

Minutes of the 2012 YCC General Meeting

Thursday 22 November 2012

Council Chamber, CERN

Agenda.

1. Approval of the Agenda and Election of the Chair
2. Approval of the Minutes of GA 2011
3. Discussion of 2012 Activities
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Insurance report
 - c. Courses
 - d. Cruises
 - e. Maintenance
 - f. External regattas
 - g. Internal regattas and Match-Racing
4. Treasurer's report
5. Report of the Auditors
6. Discharge of the 2010 Committee
7. Appointment of the 2011 Auditors
8. Election of the 2011 YCC President
9. Election of the 2011 Committee
10. Preliminary 2013 Budget
11. Fees for the 2013 Season
12. Swiss Sailing and GA
13. AOB

1. Approval of the Agenda and Election of the Chairman

The 2012 YCC General Meeting opened at 18:20 in the Council Chamber, with President Alex Cerri attending by audio-conference from Laurence Berkeley National Laboratory (and video, but only on a laptop, where he could see the meeting).

An attendance sheet was circulated among the participants. Forty-four members were present. (List kept by Minutes secretary.)

Marco Benvenuti, one-time Vice President, was unanimously elected Chairman of the 2012 GM. He mentioned his membership since 1991 and previous functions on Committee and that he is less active since buying his own Surprise. The Agenda was approved, with the addition of a report on Swiss Sailing activities.

2. Approval of the Minutes 2011

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting (November 2011) were approved, with no changes.

3. Discussion on 2012 Activities

a) President Alex Cerri opened discussion with a .ppt presentation (*q.v.*) and commented on several points of the **season**, noting an overall continuity with the preceding season. He described 2012 as a “maintenance year” at least in intention, where use of several boats bought the previous season was consolidated. Only a single boat had been bought during 2012: a third Laser 1, *Photon*, a good opportunity second-hand model immediately available, which added to our regular and frequent use of the previous two. Alex also made a parenthetical personal statement, explaining why his not standing for President again was linked to his own career move but that he anticipated being seen around Port Choiseul nevertheless. He noted that our biggest Club lack was of people to be responsible individually for the three Ynglings: Phil Durr did winter maintenance, but we had been lucky in 2012 that relatively little damage occurred. Finally, that the fleet was in good shape but ageing: replacements should be planned.

b) With .ppt, Haude Morel detailed the highlights and revisions of the past season in **insurance**. She had persisted with our insurers *Nationale Suisse* and secured a further CHF 2000 of sponsorship, which would be used to pay for several Club sails by placing their logo on them: the Hobie Tiger mainsail and spinnaker, and one new Yngling main. She noted that overall, insurance costs us some CHF 12,000 p.a. Finally Haude had prepared a “To do” list which would be discussed by the new Committee. She reminded everyone that any damage to boats should not merely go in the logbook (in the phonebooth) but be reported to her directly as well.

c) **Courses** were summarised by Luca Canali. There had been the usual 3-to-1 demand to supply ratio, and the annual lottery. The actual courses had followed previous practice including the now-established CNV dinghy courses. Tests by comparison with courses given were shown in his .ppt (*q.v.*). Ricardo Gonçalo asked why unsuccessful attempts to pass, and course completion which nevertheless was not followed by a test, were not listed; it was explained as simply a lack of space: these figures were also maintained. Luca noted a low pass rate for second-level courses (ED, EC, SU). The proposal from Michel Chevallier to carry out a survey on satisfaction with the courses (Yngling alone in his original proposal) had been extended to all courses, and had given useful results: general satisfaction, but some feeling that teachers worked to an individual style, which could perhaps benefit from being harmonised over each course. The suggestion will be put to the next Committee. Rob Veenhof noted that the Swiss *Jeunesse Sport* teacher training might be beneficial to our teachers. Some comments indicated that “more outings” would be nice, but teachers already felt that absenteeism was some of the problem, and that they were as flexible as possible in allowing weekly swapping of places, even to the detriment of the course progress. Total test successes were down on the previous three years, but manageably so, it was felt.

Alex Cerri and Gonzalo Penacoba (later) responded to a question on restructuring the C and EC (Experienced Catamaran) key and teaching system by explaining that, after considerable Committee discussion, it had been decided that only an EC course would be taught, with the intention that the student pass that EC key. He/she would be free to prefer only to attempt the C key, by discussion with the teacher. Therefore both keys would remain in existence and use. Gonzalo will also investigate simplifying the C test, largely to take account of rare Bf 4 winds on our lake.

d) **Cruises** were covered by Manfred Willenbrock, at Kirill Prokofiev's invitation, since he had skippered the one planned. Two boats had been reserved, in the Procida Naples region, but finally, only one had been taken up, from 8 to 15 September; she had covered 540 NM. It had been a success: see Web report for full details. Some relevant figures: the boat had cost € 2300, so individually, participants had paid CHF 800 each, including some CHF 200 of flight and transfer. No plans have been made for next season so far, but Manfred will welcome proposals.

e) **Maintenance** was covered by Gijs de Rijk, consolidated from reports from several people. Our ISO, *Isospin*, needs most winter work, understandably since she dates to 1994 and may be due for replacement within a couple of years. Yngling *Vas-Y* is even older (1992?), and in need of mast-foot strengthening of the wooden support: he precluded a question about replacing her by pointing out an irreplaceable asset: being the older construction of Yngling, she is legal for four people, whereas new ones are only for three – a major asset in this type of sailing – and teaching.

