



International Optimist Class Association (UK)



Committee Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2023

Minutes of the meeting to be read in conjunction with the papers produced for the meeting.

Present

Sarah Gosling (SG)

Stephen Wright (SW)

David Davies (DD)

Hannah McCarthy (HM)

Jane Saunders (JS)

Filippo Di Salle (FD)

Richard Edwards (RE)

Sandy Ramus (SR)

Jenny Eastwood (JE)

Jono Pank (JPa)

Deborah Waggett (DW)

Nick Holley (NH)

Ben Wimpory (BW)

Sandy Ramus (SR)

Will Welfare (WW)

Jono Pank (JPa)

In Attendance

Chris Atherton (CA)

James Parker-Mowbray (JPM)

Alex Keegan (AK)

Clare Armstrong (CA)

John Perham (JP)

Introduction/Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies of absence had been received from Ian Bullock and Nick Holley

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest expressed.

1. Chair's Report

a. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last committee meeting on 28 March 2023 were approved by **SW**.

Matters Arising

The following updates and comments were added:

SR to work with **JP** on setting up a sponsorship agreement with Noble Marine for 2023.

HM reported that there had been no change to the PayPal commission of 5% being charged on income payments and that changing our status was proving difficult. **Actions** - **DD** and **HM** to investigate further how a reduction in commission can be set up with PayPal using our not-for-profit status. **CA** kindly offered to email other junior/youth classes to explore how they avoid PayPal fees. Alternatives to PayPal should be considered.

Perpetual Trophies – **SW** is making progress on tacking down the locations of the IOCA class perpetual trophies. Unfortunately the Early Summers trophy appears to have been missing for a few years - **RE** summarised its last known movements. This work will continue and once in order an invitation for a volunteer Trophy Coordinator will be extended to the Class.

Action – **JP** to undertake a thorough search of the self-storage unit to find perpetual trophies.

SG expressed the view, in response to reports of feedback that some of the class felt that there were a number of changes being made. While this may be true, these changes were being with the intention of developing and improving the Class and are being communicated to the Class.

b. Intermediate Fleet

SG reported that the Intermediate Fleet that was introduced as a fleet at the Early Seasons 2023 at Derwent Reservoir Sailing Club had been a great success. The feedback at the event from parents and Intermediate sailors was very positive and supportive. Going forward, consideration needs to be given as to the number of sailors required for IF to get a separate start.

SG suggested that at Nationals 2023, the Main Fleet Junior Fleet could be branded as Junior Main/Intermediate as once Intermediate Fleet is established many of the 'Inter' sailors are likely to choose to sail in Junior Main at the Nationals. There followed a wide-ranging discussion about the pros and cons before concluding that we would not make any changes to the branding/naming of the fleets sailing in the Nationals. Instead we would focus on ensuring good communication about the Intermediate Fleet ready for the Late Summer Championships in Plas Heli.

c. Team Racing

SG informed the meeting that the 2 – 3 September 2023 had been set for an IOCA Team Racing event and that two IOCA members had kindly offered to coordinate the event. The plan is for sailors to apply as a read-formed team, rather than select teams by another means - e.g. random pairs. There was a short discussion about the choice of date and whether a better alternative could be found. There was wide support from all the committee members for a team racing event to be added to the IOCA calendar.

Decision – further discussion was required with the TR event coordinators around alternative dates and venues **(SW)**

Action – **SG** to contact Sally Reynoldson at WPNSA to enquire about holding the TR event immediately before the Nationals.

d. Sportsmanship

SG – reported that the change made to the MEIs section 14 at the Early Summer Championships 2023 by publication of a Notice to Competitors on the matter of sailors' behaviour on the water, specifically swearing and use of inappropriate language was, was well received both by parents and sailors. And, that this action had a significant and effective elimination of swearing by sailors on-the-water on Sunday. A number of views were expressed by the members of the committee as to the appropriate penalty for swearing. **SW** expressed the view that sailors find it hard to call 'protest' against swearing and that this change enabled the umpires to penalise it should it occur. There was some uncertainty as to whether appendix P, referred to in our MEIs, extends only to self-propulsion of whether judges could act on sportsmanship rules while on the water. **JS** and **JPM** strongly expressed the option that the class should rely on the Racing Rules of Sailing, specifically Rule 2 and 69 and not introduce any other penalty.

Action - **SG** and **JS** to discuss further with Chris Atkin and others as required to clarify what is already covered by MEIs and RRS.

2. Financial Officer's Report

HM informed the meeting of the following:

- The balance in the IOCA account is £275K. And that a significant proportion of these funds were already allocated for Teams 23 and Nationals 23.
- The refund by HMRC for the Irish Junior Team 2022 Carnet of c. £4k has not yet been made. **SW** is following up.
 - **Decision** – to pay the outstanding refund to the Junior Irish Team 2022 regardless of the above.
- The Refund by the Turkish Federation to IOCA UK for an overpayment for the IOCA Worlds Team 2022 has not yet been made. **JE** is following up.
 - **Decision** – to pay a refund of £300 for the Worlds Team 22 to parents regardless of the above.

