

**INTERNATIONAL MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION (IM24CA) WORLD COUNCIL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019  
Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Fiskeridirektoratet - Strandgaten 229, Bergen, Norway**

## M I N U T E S

**Voting Delegates (either present or online):**

|    | <b>Name</b>                         | <b>Position</b>                          | <b>Representing or Proxy for</b> |
|----|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1  | Jens Wathne – <i>present</i>        | Chairman                                 | EST                              |
| 2  | Miles Quinton – <i>present</i>      | Vice Chairman, Europe                    | GBR                              |
| 3  | Duncan Stamper – <i>online</i>      | Vice Chairman, Americas                  |                                  |
| 4  | Michael Good - <i>online</i>        | Executive Committee Member, Europe       | SUI & ITA (if needed)            |
| 5  | Kevin Nixon – <i>online</i>         | Executive Committee Member, Asia Pacific | AUS                              |
| 6  | Laura Grondin – <i>present</i>      | Executive Committee Member, Treasurer    | USA                              |
| 7  | Krak Arntson – <i>present</i>       | Executive Committee Member, America      |                                  |
| 8  | Dan Berezin - <i>online</i>         | President of CAN Melges 24 class         | CAN                              |
| 8  | Soren Blume – <i>present</i>        | President of DEN Melges 24 class         | DEN                              |
| 9  | Michael Tarabochia – <i>present</i> | President of GER Melges 24 class         | GER, AUT                         |
| 10 | Aleš Zupanc - <i>present</i>        | President of SLO Melges 24 class         | SLO                              |
| 11 | Torvald Asplund - <i>online</i>     | President of SWE Melges 24 class         | SWE                              |
| 12 | Piero Andolina – <i>online</i>      | Representative of ITA Melges 24 class    | ITA                              |
| 13 | Jorgen Wathne - <i>present</i>      | Representative of NOR Melges 24 class    | NOR                              |
| 14 | Botond Weores - <i>online</i>       | Representative of HUN Melges 24 class    | HUN                              |

**Non-Voting delegates (either present or online):**

|   | <b>Name</b>                              | <b>Position</b>   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Peter Göckel – <i>present</i>            | IM24CA Technical Committee Chairman (acting)                    |
| 2 | Nicklaus DeWitt Fordham – <i>present</i> | Representative of DEN Melges 24 class                           |
| 3 | Richard Thompson - <i>present</i>        | Representative of GBR Melges 24 class, candidate                |
| 4 | Branko Parunov – <i>present</i>          | Representative of SLO Melges 24 class                           |
| 5 | David Bartol - <i>present</i>            | IM24CA Championship Coordinator Europe                          |
| 6 | John Abel - <i>online</i>                | IM24CA Championship Coordinator Western Hemisphere/Asia-Pacific |
| 7 | Piret Salmistu - <i>present</i>          | IM24CA Administrator & Media Coordinator                        |

[2019 AGM Agenda with all related documents on the website of IM24CA](#)

**AGENDA**

1. Arrival
2. Opening Welcome, Introduction of new representatives, Chairman's report
3. Round Table Class Reports & Updates
4. Approving the Minutes of the 2017 AGM
5. Financial Report and Budgets
6. Marketing & Communications Report
7. Technical Report
8. Builders Reports
9. Elections of Executive Committee
10. National Class Association Submissions to AGM
11. Proposed Rule Changes

**12. Proposed changes to Class Constitution**

**13. Future Events, current situation**

**14. Future Events, proposals & decisions**

**15. Any Other Business**

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**2. Opening Welcome, Introduction of new representatives, Chairman's report**

Chairman Jens Wathne welcomed the delegates to the meeting, thanking everyone for attending, and for all their vital volunteer work in support of the International Melges 24 Class.

Jens introduced new officers and National Class Administrators to the class and World Council:

David Bartol, Slovenia – IM24CA Championship Coordinator Europe,

Branko Parunov, Slovenia – IM24CA new Chief Measurer and Technical Advisor,

Doug Watson – Australia,

Tomi Hakola – Canada,

Megan Ratliff – USA,

Aleš Zupanc – Slovenia,

Torvald Asplund – Sweden.

The introduction was followed by the **Chairman's report from Jens Wathne** being in this role for 2+3 years by now.

"I want to begin by thanking the officers of the NCA around the world. I have had the pleasure of working alongside many of the class Executive officers and I am proud of the effort and work that has been carried out.

