



INTERNATIONAL MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION

**INTERNATIONAL MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION (IM24CA) WORLD COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

Sunday, 17th November 2024

Zoom - 6 am PT, 9 am ET, 2 pm UK, 3 pm CET, 4 pm EET, 1 am (Nov 18th) Sydney, AUS

MINUTES

[2024 IM24CA World Council AGM website](#)

The following IM24CA World Council members and Executive Committee members were present:

1. Laura Grondin – Chair, proxy for USA
2. Chelsea Simms – Vice Chair, Americas
3. Michael Tarabochia - Member Europe, representing Germany; proxy for Austria
4. Miles Quinton - Treasurer, proxy for Great Britain
5. Dan Berezin - representing Canada
6. Ivo Matic – representing Croatia with proxy
7. Simen Sandseter – representing Norway with proxy
8. Alan Mahne Kalin – representing Slovenia

Non-voting participants:

1. Mike Gozzard - Technical Committee Chair and Executive Committee Member
2. Duncan Stamper – Technical Committee member
3. Branko Parunov - Chief Measurer and Technical Advisor, Technical Committee member
4. Arto Kiiski – Rule Advisor and Technical Committee member
5. Jan Schmidt - Technical Committee member
6. Carol Ewing, Championship Coordinator, North America
7. David Bartol, Championship Coordinator, Europe
8. Piret Salmistu - Administrator, Media Coordinator
9. Marko Mišura – Observer, Croatia
10. Mauro Melandri – Observer, Zerogradinord
11. Marianna Matteotti – Observer, Italy – presenting votes of Paolo Brescia and Italian Class
12. Giulia Grosselli – Observer, Italy
13. Hein Ruyten – Observer, Hein Ruyten One Design, Melges dealer Europe

Apologies for absence:

1. Paolo Brescia – Vice Chairman, Europe – Votes sent to IM24CA
2. Scot Zimmerman – Member Americas, US Class Association
3. Peter Kendall – Australian Class Association
4. Michael Schineis – Austrian Class Association
5. Luka Šangulin – Croatian Class Association
6. Soren Blume Svendsen – Danish Class Association
7. Marcello Caldonazzo Arvedi – Italian Class Association – Votes sent to IM24CA

- 7. Recent Events, reports & Future events, current situation
- 8. Election of the Officers
- 9. Annual approval of the appointment of the Technical Committee Chair
- 10. Proposed Class Rule Changes and Constitution Changes
- 11. Any Other Business

1. Chair's Welcome and report

Firstly, a heartfelt thanks to our outgoing and incoming National Class Association (NCA) Presidents for their dedication and contributions:

- **Norway (NOR):** Gisle Bø completed an impressive 5+ years of service, and we welcome his successor, Vemund Gransæther, owner of NOR 506.
- **United States (USA):** Megan Ratliff wrapped up 4 years of exceptional leadership, with Scot Zimmerman, owner of USA 717, stepping into the role.

Special Acknowledgments:

- **Luca Ferron:** For generously donating his artwork to our events, including the overall winner's trophy for the Riva del Garda regatta in July and a Thank You gift for the San Francisco Yacht Club from IM24CA.
- **Akos Csolto (HUN 850):** Hungarian class president for providing a "home" to the European Sailing Series (ESS) overall trophy. His efforts ensured the trophy's safekeeping, travel readiness, and proper documentation of winners.

Technical Committee Excellence:

Our gratitude to the Technical Committee—Mike Gozzard, Duncan Stamper, Branko Parunov, Arto Kiiski, Jan Schmidt, and Harry Melges III—for their steadfast commitment to the class:

- Maintaining constant communication between the class and the builder.
- Ensuring a transparent, efficient process for handling rule changes and submissions.

Season Highlights:

The class's two primary events of the year, the **World Championship** and the **European Championship**, were brilliantly supported and documented:

- **Media Partnerships:** Zerogradinord and Hrvoje from regate.com.hr worked closely with the class to deliver comprehensive event coverage.

Event Organizers and Hosts:

A massive thank you to all our event organizers, hosting clubs, and national classes for their unwavering support:

- **Worlds at San Francisco Yacht Club:** Led by Regatta Chair Matthew Sessions and Forrest Guy.
- **Europeans at Sailing Club Split:** With Club Manager Marko Bertolino and key contact Karlo Modric.

Countless other clubs and NCAs for their dedication to running Melges 24 events worldwide.

Additional Recognition:

The Championship Coordinators, Carol Ewing and David Bartol, and class administrator, Piret Salmistu, were recognized for their exceptional organizational efforts. Executives for their continuous support and leadership throughout the season. Thank you all for your dedication and contributions to making this year another resounding success for the Melges 24 Class Association!

