation would be explained in greater detail later in the meeting and was a source of satisfaction, especially as two new (brand-new) boats had been bought during this period. It is still intended that the new Surprise will replace (rather than supplement) one of the old ones, the reason being primarily the lack of available moorings at Port Choiseul. An additional parking place had nevertheless been secured (even better, adjacent to the existing ones) so the second RS 500 was an addition to the fleet, which would also facilitate Match Racing of dinghies for the future.

Another innovation this year had been the naming of a single person responsible per boat with a supportive mailing list of maintenance volunteers. It had worked well and should be continued. The Cruise this year had been in Southern Brittany with two 37-foot boats and ten members: it would be reported on separately. Regattas had continued as always but this summer had included sending a team to the 2009 Berlin Atomiade - and some new bright yellow sponsored buoys. Finally, do remember the YCCLife YouTube channel, offering seven great new films from Matt Ryan.

b) Paul Aspell reported on courses with a full .ppt (for details see the Annual Report): a modified Course flow which was more logical, the new Competent Crew course, which he explained in detail (it is based on the RYA equivalent) and CNV involvement mentioned, and new weekend dinghy practice and test sessions which had been well taken up. The predictable oversubscription to courses had even been higher than in the past: 194 applicants (172 in 2008, 145 in 2007) had rapidly filled the 82 (2008: 72; 2007: 70) places available. The CNV courses created an additional 20 dinghy places, with a different formula: two groups of ten students, two per boat, with a single CNV instructor for five outings (a "professional", although it was commented that this does not necessarily mean "better" than YCC unpaid volunteers). Thus quite different from YCC but successful too. The three weekends had been largely intended to integrate the CNV contingent but had been generally well received - with extremely strong winds a couple of times! Paul thanked all the teachers, the Q-boat drivers and the theory courses lecturers.

Bartek Pawlowski asked if any thought had been given to courses for dinghy instructors. After some discussion, it was agreed potentially beneficial, a possible "reward" to the teachers themselves, and will be considered by the new Committee.

Suzanne Maurin asked if the theory courses could not be run much earlier, like February. It can be considered, but a few voices noted that few people are yet enrolled

for the year - neither membership nor, naturally, their course - since this would then take place pre-lottery. Also to be reviewed by Committee.

c) Alex Cerri reported on Regattas. Internal ones had been good, including eight of the nine scheduled. Michal and Luca had ensured that the Match-Racing (of keelboats and dinghies respectively) had happened. Alex noted that Q-boat drivers had not been particularly forthcoming, necessitating arm-twisting. He asked regular participants to also ensure that the Q-boat gets manned. He highlighted the *Trois Heures* which had had a good turn-out, both categories, and been run in Bf 4-5. Keelboat use had been identical to 2008, dinghy use sharply up, so it had been a good season. Finally, he announced the winners: John Fullerton (D skipper), Sarah Fullerton (D Crew), Tim Hancox (Keelboats).

d) Luca Canali reported on the Brittany cruise this season from Quiberon (see the Annual Report for more). Despite our commenting last year that a future *Pogoria* event was nowhere on the current horizon, the opportunity had presented itself for 2010 anyway, and plans were already in hand, Genoa to Sicily, April 2010.

e) Tomasz returned to detail the fleet. The 1991 Lasers are even older than was reported last year ..., but otherwise, half of the light boat fleet is relatively new, at less than five years old. The 1974 Yngling *Vas-Y* seems indestructible, fortunately as she is popular, being able to accommodate four. All three are due some substantial work this winter. The two Surprises, of 1986 and 1993 respectively, were joined late in the season by a new one. The GibSea, bought in 2007 but a well-maintained 1996 boat was intended for deserved maintenance last winter but it will now happen this one. The next Committee will have to plan purchase of a new safety boat, especially following the generous subsidy for this from the CERN Club Coordination Committee. Tomasz finally noted that, with 17 boats, we should plan on replacing "1,7 boats" p.a. Despite annual average investment of some 40 KCHF each season for the past four years, continuing purchases are clearly still possible and desirable.

A question was asked about what happened to obsolete boats from the fleet. Tomasz replied that they were usually sold, *Chick'En II* for a very reasonable 6,5 KCHF, for instance, *Obelix* (an ancient Caravelle "dinghy") for 1 KCHF (amazingly, to someone who was determined to buy no other model ...), a 470 for a fair price.

5. Report on the 2009 Budget

Johannes Gutleber had prepared very detailed papers: refer to the printed version of the YCC consolidated 2009 budget (and 2010 intentions, prepared in tandem by Maarten Schokker) for details, the balance sheet of ownership and liabilities. Johannes drew attention particularly to the deliberate "loss" of 40 KCHF by active purchasing of new boats, as recommended by last year's auditors. Finally, Johannes announced his desire to step down and on Michal's initiative the audience thanked him warmly for the two years of excellent services.

6. Report of the Auditors

Christian Carli and Tom Wegelius, as YCC Auditors, had confirmed the 2009 expenditure figures, confirming a healthy financial situation, and appropriate planning.