Since this is my last AGM as chairman of the International Class, I also want to include all those I have work with for the last 7 years.

Last year our membership increased, the sale of sail labels increased, four new boats built. The three biggest NCA's was USA (96), Italy (28) and Norway (25).

I believe history to be a vital part of the future. The Melges 24 class has a 26-year history that need must be shared on the new webpage, soon to be released. Maybe also in a paper, but for me the story of the class is more important than we have been able to show thus far.

Also, in 2019 the European Sailing Series and NorAm tour (and others) are regatta series for Melges 24, which proves vital to the class. Such structures create an important framework for the class to host great events and to gather the class in numbers.

We have had two continental championships in 2019 – both successful both on and off the water. The North American Championship had 41 participants with 16 Corinthians (39%). Winner was USA858 Lucky Dog Travis Weisleder in Open division and CAN151 Sunnyvale Fraser McMillan in Corinthian division. The World Championship was held in Villasimius, Sardinia. With 61 teams there were 36 in the Corinthian division (60%). Overall winner was ITA854 Maidollis Gianluca Perego and Corinthian division winner as ITA778 Taki 4 with Marco Zammarchi.

Melges Performance and Melges Europe support in different regattas is greatly appreciated. Access to spare parts from our suppliers is just as important today as for 26 years ago. Attention to this is vital to keep boats active on the water. Thank you for your effort.

Our economy is stable and 2019 show a small predicted profit in 2020 without an ad or sponsor revenue. We need the third leg to stand on to make our situation more comfortable. All outstanding items are paid also the website development.

From a technical perspective, few proposals for change has been submitted to this AGM. This shows us that the boat is working well and provides a fantastic platform for one design racing.

Communication is important for us and among us. IM24CA is available on modern Social Medias and the sailing community expect it. Class pictures and stories from regattas is key to competitors across entry lists. The new website will provide an opportunity for all NCA to have their own page under the umbrella. A template and assistance will be provided by IM24CA and will, for some, cut cost of developing and hosting their stand-alone platforms. It will provide a class profile on the web.

During the last year, we have held numerous Executive Committee meetings online. The executive group has been active to run and develop the class. We have work to do, but the future of the class is very much positive and prosperous.

On a personal level, after 7 years in the executive group, this is the end for me. My time is up and I want to express the outmost gratitude to all the willing servants of the class. Thank you.

You have been awesome to me and we have dealt many different challenges thru my time at the rudder as chair. We have renewed our constitution; we have changed rules of equipment every year, the championship regulative has been updated. On the steps, the long-awaited new website, which in my mind will be a possible game changer.

We have done the job to my great satisfaction.

I will take the opportunity to thank the sailors and those involved in each and every NCA for the hard work and efforts laid down in a volunteer basis. We could not have made it without you. Thank you so much.”

### **3. Round Table Class Reports & Updates**

The following National Class Reports have been received by IM24CA:

- [Australia](#)
- [Austria](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Denmark](#)
- [Estonia](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Great Britain](#)
- [Hungary](#)
- [Italy](#)
- [Norway](#)
- [Slovenia](#)
- [Sweden](#)
- [Switzerland](#)
- [United States](#)

Class reports of USA, Italy and Norway were presented to the AGM by Jens and Laura.

### **4. Approving the Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

Acceptance of the [Minutes of 2018 AGM](#) as a correct record of the meetings was proposed by Jens Wathne and approved unanimously.

### **5. Financial Reports and Budget**

**Financial report 2019 and budget proposal for 2020** was presented by Treasurer Laura Grondin.

### Summary:

- Class affiliations were up 6% or 14 members overall: up 18.7% or 17 in North America (USA alone was up by 28 members); unchanged in Europe; and down 3 members in Australia
- Countries reporting no members in 2019, but members in 2018 and prior years: Czech Republic (1) and Finland (1)
- Sail Label sales were up a modest 2.8% but it is the first increase since 2016. Large shift in sales from North (-38) to Quantum (+48)
- 4 New Boats built through Q3 (#861-864)
- 2019 will be profitable and 2020 budget shows a modest profit as well WITHOUT an ad or sponsor revenue
- Balance sheet at year end 2019 will show positive cash and positive shareholders' equity
- Banking/organization to be discussed