- PayPal commission on payment received remains at 5% - see Matters Arising above.
- The introduction of the Pleo, payment card for Coaches to use payment at IOCA Team competing on international events has been a success and is an efficient method to making and processing payments. **JPM** supported the use of Pleo cards at international events.
- The South West regional bank account has been closed and funds returned to the IOCA central bank account.

Action – HM and DW to meet to discuss moving regional funds to the central bank account.

3. Secretary's Report

DD – informed the meeting of the following.

- membership numbers are increasing - currently there are 395 sailors and 189 families. There are 18 memberships of GBR sailors who have mistakenly joined as International Members.

Action - JP to contact these 18 families to inform them that they need to Renew Membership for 2023 as IOCA UK members.

- A proposal has been made to hold the IOCA AGM at the Nationals 23 and not later in the year around the EOS champs as in recent years. A number of alternative dates and format (on-line or in-person) were discussed.

Decision – A Class information and Q & A to be scheduled for Tuesday after racing at the National 23. The purpose of this session is to inform IOCA members the roles parents, non-parents and paid staff take on to manage and operate the class. Further informal conversations can be had with potential committee members during the nationals. The IOCA UK AGM to be held online in October or November 2023.

4. Sailing Secretary's Report

a. ES 23

DW reported to the meeting that DRSC members had worked hard with enthusiasm to deliver the Early Summer Championships 2023. And that parents had commented that the event was a relaxed and fun event. **AK** – commented that the on-site camping at DRSC was a key to the success of the event.

b. Sailing schedule 2024

JS – informed the meeting of the following of the plan for the IOCA 2024 national racing events programme.

Springs 2024 – Draycote Water Sailing Club - 16-17 March 2024

Selection Trials 2024 – WPNSA - May bank holiday 4-day weekend has been booked with WPNSA

Early Summers 2024 – WPNSA – 15 – 16 June 2024

Nationals 2024 – Plas Heli, Pwllheli 5 – 9 August 2024

End of Seasons 2024 – Rutland SC – 19 - 20 October 2024

c. Nationals 2023 Report CA

- Nationals 23 planning meeting scheduled for Thursday 18 May 2023.
- Planning on most aspects of the event is underway. CA provided a useful update to the Committee on progress to date and current active issues.

d. Feedback from Sel 23

FD stated that consideration for future IOCA Team Selection Trials events and Team training should be given to scheduling not in school time. Team training in the UK was discussed, with the importance of trading off the benefits vs the additional costs.

Action - a sub-group to be formed to re-discuss alternatives format for Selections.

5. Teams Officer's Report

JE informed the meeting of the following.

- All IOCA GBR Teams for the 2023 international regattas have now been selected. A number of families were unable to accept a DEV 3 place as it clashed with existing summer holiday bookings.
- Pay of parental contributions have all been made by bank transfer to avoid paying the PayPal 5% commission in payment received. This required a lot of administration to oversee and reconcile these payments and would ideally be avoided next year.

6. Training Officer's Report

DW informed the meeting of the following.

- Feedback and comments from parents on the Winter Performance Training programme have been taken on board to improve training for 2023/24.
- The WPT 2022 – 2023 has broken even financially.
- The training plan for 2023 – 2024 will consist of:

- 6 training events
- 2 Coached Regatta weekend events, one in the Autumn and one at the end of the winter.
- 2 weekends for top-ranked sailors
- A weekend focussed on the next cohort of girl sailors as well as some boys from further down the ranking.
- Pre-selections training event

BW – suggested that consideration should be given to the names of training events to better reflect the level of sailor the training is aimed at - for example, gold, silver and bronze.

7. Equipment Officer's Report

JPa – updated the committee on the IOCA equipment and assets.

- Attempts are being made to make best use of QDOS. SW has been in touch with IOCA members of Hollowell SC, where it is currently located.
- Sharing arrangements have been made between IOCA/ILCA and 29ers on the use of class RIBs.
- IOCA to obtain, understand and publish the information/guidance on the Carnet requirements for taking RIBs to events in the EU.
- The class should consider the sale of the Oppies and the six stacker road trailers.

Action – **DW** to make contact with Regional Reps to ask for expressions of interest in clubs being donated the class assets of boats and 6 stacker trailers. **JPa** to kindly compile an inventory of Class assets to allow redistribution/sale as appropriate.

There was a discussion on the sale of class assets.

Action – **DW**, **JPa** and **SG** to further discuss class assets and to make a proposal to the committee.

8. Marketing Officer's Report

SR informed the meeting of the following.

- Nats 23 has the potential of the following sponsors.
 - Savills
 - Xtremity
 - Spinlock
 - Gill are yet to be confirmed.

Action – **DD**, **SW** & **SR** to update, agree and send IOCA UK/Gill contract for 2023 and send to Gill.

9.Safety Officer's Report

No report made.

10.Volunteer Officer's Report

No report made.

11. Technical Officer's Report

No report made.

12. AOB

No AOB

13. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held online on 4th July 2023 at 8.00pm

The meeting closed at 11:08pm.