Michel Chevallier enquired about the mishap at the beginning of the season, where more than one Yngling forestay was discovered to be too short, making rigging difficult or *ad hoc* (joints of string). Phil Durr should have checked these matters before the teaching season started, although it was also partly that the jibs were too short.

f) **External Regattas** were this year coordinated by Michał Kwiatek (who was unavoidably late through coping with a new baby). On his behalf, a good season was reported, his slides and Gijs' presentation, and is available on the Website (*q.v.*). The highlights are a proud 73 YCC sailors in 24 regattas over 50 racing days plus nine dedicated training sessions; figures indicate an upward trend since 2010. Two four-day Surprise championships and Laser class regattas on the national level were welcomed.

g) **Internal Regattas** and **Match-Racing** were detailed by Sanja Damjanovic; see .ppt. Of 11 regattas scheduled, we had succeeded in running nine, a reasonable result. The Versoix-Founex regatta for big keelboats needs reconsidering as interest is low. Jan Fiete Grosse-Oetringhaus enquired about the change to French Yardstick ratings apparently resulting in Lasers habitually winning regattas. Sanja Damjanovic thought that no system was perfect, at least this was aligned to our local CNV, but it could be revised based on apparent results. Keelboat participation has continued a downward slide to the lowest on record, while even dinghies (except the popular Laser 1's) are also down this season. Sanja thanked the organisers, Q-boat drivers, without whom, etc...

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Since Sascha Schmeling was unable to be present, he had prepared the papers (*q.v.*) which Gijs now went over. Overall, the Club is in a healthy state, with a positive end result of CHF 28,941. Caroline Dufлот and Maarten Schokker however noted the need to follow charges, including depreciation which, in their view, meant the result was "a small loss". This will be referred to the future Committee for discussion and decision, but has already been incorporated into the proposed Budget for 2013, yet to be agreed. Gijs particularly asked all rejoining members to pay as soon as possible, and certainly before 31 December. The reason is entirely pragmatic: because of Swiss Sailing requirements of receipt of a list of YCC members early in the new year (and a CHF 5 per person fine for names added subsequently), it saves YCC money.

5. **Report of the Auditors**

Auditor Tom Wegelius was unavoidably absent but Tomasz Ładziński was present and read out their Report. The overall situation was satisfactory and they had no comments beyond the Report. There were no questions.

6. **Discharge of the 2012 Committee**

On the proposal of Marco Benvenuti, and since there were no further questions, the 2012 Committee was discharged as having performed its mandate correctly (*nem. con.*).

7. **Appointment of the 2013 Auditors**

Tom Wegelius being unwilling to stand again, Tomasz Ładziński was re-elected for a further year, with newcomer Paula Cole for the second slot, there being no other offers in response to Marco's invitation. Unanimous.

8. **Election of the 2013 YCC President**

At the invitation of meeting-Chairman Marco, Luca Canali, the only candidate, presented himself: he said he was glad to stand, having been a YCC member since 2006, then on the Committee, first for Cruises, then for teaching and Courses, all of which he had enjoyed. Since there were no further candidates, Luca was elected by acclamation. Alex by video wished to express his thanks to the outgoing Committee and his best wishes to their successors

9. **Election of the 2013 YCC Committee**

Luca presented the Committee which he would like to see elected, and with whom he feels he can work well. He noted that there are 23 candidates, an unusually large Committee, but he felt strongly that each role should have a back-up person because we all have other commitments and travel a lot. Maarten Schokker will act as assistant Treasurer, which role was added to the list. Luca also thanked those 2012 members who for other commitments or departure from the area, would not be standing again: Alex Cerri, Patrizia Azzi, Jan Fiete Grosse-Oetringhaus and Sanja Damjanovic. The following Committee was elected *en bloc*, unanimously.

