

IDNIYRA-Europe
International DN Ice Yacht Racing Association Europe
IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.V.

Minutes and Decisions of National Secretaries
St. Petersburg, Russia 25 – 27 April 2008

Present: IDNIYRA Europe Executive Board

Commodore	Niklas Müller-Hartburg
Vice Commodore & Treasurer	Christian Seegers
Junior Programme	Stan Macur
Secretary	Chris Williams

National Secretaries

Austria	Niklas Müller-Hartburg (representing Peter Münnich)
Belarus	Ivan Fershal
Finland	Timo Caravitis (representing Reko Anti Suojanen)
Germany	Jörg Bohn
Hungary	Attila Pataki (representing Gustav Koltay)
Netherlands	Daan Schutte
Poland	Stan Macur (representing Andrzej Michalczyk)
Russia	Oleg Vasilyev
Sweden	Tomas Lindgren (representing Kjell Andersson)
United Kingdom	Chris Williams

Webmaster	Dietmar Gottke
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Proxy Votes

Finland	for	Estonia
Germany	for	Switzerland
Poland	for	Latvia & Lithuania
Sweden	for	Denmark & Norway

<u>Host and Interpreter</u>	Alexander Afanasyev
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Apologies: John Harper, North American Commodore

Topic 1 Opening remarks and Review of the Season 2006/2007

Alexander Afanasyev welcomed everybody to St. Petersburg and the first IDNIYRA-Europe National Secretaries meeting to be held in Russia.

The Commodore opened the meeting with a welcome to all present and a special welcome to Belarus for their first attendance. He reported the second warmest winter in Austria with small ice areas. The best available ice was found for the Worlds **based on the ice reports received**. The serious accident at Lake Lipno was very much regretted and all present hoped for a full and speedy recovery for Hennie van de Brink. He welcomed the legal status of the Kent style chocks.

Germany reported a poor season in the North but better in the South with sailable ice on small lakes all season.

Hungary reported an early start on NeusiedlerSee and then some days on Lake Balaton. No official races.

Russia reported best conditions for many years in the St. Petersburg area with 5 months' sailing.

Netherlands reported another very poor ice season. One and a half days sailing on a small lake with 20 DNs on the second day.

Finland reported a start in November 200 km south of Vika Jarvik. A ranking regatta in January with smaller groups and a big regatta in March – the Finnish championships on Lake Lappajarvi 350 km NW of Helsinki with 41 entrants from Finland Russia, Sweden, Germany Estonia, Denmark and Latvia. Middle Finland good conditions on small lakes from November to March.

Sweden had poor ice in many areas for most of the winter. Sailing in Stockholm area for 3 days in December only. Best at Sandviken, Falun, Hudiksvall from December to April. Five out of 6 ranking regattas completed. Swedish championships at Sandviken in March 11 races and 50 entries from several countries. Several young DN sailors progressing from the Junior programme.

Poland An early and good start at Mikolayki but then snow. Polish championships took place on Lake Siemianowka on the border with Belarus.

U.K. No sailing in the UK but much involvement with the new 2-seater DN proving its value for instructing newcomers, also with the mobile ice sailing centre for next winter: Two standard size containers with racks for DNs and Ice Optimists which give flexibility to move to wherever the good sailable ice is as conditions change.

Topic 2 Ascertainment of a Quorum

It was confirmed that the invitation to the annual meeting was in time and a quorum was present. Attendance list of the general meeting is attached.

Topic 3 Minutes of National Secretaries Meeting 2007 and IDNIYRA-Europe Society Inaugural Meeting

These were AGREED and APPROVED as issued.

Topic 4 Matters Arising from Topic 3 not covered by this Agenda

Secretary requested that *Rookie of the Year* for WC and EC should be posted on the website with results.

This was agreed.

Action: Webmaster

Topic 5 Letters to the Board

There were no letters to the Board.

Topic 6 Financial Report 2007/2008 and Budget 2008/2009

The Treasurer briefed the Financial Report for 2007/2008 and was congratulated on the preparation and presentation. Netherlands made spot checks to the Financial Report and reported all correct and requested more details of PRC expenditures for next year's report. This was agreed. Treasurer highlighted that IDNIYRA-Europe should spend the funds and should not save its money. This was agreed and money would be spent on larger race marks, bigger dollymarks (old race marks), chains for quadbike, rental for additional quadbike, GPS for Race Committee, increased internet data capacity for Webmaster and additional funding for the Junior Programme.

Treasurer briefed that the additional expenditure required an adjustment to the budget for 2008/2009 based on cost estimates for the agreed additional equipment.

