

The Club 420 Association, Inc
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 15, 2011

Attendees:

John Barbano, Pres.
Jennifer Draheim, V.P.
Chuck Lamphere, Treasurer
Kathleen Tell, Secretary
John Lambert
John Morgan
Bub Kovacs
Ed Liberty
John Reiter
Bill Scheuermann
Stacey Silvestri
Mark Zagol
Ian Bruce, Performance Sailcraft
Bill Crane, Laser Performance
Steve Perry, Zim Sailing

Location: by telephone

President's Remarks: John Barbano called the meeting to order at about 8:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2011.

Motion by John Lambert, seconded by Bub Kovacs.
Unanimously Approved

Treasurer's Report

Chuck Lamphere reported that class enjoys a strong financial position. In particular, its administrative expenses are low, in part thanks to Cindy Roessler's willingness to do so much for so little pay. Sail royalties have yielded "significant profits" and we have had fewer expense because we conducted no clinics. These factors should enable us to budget for a paid Executive Director.

Builders Manual

John Lambert has drafted a Construction Manual for the builders' review. Ed Liberty has provided his comments. The draft will be sent to the builders tomorrow.

LP Spars

LP has requested that the Association approve certain changes to its mast and mast fittings. Specifically, LP proposes to use Selden rather than Dwyer as its assembler and to change its mast crane, heel and gooseneck fittings.

Class Measurer, Ed Liberty, analyzed the LP request for the Board, having inspected, weighed and measured its components. He reported that the mast tube would be identical have the same dimensional tolerances, and would be extruded by the same extruder using the same alloy as that which is currently in use.

The fittings would be constructed of glass reinforced plastic rather than stainless steel and would differ in design. Steve Perry and Ian Bruce voiced concern about the design differences. Of particular concern, Ian Bruce noted that the tenon on the proposed mast heel is curved and that the flange of the proposed mast has been cut away. These changes may effectively create a pin joint, which would make the proposed mast much easier to bend and would place existing masts at a "huge disadvantage."

After extensive discussion, it was unanimously agreed that Bill Crane, Ian Bruce and Ed Liberty would devise and LP execute tests to ascertain whether the mast heel change would result in performance differences.

The subject is tabled until the tests have been completed and the Board can evaluate the matter in its entirety.

Safety

John Barbano asked that the Class examine what if anything can be done to reduce the risks inherent in inversion. Board members noted a wide range of issues, from the problem of masts filling with water, the potential for flotation devices on top of masts, flotation panels on sails, the important of training, technique and strength, the effect of sailor weight and wind.

Bill Crane has done extensive research into the issue and recommended that the Class consider the use of flotation panels and otherwise focus its attention on training for sailors, coaches and patrol boats. He has RYA guidelines that may be helpful and awaits the US Sailing report on last summer's fatal accident.

John Barbano proposed that the Association fund production of a video instructing sailors on how to right a capsized C420.

John Morgan will spearhead a new safety committee. Bill Crane, Jennifer Draheim, Bill Scheuermann and Kathleen Tell will assist.

The second safety item concerns the PFDs and whether we are permitted to allow non-US residents to wear PFDs approved by their nation's Coast Guard equivalent, whether we should amend our NORs and SIs to provide strict penalties for non-compliance with USCG and Association rules and how to enforce the rules. John Barbano thanked Dave of Team Dave for his help at North Americans. Dave had rescued a number of capsized sailors and has offered to help enforce the PFD rules at our regattas.

The Association rule concerning the placement of bowlines must also be enforced more effectively.

John Morgan and his committee will take a closer look at these items and report back to the Board.

Executive Director

John Lambert proposes that the Class retain a part-time employee to help with regatta management, scheduling, securing proper PROs, judges and logistics, to monitor class membership, assume responsibility for the website, etc. All agreed that this is necessary. John will take the lead on a committee to search for the right person. Bub Kovacs and Bill Scheuermann will assist.

Mid-winters Social Events

Stacey Silvestri will develop social events for sailors and parents at Mid-winters. She and John Lambert will explore options, seek a sponsor and develop a budget. The aim is to host a cocktail reception for parents upstairs and an event like volleyball or a bonfire for the sailors downstairs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm

Date of next meeting: TBD

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Tell
Secretary