

Annual General Meeting 2021 Minutes

Held remotely by Zoom on Sunday 24 October 2021 at 0900 UT

The meeting was moderated by IDA Secretary and chaired by IDA Chairman.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from

David Dale Johnson	Canada Secretary
Akira Sawada	Japan Secretary
Patrick Delahaye	Sri Lanka Secretary
Anne Garrett	USA Secretary
Rudy Jürg	Finland Secretary
Christoffer Meyer	Sweden Chairman
Iver Waalen	Norway Chairman

2. Attendance and proxies

Name	Country	Position	Representing
Chris Dicker	GBR	Vice President IDA	Non-voting
Poul Richard Hoj-Jensen	Antigua	Vice President IDA	Non-voting
Jens Rathsack	Monaco	Chairman IDA	Officer
Gérard Blanc	France	Vice-Chairman IDA	Officer
Justus Kniffka	Switzerland	Vice-Chairman IDA	Officer
Bram Van Olphen	Hong Kong	Vice-Chairman IDA	Officer
Anne Vanneste	Belgium	Hon Treasurer IDA	Officer
Tim Pearson	Ireland	Secretary IDA	Non-voting
Klaus Diederichs	GBR	Chairman Tech Com	Non-voting
Gunter Ahlers	Germany	Chief Measurer IDA	Non-voting
Martin Payne	GBR	Sailing Coord IDA	Non-voting

National Associations

Sophia Hoj-Jensen	Antigua	Secretary	Antigua
Jeremy Nolan	Australia	Member	Australia
Marcus Oppitz	Austria	President	Austria
Alex Helsen	Belgium	Secretary	Belgium + Sri Lanka
Lars Hansen	Denmark	Member	Denmark+Sweden

Mihkel Kosk	Estonia	Member	Estonia
Jean Breger	France	Board Member	Non-voting
Marc de la Fons	France	Secretary	France
Gregor Berz	Germany	Chairman	Germany
Tobi Aschenbrenner	Germany	Board Member	Non-voting
Josephine Cheng	Hong Kong	Secretary	Hong Kong
Vilmos Naray	Hungary	Chairman	Hungary
Peter Bowring	Ireland	Secretary	Ireland
Umberto Zocca	Italy	Member	Italy
Andrea Graef-Rathsack	Monaco	Chairman	Monaco
Netty Tiggelmann	Netherlands	Secretary	Netherlands
Pedro Andrade	Portugal	Secretary	Portugal
Nuno Reis	Portugal	Chairman	Non-voting
Tatiana Kurbatova	Russia	Member	Russia
Carlos Carbajal	Spain	Chairman	Spain
Garlef Baum	Switzerland	Chairman	Switzerland
Yigit Taban	Turkey	Secretary	Turkey
Simon Barter	GBR	Vice Chairman	GBR and proxies for Canada and USA
Jeroen Leenen	UAE	Secretary	UAE

Thirty-five national representatives, officials and members attended the meeting. There were 30 votes present including proxies. The two-thirds vote required for Class Rule or Constitution changes was confirmed at 20.

Four proxies were declared and verified as follows:

Alex Helsen (BEL) voted on behalf of Sri Lanka

Lars Hansen (DEN) voted on behalf of Sweden

Simon Barter (GBR) voted on behalf of Canada & USA

3. Minutes of AGM 2020

The Minutes of the 2020 AGM having previously been circulated and posted on the IDA website, were taken as read. These were approved and there were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report (full report in Appendix 1)

Jens Rathsack welcomed the delegates to this second virtual IDA AGM conducted via Zoom. He summarised the short and disrupted season which we had again in 2021,

although we did manage to have a superb Gold Cup in Marstrand as well as two Grade 1 events. He announced his decision to step down after serving a two-year term and thanked all the members of the Board for their support during what he described as “a strange, but very enjoyable two years”.

5. Treasurer’s Report for FY ended 31 August 2021 (full report in Appendix 2)

The IDA Treasurer, Anne Vanneste, delivered the Financial Review and Budget. In summary, after two years of reduced income as a result of the pandemic we have managed to minimise losses by cutting expenditure right back. However this is not sustainable and we need to return our finances to a stable position with a buffer of around €50,000 as in the past to enable the IDA to cope with unforeseen emergencies.