**Action: Treasurer,
Commodore
PRC**

The budget for 2008/2009 will be sent to all members

Topic 7 WC/EC 2008 Report

Commodore reported great difficulty in finding sailable ice with good access, parking and nearby accommodation for 200 plus people. Visits were made to Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland and Czech Republic. **A major difficulty was the receipt of accurate and reliable ice reports from countries. He emphasised that National Secretaries were responsible for ensuring the accuracy and reliability of ice reports.** The topography (hills etc.) in the area of Lake Lipno created very difficult wind conditions and much line adjustment. Major and sudden wind shifts during races created high speed crowding of DNs on the favoured side and contributed to an unprecedented number of collisions, one very serious. Many lessons were learned (covered in Topic 10).

Action: National Secretaries for Ice reports

Topic 8 Professional Race Committee and Host Nation role

It was agreed that the PRC had conducted this major regatta to the best of their abilities in very difficult and challenging conditions and should continue as established in the contract 20.1./10.2.2007. The assembly gave the power of attorney to the board to adjust the conditions in the contract (especially the mileage) to the actual facts.

The host nation role had been conducted very satisfactorily and the Czech Republic were thanked for their cooperation.

Topic 9 WC/EC Junior DN and Ice Optimist 2008 report

Stan Macur was congratulated on a very successful major regatta with a record entry of 98 competitors (49 DNs and 49 IOs) from 8 nations on Lake Siemianowka. The 14 races over two days (7 for each Class) were preceded by a training day. The race committee ensured that no time was wasted in the schedule. All participants received a memento of this excellent event. The two protest hearings indicated a thorough knowledge of the racing rules. After a short discussion it was agreed to incorporate the Junior Programme for DN and Ice Optimist in the IDNIYRA-Europe Constitution (see page 88 yearbook 2007/2007).

**Action: Vice Commodore
Secretary**

Topic 10 Lessons Learned

The challenging and greatly varying wind conditions at Lipno created at times dangerous race circumstances for so many yachts. This led to a significant number of collisions, one very serious, and much disregarding of the sailing rules. The Lessons Learned from this regatta were discussed at length and the following summary of conclusions and actions agreed. The input by email from NA sailors was greatly appreciated and included in the discussions.

1. Disregard of the sailing rules and right of way must be a reason for protest by sailors concerned or members of the Race Committee. It was emphasised that Protests are an important part of ensuring that sailors understand the rules. It was not agreed that a DSQ could not be a throw out. ByLaw B 5)d) allows a throwout and any change would need a Class Vote. It was agreed that National Secretaries have the responsibility for the safe and fair sailing of their sailors.
Action National Secretaries
2. Fleet setting: After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the wording in the IDNIYRA ByLaws "preceding continental or higher regatta" was sufficiently clear.
3. Displaying of chequered flag at the Finish. This was covered in Standard Sailing Instructions V (p.89 Year Book) and should have been displayed for longer.
Action PRC
4. Changing the Fleet Racing Sequence. Changes to the sequence are allowed in ByLaw 5a) but under conditions caused by weather or ice conditions and after consultation between the Regatta Race Committee and the Commodore. This was necessary for D Fleet at Lipno.

5. Separate stickers for WC and EC were agreed.
6. Double entry fee applies to those on the waiting list who missed the entry deadline.
7. It was agreed that all local ambulance, hospitals and medical facilities must be informed of the Regatta location and its purpose. In addition, any emergency telephone numbers should be on the bulletin board and local language speaking liaison person nominated. **Action: Host Nation/PRC/Commodore**
8. It was agreed that a suitable First Aid package should be carried by the PRC. An IDNIYRA-Europe doctor would provide advice. **Action: Commodore**
9. Snow chains for the quad bike would be purchased. **Action PRC**
10. It was agreed that the existing Race Marks should be used as Dolly Marks and their distance down wind from the Windward Mark and upwind from the Leeward Mark should be a minimum of 75 metres with the actual distance governed by weather, ice conditions, space available and the judgement/decision of the PRC and Commodore. **Action: PRC and Commodore**
11. Length of race course. The minimum should be in accordance with Racing Rules C (p.76 Year Book) 6¹/₂ km. The distance between the marks must be governed by the weather conditions (wind speed and direction, ice area and quality, and visibility) and subject to the judgement and decision of the PRC and the Commodore. **Action: PRC and Commodore**
12. Ability of Race Committee to DSQ a sailor. This should only be done via a Protest Hearing. Passing between the Dolly mark and the race mark is not allowed at any time (Year Book p87 para 10(a)).
13. Race reports and result on the internet. This would be done by the **PRC**.
14. Fair chance for miniquifiers when race conditions (extreme wind shift) change after the start. It was agreed that this could be allowed by the Race Committee (abandoned race under NIA Rule Part 1 – Abandonment) p.91 Year Book. **Action: PRC**
15. It was agreed that the Junior DN/Ice Optimist Championship and the DN WC/EC should not be planned to take place on consecutive weeks. **Action: JPM**
16. A fail-safe tiller. Following the serious accident in Lipno it was agreed that a design for a fail-safe tiller should be progressed and trialled. **Daan Schutte and Chris Williams undertook to do this with the help of Dag Eriksson.**
17. The suggestion to start all yachts on the same tack was not agreed. However for regattas with small numbers, say 20, this could be tried.
18. Measurement. The availability of yacht and equipment measurement before the start of the WC was warmly welcomed. It was agreed that the measurement of the first 5 finishers in each race should remain unchanged.
19. Control at the Windward Mark. It was agreed that there must be a Race Committee member placed at the Windward Mark to monitor race rules and fair sailing. **Action: PRC**
20. It was agreed that sail numbers on the sides of DN fuselages and Fluorescent colours on the forward end of the sides would have helped to have identified yachts involved in collisions and in some cases reduced collisions in very challenging weather conditions. **Daan Schutte and Chris Williams undertook to draft two Proposals to go forward for Class Vote.**

