

2022 President's Report.

AGM. Cork August 2022

It's been over 3 years since the last World Championship and AGM. Covid has been painful but here we are again alive and kicking. During this Covid winter there has been a surprising and encouraging amount of activity even though many regattas including two World Championships had to be cancelled. This is a credit to the National Associations which are the foundation of the Class Internationally. The International Association can't and shouldn't manage and promote fleets across all countries so the work done in each country is critical. Without it there is no International Class.

Despite the World Championship scheduled for Sweden and Bermuda being cancelled a lot of work went into the organisation with the expectation those events would proceed. On behalf of the whole 505 community I would like to recognise and thank those involved in the organisation of those events who then had to also deal with the disappointment of them not proceeding.

The World Championship here in Cork is the first without cash contribution from our major partner of the last 10+ years. On behalf of the Class I would like to thank SAP and extend our appreciation for all they have done in their contribution to putting the 505 Class where it is today. We hope for and welcome their return in some capacity in the future.

The successful organisation and running of this event here in Cork despite the low numbers, the tight budget and the huge cost and logistical difficulty of getting boats here is a very encouraging sign and a template for how we can continue to run competitive, well organised and enjoyable Championships. The Royal Cork has done a great job, as indeed Fremantle did in 2019 also with limited budgets. So there are great venues out there and we can be comfortable in the knowledge we can continue to put on great events despite the tight budgets and logistical difficulties that we may face in coming years.

We have next year's World Championship locked in for Santa Cruz and proposals for our consideration for 2024 and 2025 from Sweden and Australia respectively. We have the Europeans scheduled next year in Quiberon and a proposal for the Europeans in 2027 in Northern Spain.

The absence of AGMs in recent years, while frustrating, didn't cause too much disruption. A key outcome of AGMs is the selection of venues for future events. Since we only had one proposal for any given event, the absence of a vote was not a major problem. The Association, along with the representatives from the various countries unanimously confirmed venues including Cork, Santa Cruz and Quiberon.

There are a number of things in discussion the Class needs to get on top of during the AGM and the next 12 months.

1. Funding of the Class. A lot is asked of the International Association and ideally more support for National bodies and International events would be ideal. However, the International Association has no source of funds. I believe we should give consideration to increasing the membership fee collected by the International Association (currently Five GBP) and perhaps a levy added to the international event entry fees. To be discussed during the AGM
2. Promotion of the Class. The Class presence and profile in the press, on Social media and on the website has been improved dramatically but there is still plenty more we can do to drive brand awareness and participation. I believe this needs to be driven and implemented at National level and I encourage representatives from each country to join a 'committee' to share some of the great initiatives being used and support each other with implementation.

The 5o5 Class is not short of smarts and ideas but without people stepping up to implement and drive them they are hard to implement.

3. The Swedish Association has a proposal for discussion to formalise the World 5o5 day which might be a worthy component of our promotional strategy.
4. Class Rules. There has been much discussion leading up to the Cork Worlds on Centre board inserts, gybe stoppers and sealable gaskets which will be discussed initially at the AGM. We need to agree a preferred position and, if necessary, vote on a rule change or clarification.
5. Other discussions to be had and resolved are whether we should allow VHF radios, smart watches, GPS trackers, etc and what limitations or control we would want should they be allowed in future.

All in all it seems the Class is in very good shape and full of potential and enthusiasm.

Michel Quirk

8th August 2022

See you all somewhere on the circuit soon.