The most significant aspect of the Budget for 2021 / 2022 is a proposal to raise the subscription per boat from €13 to €20. This subscription has been unchanged for at least 20 years and is substantially lower than other comparable classes. This is predictable income and, together with conservative predictions of sail label income and royalties, we forecast a closing cash position of €48,635 next year.

This means that if you have from 1 to 15 registered Dragons in your fleet, you will pay a flat fee of €300.00. If you have 16 or more registered Dragons then you will pay a fee of €20.00 per boat.

The accounts and budget as proposed by the Treasurer were seconded by Gerard Blanc, and were passed by the meeting – all in favour with two abstentions.

Anne Vanneste
Treasurer IDA

6. Technical Committee - Report from TC Chairman

Appointment of Bence Toronyi as new Chief Class Measurer

The IDA has appointed Bence Toronyi to succeed Günter Ahlers as new Chief Class Measurer. Günter will remain closely involved as Honorary Technical Advisor to the Class and ex officio member of the TC. This will ensure a smooth transfer of Günter's encyclopaedic knowledge of the Dragon to Bence.

Bence himself brings a wealth of experience to the class. He is a geoinformatics engineer and professor at Budapest University of Technology. He has been measuring boats for 27 years. Bence has been a Dragon measurer since 2004 and was involved as measurer at our Europeans in Hungary in 2010 and 2018 as well as at this year's Gold Cup.

At the Gold Cup in Marstrand in 2021, Bence and Günter GC measured sails from every participating Dragon, choosing the latest of every brand. The failure rate was zero, which is rare in any class. They also inspected every Dragon and only found minor faults, which

could be corrected before the first race. The varied results each day indicate that all boats are as equal in performance as possible. For a one design class of such long heritage as the Dragon this is a proud achievement.

I am very grateful to both Günter and Bence for agreeing to work closely together and thus ensure a seamless transition of this important role for the Class.

New Petticrows facilities in Portugal

The chairman and some members of the TC visited Petticrows new facilities in Cascais, Portugal in April 2021. We were shown around by Pedro Andrade and Tim Tavinor. The hulls and decks are produced in a facility near Porto in the North. The boats are then shipped to Cascais for fit out and rigging. The set up in Cascais is very similar to the one Tim had in Burnham with two boats being fitted at the same time. In addition there is a station for repairs, service and measurement and a full rigging station where the spars are assembled. Overall the facilities in Cascais are impressive and well organised.

In June our Chief Class Measurer Bence Toronyi went to Cascais to undertake a full and comprehensive measurement of two new Dragons produced in Portugal (hulls 1633 and 1634). Both boats passed the procedure without objections. Bence was assisted by Lopo Pizarro who will be the local measurer and perform measurements of the newly built boats in the future.

Other topics

The TC's subcommittee led by Ron James is continuing research into inflatable devices which could be installed to make Dragons unsinkable. There are two companies, one of which is based in Cowes UK, who could design and produce such devices. We are awaiting their proposals.

The TC declined a suggestion by the Australian Dragon Association to allow Carbon masts. It was considered too radical and would result in potentially significant cost for the existing fleet if they wanted to upgrade their rig.

Peter Hay

The TC noted with much sadness the passing away of Peter Hay, a long serving Australian Dragon measurer and member of the TC who was involved in many international events including the last Worlds in Perth and also in Weymouth 2013.

I would like to thank my TC members for another year of active and insightful participation with special thanks to Günter and Bence who shouldered the bulk of the work.

Klaus Diederichs

Chairman IDA Technical Committee

7. Class Rule changes (see Appendix 3)

The Technical Committee proposed a change to *Existing Class Rule 2.515.6 (a)* to allow yachts constructed prior to 1st January 1988 to use any permitted metal material for stiffening forward of the cabin and aft of the cockpit. Previously the rule specified aluminium which is prone to corrosion and can only be welded with special equipment and knowledge.

This was proposed by Klaus Diederichs, seconded by Anne Vanneste and approved unanimously.

8. Venues for major events and update of rota (see Appendix 4)

1. 2022. Dr Gregor Berz updated the meeting on preparations for the Worlds in Kuhlungsborn [IRO Nino Shmueli]. It was requested that the OA consider a pre-event tune up regatta before the main event.