Topic 11 Junior Programme report/Junior DN and Ice Optimist WC/EC 2009

The Junior Programme Manager reported the Junior Programme continuing to bring more young people into ice sailing, with increasing numbers in the Ice Optimist, more young people moving up into the Junior DN and growing interest in North America. It was agreed that this programme played an important part in the future of the DN Class and it was agreed to increase the IDNIYRA-Europe contribution to 1500€.

Action: Treasurer

The date and host nation for the Junior DN and Ice Optimist WC/EC 2009 had yet to be decided and would be emailed to all concerned when known.

**Action: Junior Programme Manager
Secretary**

[Post Meeting Note: Sweden has kindly agreed to host the Junior DN and Ice Optimist WC/EC 2009 the dates are Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th March with Training day 4th March and Regatta 5th to 7th March 2009]

Topic 12 Technical Committee (TC) Report

Dag Eriksson reported by email:

- a. Several questions from members on technical details answered.
- b. TC tasked to make a better definition of the Kent style chock.
- c. During the WC/EC in Lipno the Polish measuring team mis-interpreted the spec regarding the front end of insert runners (E9). The effect of that was that many sailors wrongly ended up with illegal runners. The matter was sorted out in a meeting the first evening after the start of the WC by Niklas Müller-Hartburg, Christian Seegers, Stan Macur, a member of the Polish measuring team, Andreas Bock, John Harper (as a stand-in for Paul) and Dag.

Topic 13 IDNIYRA-Europe Insurance Report

The Commodore briefed the amount of work needed for the WC/EC to ensure that all entrants had valid and adequate insurance. This should be simpler with an on-line procedure to be introduced for 2009. The two significant claims from the DN WC/EC and the Junior DN WC/EC were reported as proceeding satisfactorily so far. Cover for transport home, should this be necessary, may need additional insurance. This should be checked with the insurance company early in the season by all competitors.

Action: All Entrants

Topic 14 IDNIYRA-Europe NA contact report

The Minutes of the January 2008 NA Annual Meeting had not yet been received but would be emailed to all concerned on receipt. Those Europeans present at the NA Annual Meeting reported the main topic as that concerning the Kent chocks. The legalisation of these chocks had been welcomed.

Action: Secretary (on receipt of NA Minutes)

Topic 15 Discharge of the Board of Officers: Commodore, Vice Commodore, JPM, Secretary

It was agreed unanimously that the Board of Officers had discharged their duties according to the Constitution in a satisfactory manner.

Topic 16 Alteration of the Articles of Association, Article 1, sentence 4

"The financial year is the calendar year" as follows:

- (a) The financial year runs from 16 April to 15 April.
- (b) The period from 1 January to 16 April 2008 is an abbreviated financial year.

This was unanimously agreed.

Topic 17 Election of IDNIYRA-Europe Officers

Commodore – Niklas Müller-Hartburg was elected unanimously for a further 2 years (2010)

TC Member – Karol Jablonski was elected unanimously for a further 6 years (2014)

Secretary proposed that in order to avoid most of the board being available for re-election at the same time, there should be a facility in the Constitution for a variation of terms of office for Board members from 1 to 3 years. This would ensure continuity of membership and was agreed. The change should be announced in the invitation to the next annual meeting and be voted before the next election.