2025 goals

- Host a World Championship in Trieste, Italy, with at least 50 boats (19 more boats than in 2024).
- Host a North American Championship in Florida with 30 boats (matching the number of boats at the 2024 Worlds).
- Solicit and approve a 2026 World Championship in North America and a 2026 European Championship by early 2025; prepare to vote on 2027 Worlds and Continental Championship locations by the 2025 AGM.
- Finalize the 2026 European Sailing Series (ESS) plan by August 2025 (earlier than the usual AGM timeline).
- Develop a photo/video plan for 2025, ensuring broader representation of participants and establishing measurable outcomes.
- Secure €2,000 or more in sponsorship or ad revenue (a longstanding goal).
- Provide representatives with appropriate logoed apparel (plan to be executed promptly).
- Share the boat spreadsheet and identify the location of at least 60% of boats (or approximately 535); continue efforts to encourage boat participation in racing and membership.
- Meet or exceed the financial targets set in the 2025 budget.
- Create a communications plan featuring a monthly blog starting in 2024 to encourage sailor participation, especially among those not currently part of the class (requires volunteer writers and idea generation).

2. Media & Communications Report

[Media and Communications Report](#)

The 2024 media strategy showcased substantial growth and engagement across all platforms. Highlights include:

Facebook: grew by 12.5%, with 530 new followers and a reach of 7.4k. Top content, such as the *Thrills on the Bay* video, demonstrated substantial reach (34.1k) and engagement.

Instagram: Increased followers by 843, totaling 10.7k. Posts and stories performed exceptionally well, with dynamic race-day content driving the highest views and interactions.

Direct Mail Campaigns: Sent 35 PRs and announcements with an impressive 48% open rate, surpassing industry standards.

Website (melges24.com): Attracted 43k unique visitors, achieving an engagement rate of 57.5% and 120k pageviews.

Special thanks were extended to media partners Mauro Melandri (*Zerogradinord*), Hrvoje Duvancic (*regate.com.hr*), Hrvoje Bulesic (CRO Melges 24 Press Officer), and Joy Dunigan (US Class Communications Director) for their contributions to event coverage.

The year's efforts strengthened the class's digital presence and engagement, setting a strong foundation for future growth.

3. Financial Report and Budgets

[Melges 24 Financials 2023 final 2024 estimated & 2025 budget](#)

Miles Quinton discussed the class's budget and plans for the upcoming year, including the intent to hold a virtual AGM and invest more in events. He also mentioned the formation of a working group to find sponsorship for events and the class.

The 2024 financial performance was strong, with key highlights as follows:

Income: Total income increased by 15% year-over-year, driven by a 27.7% rise in sail label royalties. Membership grew by 5.2%, with an 18.9% increase in North America, offsetting a 5.3% decrease in Europe.

Expenses: Total expenses were 6% higher than budget, primarily due to additional investments in the World Championship and enhanced photo and video coverage.

Net Earnings: The class achieved net earnings of €4,389, exceeding the budgeted figure by €340.

The 2025 budget is conservative, projecting stable income and expenses, with anticipated net earnings of €5,000 to accommodate unforeseen costs. Recommendations include forming a working group to explore sponsorship opportunities.

4. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

The [Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting](#) were unanimously approved by the World Council.

5. Technical Report & Builders Reports

Technical Committee Chair Mike Gozzard discussed the class's rule clarifications, boat repair requests, and the performance of new boats and spars. Mike also mentioned the need for a master list of boats and the possibility of creating a task force to help with this.

[Technical Committee Open meeting summary](#)

[Technical Committee comments for the AGM](#)

[Melges 24 White Paper on the Systemic Forestay Issues related to the 7x19 Jib Halyard](#)

[Builder's Report – Melges Performance Sailboats](#)

The Technical Committee had a productive year, addressing several key topics:

Rule Changes: The removal of the maximum crew weight rule was implemented smoothly, with teams adapting quickly. Results varied by wind conditions, with heavier crews performing well in high winds and lighter teams excelling in light air.

Key Proposals Discussed:

- **Sponsorship Sticker Space:** Adjustments were made to allow more space on boats for title sponsor logos, addressing sponsorship interest and presence.
- **Pro Sailor Membership Fees:** A compromise was reached between NCAs on membership fee control, ensuring equitable solutions.
- **Forestay Proposal:** The proposal was withdrawn in favor of developing a white paper to educate and engage the membership ahead of future changes.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** The impact of new rules will be regularly reviewed to ensure they benefit the class and address any unintended consequences.

The builder's report was very favorable. New boats and masts are available and sold in the US and Europe. They are reportedly competitive without creating an advantage. Spare parts have improved in availability and can be ordered from Zenda until the European supply lines are fully in place.