There were brief updates from San Remo (Marco Cimarosti and Tatiana Kurbatova) which hosts the Europeans [IRO Nino Shmueli] and from Belgium (Anne Vanneste) which will host the Gold Cup in Ostend from 19 - 26 August. [IRO Nino Shmueli]

2. 2023. There were brief updates from Torquay UK (Simon Barter) as the venue for the Gold Cup [IRO Stuart Childerly]. Martin Payne noted that special care needed to be given to the shore-side logistics because of traffic congestion in the town.

Ata Narin gave an update from Bodrum, the venue for the Worlds. They are focused on providing cost efficient shipping arrangements to Turkey from central Europe. The dates have been fixed on late May early June (before the summer winds get too strong), with warm up events scheduled. [Nino Shmueli invited].

3. 2024. Preparations for the Europeans in Parnu, Estonia, and the Gold Cup in Kinsale, Ireland are underway. Ireland hope to schedule a Grand Prix (Grade 1) regatta before the Gold Cup. No issues at this point.
4. 2025. Gold Cup bids had been received from Douarnenez and Porto Cervo. The delegates voted for Douarnenez by 17 votes to 11, with 2 abstentions.

The Portuguese Dragon Association had previously notified a bid for the Worlds 2025. Nuno Reis gave a presentation on behalf of Vilamoura. Tatiana Kurbatova also presented St Petersburg as a venue for the Worlds 2025. Douarnenez had previously also submitted a bid but withdrew when it was awarded the Gold Cup. The delegates voted for Vilamoura by 20 votes to 8, with 2 abstentions.

5. 2026. The following bids have been received by the Secretary and noted:
Gold Cup: Medemblik. Palma.
Europeans: Balaton. Cannes. Helsinki. St Petersburg.

9. Grade 1 circuit 2022

The Officers confirmed the 2022 Grade 1 (Grand Prix) circuit which had earlier in the year been announced. The major championships are also noted here in *italics* for information.

GP 1	Monaco	March 2 - 5
<i>Europeans</i>	<i>San Remo</i>	<i>April 4 - 8</i>
GP 2	Douarnenez	May 4 - 7
<i>Worlds</i>	<i>Kuhlungsborn</i>	<i>June 12 - 17</i>
<i>Gold Cup</i>	<i>Ostend</i>	<i>August 21 - 26</i>
GP 3	<i>Port Camargues</i>	<i>October 12 - 15</i>
GP 4	<i>Puerto Portals (incl Finals)</i>	<i>November 15 - 20</i>

10. Election of Officers

Having completed his first term of two years as Chairman, Jens Rathsack announced that he was stepping down to spend more time with his family. The IDA Board members proposed Gérard Blanc as Chairman. He was elected unanimously. He thanked the delegates for their confidence in him and also paid tribute to his predecessor, Jens , who had served in two of the most difficult years we have experienced.

Justus Kniffka, having completed a two year term as a Vice Chairman, was eligible for re-election. Proposed by the Board and re-elected unanimously.

There being a vacancy for a Vice Chairman, the Board proposed Gregor Berz, currently Commodore/Chairman of the German Dragon Association. He was elected unanimously. He thanked the delegates for entrusting him with the position.

11. Any other business

The IDA intend to mark the 100th anniversary of the Dragon in 2029. Sweden has made a preliminary offer to host a suitable event. The IDA welcomes ideas from the National Associations. It was noted that whatever is planned it should be affordable and accessible for as many as possible.

12. Date and venue of next Annual General Meeting 2022.

After two years of Zoom annual general meetings it is desired by all that we should meet face to face in 2022. National Associations will be advised by 1st June 2022 at the latest where and when it will be. The normal date would be Saturday 22nd October 2022.

There being no further business, the new Chairman Gérard Blanc closed the meeting and thanks all for their attendance and contributions to a successful meeting.

30 October 2021

Tim Pearson

Secretary

International Dragon Association

Appendix 1

Chairman's Statement

Chairman's Statement IDA AGM 24 October 2021

Dear fellow Dragon sailors,

Welcome to another virtual Annual General Meeting. I had hoped to be greeting you all with a handshake this year but the Officers decided that it would be safer, and guarantee a better attendance, if we did it like this again for one more year.

