

International Lightning Class Association  
Minutes of the 2011 Governing Board Meeting at the World Championship  
July 22, 2011, late Clube Armacao dos Buzios, Brazil

### **Call to Order**

The Governing Board Meeting was called to order by President Rob Ruhlman at 6:12 pm

**Roll Call** was taken and recorded.

**Reading of the Minutes** A motion was made by Bill Clausen to dispense with the reading of the minutes, Ryan Ruhlman seconded and unanimously approved.

### **Reports of Officers**

#### **President's Report** – Rob Ruhlman

President Rob Ruhlman expressed his thanks to the Governing Board and the Executive Committee for their service and for attending this meeting. He conveyed his gratitude to the late Clube Armacao dos Buzios for hosting the South American, International Master and World Championships. Additional accolades went to John Bennett and his entire crew, for organizing these incredible regattas. "Well done!"

#### **Treasurers Report** – John Faus

Treasurer Victor Lobos sends his regards and is sorry that he could not be here this evening. John continued to report that total income to date was \$71,655.48, which is up 3% compared to 2010 figures. A few thoughts to point out, North American dues are down about 17% which should pick up a bit as we get closer to the North American Championships in a few weeks. South American dues are coming in as budgeted, to date \$1,260 in skipper dues and \$590 in crew dues has been received. European dues are up 128% vs. last year budgeted numbers mostly due to Finland and their excellent membership participation this season as they are hosting the European Championships soon and the Youth Worlds in 2012. To date \$2,565 in skipper dues and \$470 in crew dues have been collected.

Class Royalties and merchandise revenue are very good to date. Expenses are less than 2010 figures or are at budget. Donations to the ILCA Fund are currently down -15.6% compared to this time last year (\$5,134). The Limbaugh Fund is up +23.9%, with \$2,250 coming in to date. The History Fund is up +90% so far with \$1,045 contributed. Donations to the Boat Grant Program are slightly down, -1.9% compared to last year at this time. \$3,103 has been contributed to date. Thank you very much to all of the supporters for helping to further the Lightning Class initiatives.

#### **Chief Measurers Report** –Bill Clausen.

Bill began by thanking Nelson Schmitt for organizing the measurement team here in Brazil. They did a great job and there have been no issues with measurement. Bill also submitted a written report:

I would like to thank all the folks who took part in measurement here at the Worlds and will be doing measurement work at the North Americans. It is a tiresome job and not always pleasant but, we need to try to keep our Lightning Class as one design as possible so we do have to check measurements. I also thank all the sailors who have cooperated in helping and allowing the measures to do their job. As of this writing we have no measurement issues pending.

**Secretary Report**- John Faus - Nothing additional to report.

### **Vice Presidents and Committee Reports**

#### ***VP Worlds - David Starck***

David Starck began by thanking John Bennett for his excellent communication and planning these regattas. He also thanked Tom Starck and Mark Schneider for their assistance in coordinating the shipping of the North American boats.

In 2013, the World Championships will be held in Numana, Italy. Rob Ruhlman explained that it is 2 hrs south of Bologna and about 30 minutes from the Port of Ancola. It is a small, touristy town. Housing will be mostly in small hotels 8-10 rooms, the hotels are clustered together. He has been in communication with Renzo Bozzi and is confident that it will be beautiful sailing. The shipping containers can stay at the club. There are two hoists and a boom truck at the sailing center. The main club is in a separate downtown location. The sail to the course is 15-20 minutes. The event will most likely be in mid-to-late June.

#### ***VP Youth Worlds - David Starck***

In 2012, Finland will host the Youth Worlds. They are very excited to host the event and have developed a promotional flyer to take home with you. Please start organizing and making arrangements for youth teams from your Countries to attend this event.

### **North American Championships – Ian Edwards**

Ian Edwards gave a short introduction to the 2012 North American Championships that are going to be held at the Houston Yacht Club. At this moment HYC is hosting the Opti North Americans with 400 boats participating. The Club is getting really excited to host our event next August. We should expect to see a lighter sea breeze in the afternoon at about 8-12 kts. HYC is a marvelous facility and we are looking forward to a great event. They are working on wonderful charter boat opportunities.

### **Southern Circuit – Rob Ruhlman**

Ruhlman reported that Jo Ann Fisher and Terry Hamilton both of Charleston, SC have agreed to be co-chairs of the 2012 Circuit. He continued to report that he asked Past President, Bill Faude to form a committee to evaluate the current Southern Circuit structure. We are sure to hear from these committee members in the near future.

### **Rules and Regulations – Darryl Waskow**

Earlier this year the Class updated our Rules to comply with ISAF's changes. We are working on a template for Sailing Instructions to incorporate these new rules. Rob thanked Darryl very much for all of his help with these issues.

### **International Fleet Development – John Faus**

John asked the group for their thoughts on the current initiative. Cristobal Perez reported that for Chile, it has made a great impact on Lightning sailing in his Country. The subsidizing is working. As the Fleets continue to grow, more people are becoming interested in Lightning sailing. Tom Allen commented that (he has heard) the perception of this program is that it is driving up used boat prices and supply here in the US. Many amongst the group disagreed and if anything agreed that if the used boat prices went up it would increase the demand for new boats. Ian Edwards used the example of the J22 Class. The current approved funding is good until 2012. We should review the criteria and the program going forward.

Additional written reports submitted:

***VP, ISAF AND PAN AM'S REPORT Submitted by DAVID SPRAGUE, JULY 20 2011***

PAN AMERICAN GAMES: October 2011

The Lightning will again be at the 2011 Pan American Games in Neuvo Vallarta (near Puerto Vallarta) in Mid October this year. Again the Class will have 7 boats competing in the Games. I will be attending the games as the Chief Measurer for all the Classes and will also be working with the Class to ensure a fair games. The next Games will be in Toronto in 2015 and the classes have not been picked as of yet. There will be lobbying going on for the next year or so and I hope that all the Lightning people at the games will work to be part of their country's delegation to the Pan American Sailing Federation meeting during the games to help support the Lightning.