7. Discharge of the 2009 Committee.

The YCC 2009 Committee was considered to have fulfilled its mandate, and was discharged (unanimous), Béatrice Graf recording a vote of thanks for their work.

8. Changes to the Constitution

Alex had collected a number of detailed proposals, some of which had been discussed in a convened separate working group, aimed at the YCC joining the Swiss Sailing Federation and thereby gaining the status of a sailing club within Switzerland (currently not the case). There was very considerable discussion: the merits (even possibly strengthening our position requesting moorings at Port Choiseul, being better regarded by the CNV, its members, and other sailing clubs, having qualified regatta umpires acknowledged) being stressed. On the other hand, according to the Federation, a contribution per member of around 45,- is required, member being defined as any YCC voting member who sets foot on a boat during the season. It was agreed that, proportionate to the number of YCC current members who do sail (Alex reckoned 98%, in response to Marek's question) the expense increase needs to be carefully considered and justified. Marleen van Nes suggested that only some 35 YCC members would benefit as individuals, whereas the 45,- would be levied on the whole membership? Alex, agreeing, nevertheless thought that the benefit to YCC as a whole needed to be considered. Various ways of working round the "member" question and redistributing the financial load across members are possible.

Detlef Swoboda enquired how many YCC members were also CNV members: Rob Veenhof thinks around 40, and it was acknowledged there might be some double accounting by Swiss Sailing with dual members ending up paying twice. The CCS is also a full member of the Federation.

It was finally decided that this meeting was not sufficiently informed to take a decision for the whole membership. A special EGM for this question alone was agreed (none against, four abstentions), early in the 2010 season.

9. Appointment of the 2010 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 2010 auditors, their being no additional volunteers in response to Marco's enquiry.

10. Election of the YCC President

Before opening this point, Marco Benvenuti noted that Tomasz Ładziński had had a most successful several years on Committee and then President, and deserved our thanks to him personally, the highlights had been the reduced number of "incidents" in Port Choiseul, the regular Buvette fun-evenings and ambience, and a successfully renewed fleet- applause. Alex Cerri was proposed and accepted unanimously (two abstentions) as the 2010 President. He thanked the meeting.

11. Election of the 2010 Committee

Alex proposed a 2010 Committee, with which he would like to work, particularly thanking those 2009 members who for other commitments or departure from the area, would not be standing again: Tomasz Ładziński, Johannes Gutleber, Danielle Moraes, Gennaro Ruggiero, Paul Aspell, Reiner Geyer, Sebastian Łopieński, Stefano Fratianni. With himself as President, the following Committee was accepted by the meeting:

Alex Cerri	President
Gijsbert DE RIJK	Vice-President, Versoix matters
Elena GIANOLIO	Secretary, administration
Maarten SCHOKKER	Treasurer
Patrizia AZZI	Social activities and shop
Haude MOREL	Insurances
Rob VEENHOF	Surprise maintenance, lectures etc.
Tim HANCOX	New members, publications, 2nd surveillance
Francesco BERTINELLI	Q-boat & surveillance
Sascha SCHMELING	Q-boat [transition], cruises
JanFiete GROSSE-OETRINGHAUS	Dinghy courses/training
John FULLERTON	Catamarans, BA5
Michal KWIA TEK	New members, external regattas
Luca CANALI	New members, courses, IT
Christian MESTER	Internal regattas, match races
Wojciech FEDORKO	Boat maintenance
Michele PETTENI	Windsurf

Portfolio responsibilities will be confirmed at the first meeting of the new Committee.

12. Fees for the 2010 Season

The proposal from the previous Committee that the 2010 fees remain unchanged was challenged by Paul Smith, who commented that inflation and no increase for many seasons together would justify a token 10.- per member increase. A vote was taken: seven

in favour, four abstentions, 47 against. The Committee proposal was therefore accepted and for 2010, YCC fees are 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

13. Preliminary 2010 Budget

As newly elected Treasurer (who had done his homework), Maarten Schokker presented his provisional budget, which was also distributed in paper form. He had had to make certain assumptions, for instance that not continuing the CNV dinghy courses would have as a consequence, a drop in membership income. Conversely, selling an older Surprise would bring some income. 2009 had also seen an exceptional contribution from the CERN Club Coordination Committee of 9KCHF, partly in response to a request based on safety, and which therefore should be spent towards a motor-boat (replacement or addition, not yet formally decided). Maarten also noted expenditure on sails was much higher than had been planned - and would continue next season. The bottom line of his calculations was maintaining a buffer sum of 60 KCHF.

Some comments were made, but the budget was accepted as it stood.

14 AOB.

1. Marleen van Nes reverted to an earlier comment and proposed that instructors should be rewarded in some way, if not monetarily, perhaps in kind, with a "teach the teachers" course, or some gesture from The Shop? Valérie Troger *croyait néanmoins qu'un geste de la part des étudiants envers leur prof, plutôt que du Club, serait plus approprié*. Agreed that the new Committee must discuss the issue.

2. The meeting having already overrun the Closing Dinner start time, participants found hunger overtaking a need for further AOB and adjourned at 21:20 to the Smash Restaurant for Apéros (thank you, YCC) and the usual excellent dinner.