### Membership:

- North America had a jump in 2016 due to Worlds in Miami and again in 2018 and 2019
- European membership down 14 members in 2018 and down 6 in 2019

### 2020 Budget Assumptions and Considerations:

- Slightly conservative revenue compared to 2019
- Expenses in line with 2019 with the following changes:
  - €1500 for marketing
  - No spend required for sail labels (2-3-year supply)

The budget presented is proposal and very conservative. **The budget was proposed to accept as it is and was approved by the AGM.**

## 6. Marketing & Communications Report

Administrator Piret Salmistu was introducing a **Marketing and Communications report**, analyzing current trends in social media and all the media channels what the class uses to be on track according how the world and media is changing – website, e-newsletter, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr.

The numbers of statistics of IM24CA **current website** are in growth comparing to. As expected, high peaks for visitor statistics were North Americans in Grand Traverse, USA and Worlds in Villasimius, Italy. The building of IM24CA [new website](#) got hit by the error of the developer's backup and the job of almost three months was lost in the spring. During the season (since April up to now) was stopped and now the work will continue to get new website launched in the beginning of 2020.

IM24CA **Facebook** Page has more than 4,700 followers (+800 per year). 77% of our fans are men (25-54 years old). The most visited time of the page was the final day of the 2019 Worlds in Villasimius - the reach of the page was 48,519. Video is the most attractive type of post followed by photo, which is very engaging!

**Instagram** account was started the in January 2015, almost 2,100 followers.

- **Tag in your posts @worldofmelges24 & #melges24**
- Followers 3,623 (2018-2,093; 2017-1529; 2016-1071; 2015-272)
- There are 8,400 (2018-6,500; 2017-4,898; 2016-3,272) posts under hashtag #melges24
- The most active users are at age 25-34, but the share of older users is growing constantly
- By gender main users of our Instagram are men
- To show the „magic“ of the Social Media during the event when so many people are actively posting, sharing, creating stories etc.
- During the 2019 Worlds in October we reached to more than 103K people with our posts in Instagram, 74.6K were engaged through likes, shares and saves.
- 363 new followers was the result of this active period in October
- With IG Story you can tell the stories

- MELGES 24 WORLDS 2019 - <https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18076846054039704/>
- MELGES 24 NORTH AMERICANS 2019 <https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17967038329285696/>

To photo platform **Flickr** we have posted more than 15k photos which have collected more than 1,9million views.

**YouTube channel** is an archive for Melges 24 videos. **Twitter** is less used, but still active channel for IM24CA.

## 7. Technical Report

Technical Committee acting Chair Peter Göckel introduced the procedure of presenting the technical reports of North America and Europe and Branko/Worlds. Executive Committee member Americas Krak Arntson reported about the Mike Gozzard's recent activities in Canada measuring a lot of boats etc. The summary of Technical Committee meeting report was presented.

Mike Gozzard (CAN), CM24CA Technical Officer presented [Technical Report from North America](#). Mike was also introducing the database of the Measurement Certificates – started by J A Booker in USM24CA. [Event Technical Committee report](#) from the Worlds 2019 by Chief Equipment Inspector Branko Parunov was introduced.

## 8. Builders Reports

Builder's [report from Melges Performance Sailboats](#) was introduced.

## 9. Elections of Executive Committee

The following Executive positions are up for election at the 2019 Annual General Meeting ([See the full list of current Exec Comm](#)):

- **Chairman** – Jens Wathne NOR, was elected in 2014, 2-year term and re-elected in 2016, 3-year term - up for election. Candidates:
  - Richard Thompson (GBR) - nominated by the [IM24CA Executive Committee](#)
  - Laura Grondin (USA) - nominated by [USM24CA](#)

A vote was called and current IM24CA Treasurer **Laura Grondin** (USA) was elected as the new Chair of IM24CA (35 for Laura | 30 for Richard)

- **Vice-Chairman Americas** - Duncan Stamper CAN, was elected in 2016, 3-year term - up for election.
  - **Duncan Stamper** - nominated by [CAN](#), [USA](#), was re-elected as Vice-Chairman Americas.
- **Member North America** - Paul Krak Arntson USA, was elected in 2016, 3-year term - up for election. Candidates:
  - Paul Krak Arntson (USA) - nominated by [CAN](#)
  - Duane Yoslov (USA) – nominated by [USA](#)

Duane Yoslov withdrew his candidacy and **Krak Arntson** was re-elected as Member North America.

