

## **INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEETING**

**11th April 2016**

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Richard Davies, Class President  
Manfredi Vianini Tolomei, International Vice President - European President  
Matteo Marenghi Vaselli, European Board Member  
Drew Wierda, North American Board Member  
Rhonda Joyce, North American Board Member  
Andy Burdick - Melges Builder/Technical Committee  
Federico Michetti - Melges Europe/Technical Committee  
Sam Rogers - North American Fleet Admin  
Luisa Bambozzi - Melges Europe/European Fleet Admin  
Stefano Bareggi - European Fleet Press Coordinator  
Joy Dunigan – International Class Website / North American Fleet Press Coordinator  
Alice Zorzi - International Class Secretary

### **OWNERS MEETING AGENDA:**

- 1) update on Monaco winter series what works well etc.
- 2) update on Miami winter series, what works well etc.
- 3) recap on notifying the 3 or 4 crew for the series rule change
- 4) manufacturers report or builds orders etc.
- 5) worlds update.

#### **1) UPDATE ON MONACO WINTER SERIES WHAT WORKS WELL ETC.**

- all the events were really great, racing was not easy
- owner participation/dinner on Saturday evening is a real hit
- forty boats entered for the ESS M20 event

#### **2) UPDATE ON MIAMI WINTER SERIES, WHAT WORKS WELL ETC.**

- three great regattas, awesome conditions
- great vibe, great socials - melges rocks regatta dinner was a big hit
- financially we did better than years past
- PRO designated by CGSC worked out well
- details are being finalized with CGSC
- great hype coming from the NYYC Resolute Cup that will channel into 2017
- need to review CRW attendance in 2017

#### **Federico suggestions:**

- For the future Federico suggested that some Melges 20's regatta could become joint-event with other important regatta, and not only stand-alone events. This would give more exposure to the class, events could become cheaper for the class and more fun for sailors. An example could be joining again the Bacardi Regatta that would also attract many Europeans.

- Moreover, there is the need to push a strong marketing operation to attract attention to the class and attract new owners. As example Melges Europe is pushing all over EU with facebook ads, inviting young sailors with the #Melges 20 next operation (contest for young sailors to win the opportunity to participate to the European Sailing Series for free)

### **3) RECAP ON NOTIFYING THE 3 OR 4 CREW FOR THE SERIES RULE CHANGE**

The rule was explained: "Each boat have to declare the number of crew members (if sailing in 3 or 4) at the registration of the first event and the number of people onboard shall remain the same number for the events 1,2,3,4 for the SAILING SERIES classification." Whoever would change the crewmembers number, would be scored ex novo / as a different boat on the overall ranking of the ESS.

The fleet was notified about this new rule only 3 weeks before the first event of the Series, creating some problems for the teams that have already planned the whole season. Thus, some owners made complaints about this new rule.

However, the board trust in this new rule, believing that it is good and smart for the class.

Thus, Richard proposal, to solve this problem is to suspend the rule for the first event in Porto Venere, due to the late communication, and then implement the rule starting from ACT 2 of the ESS. The board agrees with this decision, and this will be communicated immediately (tonight, 11<sup>th</sup> of April) to all the teams, with a particular attention to those who plan to sail with 4 crew members in Porto Venere.

Moreover, during the Porto Venere event, this rule will be explain and discuss with all the owners during an owners' briefing (proposed for Friday or Saturday after racing).

From the US side this rule seems to not create many problems or complaints.

### **4) MANUFACTURERS REPORT OR BUILDS ORDERS ETC.**

One boat has just been built for the New York Club, that will use it for promotion events. This is a great opportunity for the class to increase its exposure and attract new owners. Six news boats have been built in the last months, even without orders and this show the big commitment of Melges to push the class.

### **5) WORLDS UPDATE**

The PRO of the event has been appointed: TORRIJO MARIA (PRO during the 2015 Europeans in Trapani).

The Jury is being built: MARCO MERCURIALI and MIGUEL ALLEN have already been appointed, and Luisa is now working together with them to complete the staff, in order to have an international jury & 4 boats of umpires in the water during the event.

About the event budget:

the club requires 500€ per boats to cover moorings / launchings / major regatta organizing costs

the class need 400€ to cover other costs: jury / pro / dinner etc  
outside the budget:

GADGETS: working with partners to have t-shirts / jackets for owners

PRESS COVERAGE: closing an agreement with a local sponsor to guarantee the best press coverage possible (Melges Europe working in collaboration with its Melges Russian dealer on this)

→ Proposed entry fee for the event: 900€ → **APPROVED**, after a bit of discussions and some other proposals.

Social program:

Wednesday: Opening ceremony

Thursday: Crew party (included into the entry fee)

Friday: Beluga Party powered by Russian friends

Saturday: American Party ??? (Luisa to organize)

Sunday: closing ceremony

Expected boats from America:

- Samba x2
- Pacific Yankee
- Midnight blu
- Cinghiale
- Slingshot
- Yo Momma (charter)

Charter boats: only one boat is currently still available from Melges Europe, during the next events the aim is to try to find more boats available, given that there is a high request from US owners to charter boat to avoid shipping.

Luisa reminds the Open Russian National Championship taking place in Scarlino the weekend before the Worlds (19-21 of August) thus allowing the attendance to the Worlds of the majority of the Russian fleet.

**TO DO:**

- Porto Venere: owners' meeting (probably on Friday or Saturday after racing, one hour only)
- Next International Board Call in one month to discuss some rule changes, as proposed by Andy.