The committee emphasized the importance of member engagement and collaboration and expressed gratitude to its members for their expertise and dedication.

6. Round Table Class Reports & Updates

All national class representatives had the opportunity to comment on their status.

Australia, where it was mentioned that there was difficulty in the class and a suggestion to resurrect the Chilean class. The next report was from Austria, followed by Canada, where Dan reported a stable situation with the class and the need for more boats at events held in Canada. Croatia reported a growing fleet with 26 boats and plans for the Croatian Cup. Germany reported a stable number of members and the acquisition of two new boats. Italy discussed upcoming events, including the World Championship and a preseason clinic. Norway shared their successful season and plans for a Nordic event in 2026. Alan from Slovenia reported a single registered boat and a professional sailor. Laura ended the conversation by summarizing the US Class's successful year

Annual class reports are available at the [AGM website](#) under the Tab "Country reports".

7. Melges 24 recent events, reports & Future events, the current situation

Recent events:

[2024 Diversified Melges 24 Worlds](#) – San Francisco, CA, USA – August 17-24

Carol, Branko and Piret provided positive feedback on the organization and sailing conditions.

[2024 Europeans](#) – Split, Croatia – September 27 - October 4

David and Arto shared their experiences. Michael and Miles added, agreeing that the Sailors' Dinner was the only item not delivered as it should be.

Future events:

[2025 Melges 24 Worlds](#) – Yacht Club Adriaco, Trieste, Italy – September 20-28

Piret gave an overview from Race Director Stefano Bareggi (Yacht Club Adriaco), who apologised for his absence. The website and notice of the race should be published in January 2025. The event's budget was discussed, focusing on providing more onshore activities for competitors. Information was given about the potential for teams to store their boats in Trieste between the Pre-Worlds and the Worlds and the possibility of teams coming from the US and Europe.

Miles discussed the limited space for rigging boats and launching, suggesting the need for careful planning and traffic control. Michael and Marianna agreed to meet with the club to discuss logistics and contract details. David emphasized the need for a tent for measurements and proper logistics onshore. The PRO, most RC, and Jury members have been committed to the event. The need to finalise the Technical Committee for the event was mentioned.

[2025 North American Championship](#) – Miami, FL, USA – December 11-14

Laura expressed confidence in the organizers of the North Americans, which will be the preceding event of the Bacardi Winter Series by the same organization.

Bids are open and needed for the 2026 and 2027 Worlds, the 2026 Europeans and the 2027 North Americans. IM24CA will accept, up until **January 6, 2025, to be discussed and voted at the EGM 2025 to be held on 25 February.**

8. Election of the officers

Paulo Brecia (*Melgina* ITA693) was unanimously elected as **Vice Chair Europe**.

No candidates were proposed for the position of **Treasurer** and will be added to the agenda of the 2025 EGM in February.

9. Annual approval of the appointment of the Technical Committee Chair

The World Council unanimously **re-appointed** [Mike Gozzard](#) from Canada to continue as the **Technical Committee Chair**.

10. Proposed Class Rule Changes

The following Class Rule Change proposals **were accepted** by the AGM, and will be sent to World Sailing for their review and ratification: **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHANGES CAN NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL APPROVED BY WORLD SAILING.**

Rule Change Proposals:

- CAN - [Main outhaul safety - CR F 4.3 \(a\)](#)
- CRO - [Amendment to CR H 3.7 \(e\) - Sponsor and event stickers](#)
- CRO - [To add CR H 3.8 \(g\) - Sponsor and event sticker material](#)
- ITA - [Class Association Membership CR B.2.2 removal](#) - revised and replaced by Tech Comm
- Tech Comm - [To amend E.4.4 \(a\) 1](#) - FITTINGS Rudder Gudgeons
- Tech Comm - [To add C.5.1 \(b\) 8](#) - First Aid Kit

The Technical Committee's proposal to amend the class rules to allow only the fixed forestay (C.5(8)—FITTINGS) was withdrawn. The topic was discussed, and a proposal to use titanium for rudder fittings was rejected in favor of stainless steel. The discussion highlighted concerns about cost control and the potential for breakages.

Constitution Change Proposal:

- Tech Comm - [Add a Professional Associate Membership category type to the Constitution.](#)

A proposal to update the class constitution to include a professional associate membership category was also approved.

11. Any Other Business

The World Council discussed several topics related to the class. Mike Gozzard provided an update on testing **alternative forestay materials** and indicated that a report would be shared after testing was completed. However, no vote is expected at the upcoming EGM in February.

Miles suggested **better engaging younger teams**, and Ivo Matic and Simen Sandseter shared initiatives in Croatia and Norway to support youth sailors.

The European Sailing Series schedule is reviewed, with most national events avoiding conflicts.

The 2025 EGM will be held on February 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm ET.