- **Member Europe** - Michael Good SUI, was elected in 2014, 2-year term and re-elected in 2016, 3-year term - up for election. Candidates:
  - Michael Tarabochia (GER) - nominated by the [IM24CA Executive Committee](#)
  - Gianluca Perego (ITA) - nominated by [ITA](#)
  - Davor Jelača (CRO) - nominated by [SLO](#)

Davor Jelaca withdrew his candidacy and a vote was called to choose between two candidates. **Michael Tarabochia** was elected as Member Europe (39 for Michael / 27 for Gianluca).

Since the position of Treasurer will be open, it was decided to held the Extraordinary General Meeting in 2020 to elect new Treasurer.

Big Thanks to Chairman Jens Wathne and Member Europe Michael Good for all their time and devotion to the class during many years! From IM24CA Jens and Michael were awarded with a special glass statue with 3D Melges 24 graved into it.

## 10. National Class Association Submissions to AGM

Submission of Italy #1 - Regatta Regulations - [Melges 24 Championship Rules - World Championship Rules / Continental Championship Rules - Organizing Authority](#) – Italian class representative Piero Andolina was explaining the idea behind the proposal. **Amendment proposal was not voted in. (9 in favor / 57 against)**

Submission of Italy #2 - Event Management Requirements 2019 – [D: IM24CA Personnel & Media Team - International Measurer Fees](#) – amendment proposing that International Measurer must attend the event on voluntary basis like all other officials involved in the event. **Amendment passes (59 in favor / 7 against).**

## 11. Proposed Rule Changes

**Submission of Canada #1 - [Allow the use of deck reinforcement at stanchion locations](#)** – was unanimously voted in favor. Corrections in wording will be made and the dimensions, materials and drawings will be added before submitting the amendment to the World Sailing. **A vote was called and amendment passes unanimously.**

**Submission of Canada #2 - [Change the keel position definition](#)** – Both Technical Committee and World Council agreed that some data need to be collected and decided to postpone this proposal to the AGM 2020.

**Submission of USA #1 - [Rule 2.2 to change; 375kg, to, 385kg](#)** – Long discussion was carried on this topic and submission. Many arguments and real-life experiences while testing different crew weights were reported.

Arguments and discussion on USA #1 submission:

Jens Wathne explained that this rule change would hit the female crew members since the girls can be replaced by male, and also it will harm 4-crew teams, because they should gain the weight to reach the optimum.

Jorgen Wathne made his point that if wanting to get the people joining the class, then 375 kg for 4 average 35+ years old guys sailing in four is ok. Current rule with no re-weight is much better than the one we had before.

Piero Andolina – Why aren't we doing one year without any weight limit and then we can see the real optimum?

Botond Weores – The time between when we weigh the teams and the time when we start racing is long – during 3 days you can easily gain weight and be heavier by then.

**The submission was not voted in (28 in favor / 34 against).**

**Proposal from Technical Committee - MELGES 24 insignia sticker and sail number stickers on the sails due to the change of sails' colour** - Technical Committee discussed [the proposal to amend the Class Rules](#) from SLO Class Measurer Branko Parunov, who was Chief Equipment Inspector at the Worlds 2019 in Villasimius. The proposal was presented at the AGM. Reason: it was really hard to see some sail numbers nor recognize the logo anymore on new dark sails. **Proposal passes to amend the Class Rules.**

## 12. Proposed changes to Class Constitution

**Submission of Italy #1 - [Modifications # 2 OBJECTS](#)** – Long discussion was carried on the topic and it was agreed that the consequences of the amendment are not clear to all. Italy retracted the submission and the working group will be created to do some investigation and discuss the topic at the future AGM.

**Submission of Italy #2 - [New # 12.14](#)** – Jens admitted that the meeting at the 2018 Europeans was fruitful.

Other comments:

Peter Göckel – there should be the wording so that in case there's no chance to hold that, there won't be any negative restrictions

David Bartol – we might not have a possible space to hold that.

Miles Quinton – This wording should not be binding.

Wording proposal from Richard Thompson and Laura Grondin:

The IM24CA will make all reasonable attempts to schedule at least one informal meeting...