At this time last year I said that one of the most unexpected and frustrating sailing seasons ever was nearly finished. I did not expect to have to repeat this message again!!

Yet 2021 was not as bad as 2020. We did have to observe the German Government regulations and postpone the World Championship to 2022. This was regrettable but we believe it was the right decision.

I and my fellow officers have received criticism from some sailors for allowing organisers to cancel championship events. Let me say this - The IDA closely followed the advice of governments in each country where major championships were scheduled and we absolutely believe that this was the correct decision. Other classes ignored this advice, and they found local clubs and organisations who were so desperate for sailing, and for revenue, that they went ahead and hosted events. Many sailors cheated the travel restrictions by travelling through different countries to get to their destination. They were lucky. If someone had caught Covid, or spread it at an event, and a sailor had died we would not be calling their planning 'smart or clever'. The IDA regards the safety of sailors and their families as the most important thing.

Although we lost some of our major championships the strange thing is that Covid actually helped many local fleets. They have grown in many countries and have built up Dragon sailing where it counts - at local level in affordable boats. International sailing will return - for those who want it. For those who are happy with local fleet sailing, it will be better than ever.

One of the international events that we did have this year was the Gold Cup in Marstrand and the organisers did a great job to ensure it was a big success both on and off the water.

The Worlds in Kuhlungsborn were less lucky and the organisers made the difficult decision to postpone it to 2022. We will look forward to a great World Championship there with a maximum turnout of boats.

Last year I reported that IDA had suffered a reduction of more than 30% in its revenue. This meant some hard decisions, including reducing the fees paid to our Secretary and Sailing Coordinator. I am very glad to say that despite the pandemic our revenue over the past 12 months has been remarkably good and by reducing expenditure on a printed Yearbook and holding a virtual AGM, we have managed to restore the lost income to Tim and Stavros, and still finish the year with a reasonably healthy balance. With three major championships next year and a full programme of Grand Prix events we believe our finances will further recover, especially if you approve the modest increases in budgeted income. The IDA Treasurer, Anne Vanneste, will explain this in more detail.

I want to thank the Technical Committee under the expert guidance of their Chairman Klaus Diederichs for all their continued work. I want to pay a special tribute to Gunter Ahlers who retires at this AGM - again! No one has the depth of knowledge about the Dragon like Gunter, and he has guided the class through many rough seas, and always brought us to calm waters again. I think Klaus will tell you more about Gunter and his successor in a moment.

I also want to thank our two Vice Presidents Poul Richard Hoj Jensen and Chris Dicker for their continued interest and concern about the future of our wonderful class. Their advice is always welcome.

I thank the IDA Secretary, Tim Pearson, for his work and constant support, and also the IDA Sailing Coordinator, Martin Payne, for the work he does in maintaining standards at our championship events.

Finally and most importantly I want to thank my fellow officers for their continued support. This is very much a team effort and we value each other's opinions. I have decided to step down after one term in order to spend more time with my family, but I am very pleased to say that I believe that the new Board will have the best interests of the Dragon at heart and will continue the good work of so many predecessors.

Thank you all for your support. It has been a strange but very enjoyable two years.

Jens Rathsack

Chairman - International Dragon Class

October 2020

Appendix 2

Treasurer's Report for FY ended 31 August 2021

The yearly subscription per boat raised through the National Dragon Associations is an important stable and regular income source for the IDA. The current subscription is 13€ per boat, this has remained unchanged since before 2001. Inflationary increases alone would bring it close to €20 if we had kept pace. It is a fact that every other comparable keelboat class has an annual boat subscription that is higher than €20.

It is worth mentioning here what the subscription is used for. The class is managed mostly on a voluntary basis. The role of the IDA is to oversee new boat builds, sail manufacture and all class rules, manage championship rota and adherence to a high standard of organization. The IDA also manages an active website with event listings and results, including a Facebook page. We also produce an annual Yearbook.

