

President's Report January 2016

Thanks to major sponsor and committee

Harken (Grant Pellew), Bags, Michael, Stu, State Measurers and State Reps

Last Years Nationals

Following last year's Nationals an appeal was put in against a Protest committee decision to abandon race 7. The appeal was upheld and the top 4 places changed. I believe all processes were as per the blue book but unfortunately there has been a degree of controversy to this and changing trophies over did not help the situation. As a result there will not be anymore specific trophies created. For future championships.

Sydney Boat Show

Special thanks to Grant Pellew and his Harken stand for displaying his A cat and manning the stand single handedly. Unfortunately those people in Sydney who said they would help man the stand did not turn up.

Web Site

Thanks to Tim Forbes for once again doing the hard work of keeping our web site going and fixing all our hacking problems.

YV Yardsticks

Following the publication of 4 yardsticks for A cats the executive met with YV and the handicappers to try and change these to 2 categories. The meeting got our feelings across, however Brian Chapman is a very hard nut to crack and has his own deep seated ideas. In the end we now have 3 yardsticks which are basically foiling, non-foiling, and very old club boats.

Rule 8 and Dario Legal document

Following a submission from the USA to remove rule 8, I canvassed the membership to have an idea of how to vote at the WGM. I did this as the last vote was taken in January 2014 and since then there has been a lot of change and different ideas within the group. I could simply have voted with my own thoughts as most Presidents appear to do, but really wanted to represent the members correctly. At the time we had 90 odd members and I sent out about 86 emails. I did not run a full ballot as only needed to know the feelings of the group. We had 66 responses and the voting, whilst close tended towards leaving rule 8 as it was. That is the way the Association voted at the WGM and the proposal was defeated, therefore there will not be a world ballot at this stage. The procedure is to have 2/3rds of Nationals Associations agree then a ballot to all sailors world wide.

Following the tabulation of results we received a 10 page legal challenge from Dario Valenza which meant we had to get legal advice on how to handle this complaint. The main issue from Dario was this was not a properly constituted vote as had been at the 2014 AGM. Personally I was very

disappointed that a member of the Association would think they needed to go to the trouble of threatening legal action against a volunteer committee for asking the views of the membership base. If that is seen as the feeling of the membership then I am more than happy to resign my position as I really don't get paid enough to put up with this sort of crap. Dario has been challenging most decisions made in the past 12 months and at one stage went to ISAF challenging a ruling made by the IACA Technical committee. ISAF responded agreeing with the Technical Committee but this still hasn't stopped him and he continues to slander the Executive of both AIADCA and IACA and promote his non legal boat as an A class.

Ian Johnson