

# International Lightning Class Association

DRAFT - FOR APPROVAL AT MARCH 2013 MEETING

Minutes of the 2012 Governing Board Meeting

International Lightning Class Association

August 5, 2012 – Houston Yacht Club, Shoreacres, TX

## **Call to Order**

The Governing Board Meeting was called to order by President Rob Ruhlman at 9:18 AM

## **Roll Call by Secretary John Faus**

In Attendance: John Faus, Rob Ruhlman, Bill Clausen, Victor Lobos, Ryan Ruhlman, Debbie Probst, Ian Edwards, Todd Wake, David Starck, Bill Faude, Steve Davis, Justin Coplan, Will Brown, Karen Dial, Josh Goldman, Terry Hamilton and Jan Davis. With proxy ballots received or designated, quorum achieved.

## **Reading of the Minutes from the Last Meeting**

Rob Ruhlman made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes, seconded by Bill Clausen, and unanimously approved.

## **Reports of Officers**

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

President Ruhlman started off by thanking Ian and Lindy Edwards, Clarke Newman, the entire Texas District and the Houston Yacht Club for organizing a great North Americans. Those that stayed home are missing out, we have had great sailing and the hospitality has been incredible. Ruhlman continued and reported that the Lightning is included on the recommended Class Participation List for the next Pan American Games to be held in Toronto, 2016. The Lightning also has been chosen as the boat for the 2013 US Sailing Champion of Championships Regatta to be held on Lake Murray, SC. Over the next few months I am sure we will be needing assistance from our nearby Fleets to assist with this regatta. Thank you for your corporation in advance.

### **Treasurers Report – Victor Lobos**

Treasurer Lobos gave an overview of the 2012 Financials year to date. North American dues continue to trend down from 2011 figures by about 26%. Europe is slightly up compared to 2011, again because of the strong Finnish Fleets and also a good showing at the Europeans that were held in Switzerland. South American dues are down, however these figures should increase over the next few months as the South American sailing season is just getting underway. Fleet dues are down about 14%. Class merchandise is slightly below last year's numbers as are sail royalties. Royalties are a bit unpredictable and are somewhat cyclical in nature due to our World Championships being held every other year. Expenses are being closely watched and held to or under budget. To date we are reporting a net ordinary income of \$8,505.56. Please remember to encourage your Fleet Members to renew their dues. Discussion continues to revolve around paper billing, on line renewal process and the possibility of automatic membership renewals. Ryan Ruhlman offered to assist in investigating automatic membership renewals.

### **Chief Measurers report – Bill Clausen**

Chief Measurer Clausen began by thanking Clarke Newman and his entire volunteer measurement team for putting together a seamless measurement process here at the NA's. Newman and his team went as far as putting together a how to measurement booklet that will be able to be used in future regattas. He continued by thanking Ian Edwards for putting together the sail measurement and safety teams. The entire Houston group has done an excellent job! Clausen concluded by stating that most of the calls and emails he receives are from Wooden Boat owners. There is a lot of interest in our older boats!

## **Secretaries report – John Faus**

Secretary Faus began by reviewing current member numbers which echoed Lobos' treasurers report. Memberships are down about 25% in North America, steady in Europe (however Countries outside of Finland are slightly down). South American memberships are down, but should see an increase by year end. Treasurer Lobos commented that all Chilean boats are being strongly asked/required to become members of the Class.

Secretary Faus continued by presenting an updated publication schedule. This schedule will be published on the website and will help the Class communicate with members. This schedule includes a new feature called Flash Blasts that will be e-mailed to members on the 1st and 15th of each month. Recent regatta results and announcements will be included in these Blasts. Content deadline for these monthly emails are 3 days before the 1st and 15th of each month. The printed Flashes are returning. The first issue will be printed in September (Sept 3rd content deadline) and then another issue in November (Nov 5th content deadline). The first printed issue will be mailed to all current members, skippers from the previous 2 years and anyone who has ever made a contribution to the Class. We hope to engage these Lightning enthusiasts in the Class once again. The 2013 Yearbook content deadline is December 17, 2012. The 2013 Yearbook covers events and activities from 2012. Please be sure someone in your Fleet is responsible for your Fleet Report!

## **Vice Presidents and Committee Reports**

**VP Worlds – David Starck** started off by thanking the Class members for the great response we got from the 9 Countries that sent junior competitors to the Youth Worlds that took place in Finland the end of July. In total there were 18 out of a possible 20 competitors. Special recognition goes to Erik Hartman and the entire Finnish Lightning Class for organizing the regatta. It was a tremendous effort and they did a great job. Thank you also goes out to Darryl Waskow who traveled over to Finland and served as the Chief Judge. Starck mentioned that the next Youth Worlds in 2014 will be held at the Buffalo Canoe Club. Ian Jones has attended the past two Youth Worlds and is in the process of putting together a template for the Youth Worlds. This template will be used for the 2014 event and others in the future. The ILCA Fund contributed funds to 3 teams to help them with travel expenses. These teams would not have been able to compete without this type of support. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the ILCA Fund.

