

2019 ANNUAL REPORT BY IMCA CHAIRMAN

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.

The 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 much-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.