In order to maintain this role, we need to guarantee a stable income (at least ¼ of the budget) for the future. After 2 tough years we need to restore the IDA's contingency fund for unforeseen expenses and we want to reinstate the printed Yearbook. We need to be able to pay for the Secretary, Sailing Coordinator and Chief Measurer to attend a face to face AGM in future years and we need to be able to fund some marketing initiatives such as market research and class promotion including improving our social media presence. One country gave us a voluntary subscription of €1000 (instead of the correct €206) in order to help out the IDA in these past 2 difficult years and this was much appreciated. Gunter waived his normal fees / expenses in 2020. Secretary did not charge for phone/internet. Sailing Coordinator did not get any extra funds to cover his Zoom subscription for the Quiz or for all the Covid tests he had to undertake in travelling to Sweden for the GC this year, making it possible to end the year with a positive outcome. However, these sacrifices are not sustainable and we must return our finances to a stable position.

Therefore, the IDA Board proposes to raise the annual subscription fee per Dragon to 20€ per boat. This means that if you have from 1 to 15 registered Dragons in your fleet, you will pay a flat fee of €300.00. If you have 16 or more registered Dragons then you will pay a fee of €20.00 per boat.

Receipts

In the period 01/09/20 to 31/08/21 actual receipts were in between the best and worst case scenarios as budgeted at the last AGM.

Event royalties were low given that many regattas were once again cancelled due to Covid measures in organising countries. Other income categories were as expected, newsletter and website advertising were better than expected, so were mast labels income. Boat building fees are still lower than expected.

Subscriptions from members are in line with budget. The strong drive by the Secretary to get all countries to remit their subscriptions early will be maintained next year.

Payments

Expenditure was also in between the best and worst case scenarios budgeted resulting from severe cost-cutting measures in all areas.

As discussed and decided in the previous AGM in 2020, the choice was made to have a digital Yearbook in 2021. The yearbook therefore has a positive balance. We do continue

to regard the yearbook as a significant and worthwhile investment in the promotion of the class and hope to return to a printed version as soon as possible.

Technical committee expenses were reduced to zero thanks to the efforts of Gunther. We thank Gunther for this effort for the class.

We have saved costs on equipment by further postponing the long overdue replacement of a computer for the secretary.

Website costs have drastically reduced largely due to the switch to a more user-friendly WordPress platform.

A significant saving was possible on the expenses for the 2020 AGM by moving it online. However, we very much want to return to a physically attended AGM as soon as possible.

Secretary and officers travel were also reduced to zero. We thank IDA Secretary Tim Pearson for his efforts to cut costs significantly in every possible way.

The affairs of the Association continue to be solidly and professionally managed by the Secretary.

Although the Sailing Coordinator Martin Payne did not attend as many regattas as was planned due to race cancellations, the Officers decided to maintain his budgeted fee for a number of reasons: first, the sailing coordinator does a large part of his job ahead of the regattas in the preparatory work involved with the organisation; second he maintained communications in the social networks by organising quizzes and interviews; third, we needed to maintain readiness for regattas which did eventually go ahead.; finally, the IDA values the contribution that the Sailing Coordinator makes to maintaining standards at regattas and reporting on the social media blogs.

Budget for the financial year ending 31/8/2022

We expect things to return to normal in all areas gradually during the next year, this is reflected in the budget proposed. We have an increase in subscriptions which reflects the proposed increase from 13€ to 20€. We remain conservative in our estimate of sail labels, mast labels and boat building fees. We do believe royalty fees from IDA events should return to a normal level.

Regarding budgeted expenses, we return to a normal year as well. Drastic cuts as were made last year are not sustainable, so normal expenses have been budgeted. Although it remains difficult in these unstable times to predict with any accuracy, we are confident this budget is realistic. We can hence present a balanced budget which shows a surplus of just under €50,000.

IDA Events Association

The IEA was formally founded in Denmark during 2018 to enable the IDA to deal with class sponsorships, special offers to our members and other promotional activity including marketing and communication without exposing the IDA's funds to risk. We have no commercial sponsors at this stage, but we do have very generous and committed Dragon sailors who are true ambassadors of our class. Some of these sailors committed money to this account in 2018/2019 with the specific aim of paying for a professional race officer at the major regattas. The sum of €10,000 was raised and has been used to pay fees to race officer Nino Shmueli in 2019 and 2021. The balance of the IEA account is

now €4,000 and this will be used up in full for professional race management in 2022, assuming the proposed race calendar goes ahead. Any shortfall will come out of regatta OA's budgets, not from the IDA.

