

Minutes

International Lightning Class Association

2015 European Class Meeting

Espoo, Finland

Saturday, August 8, 2015

Attendance

Finland, Greece, Italy, Switzerland were represented with ILCA Past President John Faus and ILCA VP International Development Ian Edwards also present.

Full attendance list and email contacts is included as Attachment 1

Opening

Lauri Hemming, VP Europe opened the meeting at 0940. He thanked all for attendance and asked that each person introduce themselves. Lauri asked Ian Edwards to take the minutes.

He proposed that the 2 key issues for discussion should be

1. 2016 Europeans Location
2. Development Assistance for Italy and Switzerland

He also proposed that there be a brief update on Worlds locations after 2017 in South America

2016 Europeans Location

Lauri noted that this year was the 59th European Championship and that only one year had been missed. At Lauri's request there was a show of hands which supported the traditional rotation sequence between the European countries.

The "normal" next host would be Switzerland. The Swiss representatives advised that there were currently only 2 racing Lightnings in Switzerland and that Swiss clubs would expect 20+ boats to be willing to host a Europeans. The general discussion encouraged the Swiss to look at options to hold as the location was highly desirable as it is central to all other Lightning countries in Europe. There was some discussion from the non Swiss representatives of Swiss Clubs that they had heard may be willing to host. A quick boat count suggested the following minimum numbers for an event held in Switzerland

Greece	4+	
Finland	6-8	
Switzerland	2	
Italy	?	Hopefully 2 to 4+

Non Europe	2+	Assumes arrangements made for boats from Finland or Greece
Total	14 – 20+	

The Swiss representatives said they needed until September 30, 2015 to pursue options to host the event in Switzerland ... **Action: Urs and Jacques**

The following fallback options were discussed

- a) Event in Lake Garda Italy still central for Europe, close to Switzerland and excellent sailing venue. There was no knowledge at the meeting of Italy's ability to organize even with some Swiss support. **Action ???**
- b) Voula YC Greece (Tolis, Nick, and Yannis) offered to provide a venue and local organization for the Swiss Lightning Group to host the 2016 Europeans albeit in another country. **Action: Urs/Jacques and Tolis/Nick**
- c) The Italian Lightning Association has apparently offered to host the 2016 Europeans although venue is unknown but presumed to be Marsala or Castiglione Del Lego. Action: Lauri and Sergio
- d) Greece would be willing to host 2016 Europeans without Swiss. **Action: Tolis/Nick/Angleos**

Development Assistance for Italy and Switzerland

Ian Edwards described the development assistance provided by the ILCA to the Greek Lightning group. This has involved financial assistance with obtaining and shipping boats, organizing Lightning Clinics and participation of Finns and other international sailors at Lightning events in Greece. The Greek representatives talked positively about this with local Lightning regattas involving Piraeus area and Voula boats with 18 boats.

Sergio from Italy offered to help be a bridge to the Italian Lightning sailors to see if they could be helped with similar assistance. Sergio was keen to get more young sailors like his nephew involved. Ian and John made it clear that the ILCA has volunteers and funds that can assist but needed a "pull" from the Italian sailors. Ian offered to help develop a support proposal that could get ILCA endorsement if there were Italian sailors willing to participate. **Action: Ian/Lauri + Sergio and Italian Lightning Group**

2019+ Worlds

Lauri noted for the European group the intent of Australia to seek the ILCA endorsement for the 2019 Worlds. This would be a "break-in" to the normal regional rotation which would be otherwise Europe/Finland. ILCA a few years ago modified the Worlds rules to allow hosting outside of the traditional regions. Lauri spoke in support of allowing Australia to host in the AAO region provided the ILCA continued the rotation to Europe/Finland in 2021 to maintain the support for Lightning racing in Europe. There was general acceptance of this position from the meeting attendees provided that Europe should not be bypassed after Australia. **Action: Ian, Lauri and ILCA EC**

The **Youth Worlds 2018** were also discussed briefly. The normal rotation will be to Europe. Australia is not planning to bid for Youths. Finland has hosted the last 2 Youth Worlds held in Europe. The Greek representatives felt sure that they would be able to obtain yacht club support to host the 2018 Youth Worlds in Greece although they had not discussed this locally. **Action: Tolis/Nick/Angleos with ILCA**

Meeting was closed by Lauri at 1020

Attachment 1

European 2015 Meeting Attendance List

Lauri Hemming	sailwithlauri@gmail.com	ILCA VP Europe, Finland
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