**The submission passes unanimously with the following wording:** “The IM24CA will make all reasonable attempts to schedule at least one informal meeting at World and Continental Championships each calendar year. Such meetings shall be open to all members of the International Melges24 Class Association; the main purpose is to provide a forum for individual members to express their views and opinions. No decisions made at such meetings shall be binding on the IM24CA or its Executive or Technical Committees.”

### 13. Future Events, current situation

Reporting of the 2019 North Americans and Worlds was made and overviews about the future events were presented.

- [2019 North Americans, Grand Traverse YC, MI](#) - August 15-18, 2019 – recap. John Abel was reporting on 2019 NA's. Piret was adding the comments from media side.
- [2019 Worlds, Villasimius, Sardinia, Italy](#) - October 5-12, 2019 – recap. David Bartol was summarizing the event from RC and IM24CA side. Miles admitted that decision on the venue was great, but saw the problems in race management followed by very unfortunate consequences. Jens said that social part of the event is important and to have all boats moored in the same place is very important too! [Event report](#) was presented by the Regatta Director Mirco Babini, Marina di Villasimius.
- [2020 Worlds, Charleston, SC, USA - May 1-9, 2020](#) – Notice of Race will be published shortly. Pre-event will be at the Sperry Charleston Race Week. All the boats will be in the same marina. According to Regatta Director Randy Draftz, they are working on getting in the sponsor for towing boats to the course if sailing offshore. The same conditions need to be granted to all boats. [Website is also up and running.](#)
- [2020 Europeans, Portoroz, Slovenia - September 4-11, 2020](#) – David Bartol was explaining the reasons behind the decision moving the dates from August to September - more options for accommodation are available in September. The space and facilities will not be the issue there. Michael Tarabochia was commenting the conditions in Portoroz, Piran bay.
- **2021 Worlds, Denmark** – Presentation was made by Soren Blume and Nicklaus DeWitt Fordham. Dates and venue confirmed – Aarhus, June 18-26 - Great new facilities built for the World Sailing World Cup recently and great sailing conditions. [See more information & presentation.](#)

### 14. Future Events, proposals & decisions

**2021 North Americans - National Yacht Club in Toronto, Canada will host the 2021 Melges 24 North American Championship – September 15-19.** Dan Berezin, the President of the Canadian Melges 24 Class Association, was presenting [the bid to host the 2021 NA in Toronto.](#)

Laura and Richard confirmed that it's a great venue. A vote was called and Toronto was selected to host 2021 Melges 24 North Americans. (60 in favor / 4 against).

**2022 Worlds** - San Francisco Yacht Club's bid to host the 2022 Melges 24 Worlds will be presented at the upcoming EGM, at the same time when new Treasurer will be elected. Currently the intention to bid to host the event has been submitted by USM24CA. Krak Arntson was in contact with the SF YC during the

meeting and added some valuable information. New building is going to be built there, the dates to be are set to September. Sf YC is willing to present the bid as soon as requested.

No decisions were made on the future events based on the intentions only (Letters of Intention to host 2023 Worlds and 2024 Europeans in Italy), but the letters were noted. The bids for the future events will be presented at the future AGMs.

## 15. Any Other Business

- **Nomination of the Technical Committee North American Member - Mike Gozzard** (CAN) - nominated by [CAN](#) – Nomination of the Technical Committee North American Member with Mike Gozzard's (CAN) candidacy passes and he was appointed as the new North American Member in the Technical Committee.
- **Melges 24 Chief International Measurer & Technical Advisor** - Melges 24 Class Measurer **Branko Parunov** (SLO), who recently was appointed by the World Sailing as the International Melges 24 Class Measurer, was appointed to be the new Melges 24 Chief International Measurer & Technical Advisor.
- **Third Party video and drone evidence** – Submission to the AGM by the Executive Committee about third party photo and video usage as an evidence was presented and discussed. Jens Wathne made a motion to add “photo” to the wording, Miles Quinton seconded this. A vote was called and motion passes to amend the wording (60 in favour /4 against).
  - New wording of the submission: “The use of any third-party photo, video or drone footage, meaning that which is not directly controlled by the PRO or Regatta Race Committee shall not be permitted as evidence in any request for redress or protest brought to the Race Committee.”

**A vote was called on new wording of the submission. Amendment passes and will be added to the Regatta Regulations.**

Thank you to all participants for your time and efforts!

Jens Wathne - Chair of the Meeting  
Piret Salmistu – Minutes Taker