The Vice Commodore Christian Seegers declared to be not available as Vice Commodore for a next term but only available as treasurer. Vice Commodore and Secretary undertook to provide a suitable amendment for the next Secretaries meeting.

Action: Vice Commodore & Secretary

Topic 18 Determination of contributions to the IDNIYRA-Europe Society e.V.

It was agreed that this would remain at 30€ per participant in the EC/WC with each member to pay a minimum of 30€ per year.

Topic 19 Year Book and Runner Tracks

New Year Book (2007-2008) well received but membership lists needed updating and Russian Secretary is Oleg Vasilyev (R1). Secretary explained that the lead time for information would often result in some out of date information. Secretary undertook to ask National Secretaries for membership lists in sufficient time for next Year Book. **Action: Secretary & National Secretaries**

Next edition of *Runner Tracks* was under preparation. Material for Aug./Sept. edition should be forwarded to NA Sec in July at the latest.

Topic 20 Internet communication – IDNIYRA-Europe

The Webmaster provided a comprehensive presentation which in summary covered the following:

- a. Website areas visited. Very few ice reports submitted and no dates for the Calendar. With regular and accurate inputs the website could be of much better value to sailors.
- b. Electronic security. An investigation into various methods e.g. Radio Frequency Identification chips, high speed cameras and optical (infra red) scoring had shown that all were either incompatible or impractical for ice yacht racing, and that a good scoring team was the best solution.
- c. New sticker designs for the EC 2009.
- d. Publication of provisional and final WC/EC information results. Much of this was for the PRC and host/organising nation. Website access passwords were needed. **Action: Webmaster to provide**
- e. Online Registration Procedure. It was agreed that over all this had gone well for 2008 and the Webmaster was congratulated on this success. The importance of checking the ranking list against sail numbers by National Secretaries was emphasised. **Action: National secretaries**
- f. New Online Registration Procedure for 2009. This would change the Insurance check Procedure, integrate all entry payments and late entries. This would be trialled in 2009 with the 2008 Procedure as Plan B. **Action: Webmaster**
- g. Trophy winners to be shown on the website. It was agreed that information on websites would be easier to find with better coordination between webmasters. Sweden reported their website currently being redesigned.

Topic 21 Racing Rules

Following a discussion on how to have more races, it was agreed to run a **trial for the EC 2009**. The format would be a maximum of 20 races per Fleet in the regatta with a daily maximum of 5 races per Fleet. Throw outs allowed after every 5 races. The minimum number of races for a Regatta would be 3 for the Gold Fleet. Last start 1400 on the Friday with prize giving on Friday evening.

Action: Commodore & PRC & Host Nation

Topic 22 EC 2009 – Host Nation Russia (17-23 January 2009 to be confirmed)

The dates for EC 2009 were confirmed as Saturday 17th January to Friday 23rd January 2009. Registration would be available in October 2008. The closing date for entries was agreed as **3rd December 2008**. The new online registration process would be used, with all payments on line. **All participants would require visas for entry into Russia (all borders are open year round) together with an official invitation and evidence of Health Insurance**. Russia undertook to arrange for all invitations, full directions to the regatta site, and hotel/accommodation possibilities. **Action: Russia, All Participants & National Secretaries**

In case of the EC has to be moved outside Russia, the Russian Secretary will recommend every Russian participant to obtain a Schengen Visa as a precautionary measure. **Action:**

Russia

[Post meeting Note: A visit to the probable regatta site, the host yacht club and local hotels was made by all meeting attendees on Sunday 27th April 2008].

Topic 23 WC/NA 2009

Commodore undertook to request a change of the planned dates from February 8 to 14 to February 15 to 21.

[Post meeting Note: Due to fully booked hotels in Vermont 15 to 21 Feb the dates for WC/NAC are set for 8 to 14 February 2009]

Topic 24 Host Secretaries Meeting 2009

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Germany's offer to host this meeting in Hamburg April 24-26, 2009 was welcomed and agreed with many thanks.

Action: Commodore, Secretary Germany

Poland offered to host in 2010 – to be confirmed at next National Secretaries meeting.

Topic 25 WC/EC 2010

It was suggested that Switzerland be asked to host and organise. Germany (Swiss proxy) undertook to discuss with Swiss National Secretary and report back.

Action: Germany

[Post meeting Note; Switzerland has kindly agreed to host and organise the WC/EC 2010]

Topic 26 Other Business

There being no Other Business the Commodore thanked the Russian hosts for all the facilities provided and all present for a very constructive meeting and closed at 17:30.