Starck continued to report on the 2013 Worlds in Italy. At this point things are going well, but we are looking to identify a point person that will help this event be successful. There is a lot of demand to qualify for the Worlds. The Class will be well represented at the Worlds and that includes a class representative on the race committee boat. Bill Faude commented that if volunteers are needed to help make the Worlds successful, there are people willing to assist with things like measurement and registration. If it helps to take some of that burden off of the organizing authority, people are available. Rob and Abby Ruhlman will be visiting the area in October and will meet with the organizing committee. Shipping from North America will most likely take place immediately after the Southern Circuit from New Jersey with the possibility of a container or two from Houston or St Pete. It was suggested that we put a template together regarding running a World Championship. It will make it easier on the organizers and will allow for some continuity from event to event.

**North American's Report - Ian Edwards** reported that the Club is completely behind this regatta. He thanked competitors for coming and credited Paul & Sabra Francis for an excellent job in organizing the regatta. 55 boats are registered and Sabra has found housing for over 70 competitors!

**Josh Goldman** reported that planning for the 2013 NA's is really in great shape. Dick Thackaberry has signed on as the PRO and the committee has already set up a great deal for lodging at the Doubletree for \$89/night. There is also some housing available with club members if teams sign up early. The website for the regatta is up, [www.2013nas.com](http://www.2013nas.com).

**Southern Circuit - Terry Hamilton** thanked everyone for participating in 2012 and announced that we will be visiting our regular three venues March 9-17, 2013. We will be holding a logo contest again for this year's regatta logo. There

are a lot of fun ideas being developed in the planning process. One idea that is being considered is a celebration in conjunction with the Classes 75th Anniversary. This celebration will most likely take place on Saturday evening in St Pete and all of the past presidents will be invited.

**As Chair of the Southern Circuit Review Committee (SCRC) Bill Faude** announced that the Executive Committee has taken the advice of the SCRC and is proposing a one year trial of a shorter circuit at two venues that will allow for more sailing and a better perceived value. This proposal is in direct response to the member survey that was completed by members. This proposal will be voted on later today at the Annual Meeting.

### **Charters Ratified or Revoked**

None at this time.

### **Ratifications of Executive Committee Rulings**

President Ruhlman reported that the Executive Committee has voted that the 2014 NA's has been awarded to the Sheboygan Yacht Club/Sail Sheboygan. Rob Ruhlman made a motion to ratify the ruling and Ian Edwards seconded, all approved. Todd Wake thanked the committee for supporting the bid from Sheboygan Yacht Club/Sail Sheboygan. The facilities can handle as many boats as possible. Sail Sheboygan is an Olympic training facility and the goal is to host over 100 boats.

### **Unfinished Business**

Secretary Faus reviewed the proposed amendments to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships specific to the Articles Governing All Lightning Class World Championships as posted on the ILCA Website. This amendment was initially introduced at the March 2012 Governing Board Meeting, but was tabled for further revisions. This amendment is in response to our world-wide growth in areas that have not been recognized in our rules. It will allow for Counties with active Lightning activity such as Australia and Nigeria to officially qualify for the World Championships. Ian Edwards made a motion to accept the proposed amendments as presented, Todd Wake seconded and majority approved with one proxy vote opposed.

### **New Business**

#### **Proposed Amendments**

President Ruhlman explained that the Executive Committee (EC) is proposing a 1-year amendment to the Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships specific to the Articles Governing All Lightning Class World Championships as posted on the ILCA Website. The EC feels that this temporary amendment based on the participation at previous World Championships and the economic conditions in some Countries will aid in a successful event in Italy. This temporary amendment is specific to the 2013 World Championship in Italy. Essentially it allows the allocation of unused slots to be used by a Country that may now have over 50% of the Fleet allocation as a result of these additional slots. Todd Wake made a motion to approve the temporary amendment as presented, Bill Clausen seconded. All approved, with 2 proxy votes opposed.

#### **75th Anniversary Celebrations**

Executive Secretary Laura Jeffers reported that 2013 marks the 75th Anniversary of the ILCA. In honor of this milestone the Class is planning multiple celebrations throughout the year. The first party will be kicked off by the Chileans at their National Championship which concludes on New Year's Eve. Other parties will take place during the Southern Circuit in Florida, the Worlds in Italy, the North Americans in Connecticut and possibly during the South Americans. In addition special merchandise will be available in the Class Store. We are asking the membership for personal articles, photos and stories on what the Lightning and or the Class means to them. These will be published during the year in the printed Flashes or monthly Flash Blast Emails to help us celebrate 75 years of Lightning sailing. We are also looking for design ideas for the 75th Anniversary logo.

John Faus thanked President Rob Ruhlman for his dedication to the Class and efforts as Class President over the past two years.

Todd Wake made a motion to adjourn this meeting of the Governing Board. It was seconded by David Starck.