YCC Committee 2013

Name	Area of Responsibility	Comment
Chick Nichols	Honorary president	
Luca Canali	Chairman	
Gijs De Rijk	Vice-president, Versoix matters, TSO BA5	
Elena Gianolio	Secretariat	
Caroline Duflot	Treasurer	New com. member
Luigi Gallerani	Co-responsibility for fleet maintenance	New com. member
Maarten Schokker	Co-responsibility for fleet maintenance, assistant Treasurer	Re-joins committee
Gonzalo Fernandez Penacoba	Catamaran course coordination	
Tim Hancox	Publications, vice-coordinator internal regattas, deputy Surveillance	
Tim Foster	Internal regattas	New com. member
Michał Kwiatek	External regattas, back-office software	
Rachid Mazini	Website, IT maintenance and new software projects	New committee member
David Porret	Boats access system	New com. member
Rob Veenhof	Rob	
Helen Morris	Social activities and shop	New com. member
Haude Morel	Insurance, vice-coordinator for social activities	
Jenny Macgregor	Co-responsibility for dinghy courses and training	
Tim Huckstep	Co-responsibility for dinghy courses and training	New com. member
Michel Chevallier	General coordination of sailing courses	New com. member
Andrea Messina	High-wind issue, vice-coordinator courses	
Jean-Marc Leiser	Q-boat	
Sascha Schmeling	Surveillance	
Kirill Prokofiev	Co-responsibility for cruises, vice-coordinator internal regattas	
Manfred Willenbrock	Co-responsibility for cruises	New com. member

Michał Kwiatek, on the strength of last year's experiences, invited elected Committee Members to make every attempt to attend meetings: it helps the collegiate spirit and strengthens the decision-making processes. Agreed generally.

10. Preliminary 2013 Budget

Caroline Duflot, as the newly elected Treasurer, presented her budget, thanking Maarten for his assistance in preparing it. There was some discussion of several items, and Caroline's explanation of the need to add a factor for depreciation was noted. Marco Benvenuti enquired about the CHF 60,000 possible intended expenditure and Luca explained that there was some thought of buying a large, raceworthy keelboat which would account for most of that sum. Sebastian Łopieński asked what kind of boat was envisaged: no decisions had been taken but an MOcean, often the type available in part-ownership, was a possibility. Sebastian noted that with such a large expenditure, the whole interested membership should be involved, a point that was widely agreed, Gijs proposing a special meeting during the early season.

Gijs commented that mooring availability would influence any such purchase: the Committee had specifically not requested new moorings last season, having benefitted from two during 2011, so we could safely contemplate a new request soon.

11. Fees for the 2013 Season

Luca announced that the previous Committee was not making a proposal to change fees for 2013. Detlef Swoboda proposed that they could, in fact, be reduced, in view of the healthy financial state of the Club. Considerable discussion followed, virtually all speakers being against a reduction, on the grounds that the Club was already a "bargain" (Haude Morel and Alex Kasterine: in relation to Surprise half-day rental costs, for instance), managed mostly by a great willingness to assist with maintenance ourselves as the keystone of our economics – which Gijs and Luca urged must continue. Finally, Detlef withdrew his proposal, and the meeting voted, 1 against, to maintain membership fees at their current state, as follows:

Category	Annual Fee	Entry Fee
Active members	CHF 300 (raised from CHF 250 in 2010)	CHF 100
Active juniors (a)	CHF 150 (ditto CHF 100 in 2010)	CHF 50
Friend members (b)	CHF 110 (ditto CHF 60 in 2010)	0
Honorary members (b)	0	0
Temporary members (c)	CHF 110 /month	0

Tomasz Ładziński reminded the new Committee that, as from a bank balance of CHF 150,000, which the Club was approaching, there was a risk of VAT (Value-Added Tax, Swiss TVA) being liable to entities such as YCC, a situation which required watching.

12. Swiss Sailing and GA

Rob Veenhof took the floor, since he is most up to date with SwSa matters, and indeed, frequently represents YCC at their meetings. Rob gave a resumé of the issues to be voted on at the forthcoming Swiss Sailing General Assembly and asked the YCC General Meeting for voting instructions. These concerned National Prescriptions where, if the changes are adopted, international juries will henceforth need approval by SwSa, a proposal to introduce a Match-Racing event (Grade 3) into the Swiss calendar, and to change the classification requirements to count one race abroad as a qualifying regatta for

a class to be allowed to organise a Swiss championship. All were agreed, and Rob will transmit our (weighted 10) votes at the SwSa GA.

13. AOB

a) Rob Veenhof announced that Winter Evenings would be scheduled as usual, and he welcomed proposals for such events. Already, he was proposing one on racing rules since they change every four years, and another on protest hearings since several Club members had been “surprised” by the outcomes.

b) Patrick Diday proposed that, with the large size of YCC relative to other local clubs, a possible “CERN Annual Regatta (like the Bol d’Or!)” might well be considered for launching. This was of interest, and is referred to the new Committee.

c) Tim Foster enquired whether some sort of “Who’s who?”, adding photos to the Membership list for instance, could be contemplated. Luca reminded the meeting that our FaceBook goes some way towards this function. Agreed, subject to its being technically feasible without excess cost: Committee to investigate.

d) Alex expressed his long-range thanks from Berkeley for the successful season; Marco was also warmly thanked for running a very shipshape meeting, which adjourned to the Smash Restaurant exactly on time for the Annual Dinner, kindly organised by Patrizia Azzi, with Apéros (thank you, YCC).