Anne Vanneste
Treasurer

Appendix 3

Class Rule alteration submitted by Klaus Diederichs, Chairman IDA Technical Committee

Class Rule Change approved 24.10.2021 to become active on 1.1.2022

Existing Class Rule 2.515.6 (a)

For yachts constructed prior to 1st January 1988 further stiffening is permitted as follows forward of the cabin and aft of the cockpit:

Two aluminium tubes maximum diameter 50mm from the underside of the deck to the forestay and backstay positions (Two tubes foreward and two tubes aft are permitted) and / or.

Proposed alteration of 2.515.6 (a)

Two metal tubes of max. diameter 50mm are permitted at each position between the underside of the deck and the the forestay and backstay positions, and / or,

Reason: There is no reason why the material of those tubes shall be restricted to aluminium only, which also is prone to corrosion and can only be welded with special equipment and knowledge.

Note: Class Rules: Permitted Materials: METAL MATERIALS FOR USE ON ANY TYPE OF DRAGON

•Brass, Bronze, Gunmetal, Monel, Cast Iron, Galvanised Mild Steel, Stainless Steel and Aluminium Alloy.

Submitted to the IDA AGM October 2021 and approved unanimously.

Submitted to World Sailing for ratification.

Appendix 4

International Championship rota

Championship Rota & Applications		International Dragon Association Updated 30 October 2021	
Year	World Championship	European Championship	Gold Cup
2000		Spain (Laredo)	Germany (Warnemunde)
2001	Denmark (Hornbaek)		Belgium (Ostend)
2002	-	Switzerland (Thun)	Finland (Mariehamn)
2003	Australia (Hobart) 18.01.03	Ireland (Kinsale)	Netherlands (Medemblik)
2004		Estonia (Tallinn)	UK (Falmouth)
2005	Germany (Neustadt)	France (La Trinité)	Sweden (Sandhamn)
2006		UK (Cowes)	France (Douarnenez)
2007	Ireland (Dun Laoghaire) 01-07/09	Finland (Hanko)	Spain (Palma)
2008		Norway (Oslo)	Portugal (Cascais)
2009	Holland (Medemblik) 05-11/09	France (St Tropez)	Denmark (Skagen)
2010		Hungary (Balatonkenese)	Sweden (Gothenburg)
2011	Australia (Melbourne)	Germany (Boltenhagen)	Belgium (Ostend)
2012		Austria (Attersee)	Ireland (Kinsale)
2013	UK (Weymouth) 08-13/09	Portugal (Cascais)	France (DNZ)
2014		Italy (San Remo)	Netherlands (Medemblik)
2015	France (La Rochelle) 4/6 -12/6	Sweden (Båstad) 31/7 -8/8	Germany (Kuhlungsborn) 21/8 - 28/08
2016		Russia (St Petersburg) 15/7 - 22/7	Denmark (Hornbaek) 27/8-01/09
2017	Portugal (Cascais) 9 - 17 June	Switzerland (Lake Thun) 14 - 19 August	France (St Tropez) 12 - 20 October
2018		Hungary (Lake Balaton) 26/5 - 1/6	Helsinki (Finland) 20 - 28/7
2019	Australia (Fremantle) 27/12 - 9/1	<i>90th anniversary - Sanremo 5-13 October</i>	Netherlands (Medemblik) 9 - 14 June
2020		<i>Palma postponed one year</i>	<i>Ireland (Kinsale) cancelled</i>
2021	<i>Kuhlungsborn postponed one year</i>	<i>Palma, Majorca cancelled</i>	Sweden (Marstrand) 15 - 20 August
2022	Germany (Kuhlungsborn) 12-17/6	Italy (San Remo) 4-8/4	Belgium (Ostend) 21-26/8
2023	Turkey (Bodrum) 28/5-3/6		UK (Torquay)
2024		Estonia (Parnu)	Ireland (Kinsale) 8-13/9
2025	Portugal (Vilamoura)		France (Douarnenez)
2026		Hungary (Balaton); France (Cannes); Finland (Helsinki); Russia (St Petersburg)	Netherlands (Medemblik); Spain (Palma)
2027	<i>Should ideally be non-European venue</i>		<i>No applications yet</i>
	Fixtures confirmed by AGM vote	Fixtures to be confirmed by vote at AGM (2022)	Future applications