ISAF (International Sailing Federation):

ISAF does not particularly deal with individual classes because it is mainly concerned with Olympic Sailing and the Racing Rules of Sailing. Hence the ISAF has little to do with ILCA except to continue to find ways to tax the classes and impose "world wide solutions" when classes have found little need for their "Eurocratic" tendencies. This trend has continued for the past few years while the ISAF has moved away from a governing concept of all sailors and has moved to a very tightly concentrated Member National Authority focus. Recent changes to the ISAF Constitution have taken any Class vote that was previously available on the ISAF Board of Directors and concentrated the Board into a small and non representative group. This group is elected, not on a Representation by Population basis, but rather one where each country, even if it has only a few sailors at one club, now has the same vote as a country such as the United States or Great Britain or Brazil or Argentina. Countries that pay a token fee of approximately under \$100 and have maybe a dozen sailors have the same vote as a country that pays \$18,000 and has hundreds of thousands of sailors. This move and the elimination of the class vote at the Board of Directors will mean that ISAF will continue to ignore legitimate International Class needs and focus on the Olympics in the foreseeable future.

I plan to continue to help the Lightning Class and other Classes get a fair hearing at ISAF as I will be attending the ISAF Meetings in Puerto Rico this fall.

### **VP SPECIAL PROJECTS, SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT – Clarke Newman**

We have had a pretty good year in the area of Southern Development. We have expanded the Texas District, and we added the Mexico District and added two fleets, 521 (Houston) and 523 (Valle). Ian Edwards and Aroldo de Rienzo are to be commended for getting these fleets up and running. The boat stock is much newer, with many new boats coming into the Texas District particularly. Activity in the Southern District has also been relatively strong, primarily at Southern Yacht Club in New Orleans, Louisiana and at Buccaneer Yacht Club in Mobile, Alabama. Larry Frost and Bob Bernhardt are the engines behind that activity. Our goal is to reactivate the dormant fleets in the Southern District. More will follow on this issue.

Obviously, getting the 2012 ILCA North American Championships was a big deal for Lightning sailing in the South. Plans are well underway in getting that project going. Ian Edwards and the crew at Houston Yacht Club are doing great work there. We plan to distribute promotional materials at the 2011 NA's. The Texas District will be very much behind this effort.

The Southwestern Circuit continues to show strong participation, and went from six to seven events this year. 2010 SWC participation was up 30% from 2009. We have already had events in Mississippi (Spring Fling Regatta), Texas (Texas District Championships), Louisiana (Juby Wynn/Southern District Championships), and Tennessee (Mississippi Valley District Championships). We have three events remaining for 2011—September 24 & 25 at Fairhope Yacht Club in Fairhope, Alabama, October 8 & 9 at Rush Creek Yacht Club in Heath, Texas, and November 12 & 13 at Pensacola, Florida. John Womble is to be commended for his work on the Southwestern Circuit since the beginning.

This past winter, the Texas and the Mexico people sailed several events in Mexico that were detailed in the *Flashes* earlier in the year. Currently, we are planning a “TEX/MEX” circuit that will begin with the Southwestern Circuit event at Rush Creek counting for this event as well. This event will be followed by regattas in Valle de Bravo, Mexico on January 14 & 15, February 4 & 5, and February 25 & 26. That would give us plenty of time to get boats back for the Southern Circuit. The final event of the TX/MEX Circuit would be the 2012 Texas District Championships at HYC. This event will also count towards the 2012 Southwestern Circuit Championships. An emphasis would be placed on group transport to minimize the costs of getting boats to Valle. The boats would stay in Mexico in January and February. We had such a great time last year that we want to expand the concept and use these events to support the development of Lightning sailing in Mexico in the run up to the 2012 Pan Am Games in Puerto Vallarta.

#### ***Boat Grant Report - Debbie Probst***

2 grant teams have been sailing quite a bit and in different areas of the country so we've had good coverage. We will be advertising the program intensively to college sailors this fall in the hopes of getting more applicants. Donations are down a bit but we haven't made much of a plea for funds and equipment beyond the membership form.

#### ***Southeastern District Report – Karen Dial, District Commodore***

The Southeastern District is experiencing a dramatic increase both in numbers and in interest thanks to the Charleston Fleet. We currently have an average of 12 boats attending our traveling series regattas and have earned 11 slots at the NAs which we hope to fill at LaSalle this year. The best indicator of the upsurge is that our members are asking for more regattas in our traveling series! We have added the Charleston Fleet invitational October 22-23 this year and hope to add more in 2012.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Rob Ruhlman began by stating we need to re-define our Area's as described in our Class Rules. The current areas are described as North America, South America and Europe. We now have Lightning activity in Australia, Africa and India. As a Class we need to incorporate these areas into our Rules. Discussion ensued. Two issues stem from the current wording. One, we need to be able to qualify all Countries with active Lightning activity for the World Championships. And two, Rotation of the World Championships, how do you consider it? Rob asked Ian Edwards to forward his recommended changes to the Executive Committee.

#### **New Business:**

Rob Ruhlman announced that we are looking for individuals that might be interested in representing the Lightning Class at the ISAF level in the future. The position takes a lot of travel and if anyone has any interest to please talk to one of the Executive Committee members. He also mentioned that David Sprague would be happy to answer any questions about what the position entails.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Bill Clausen and seconded by Ryan Ruhlman. Adjourned at 7:18p.