

International 29er Class Association
Report from the President
2018

The year since our last World Council meeting has been a busy one that has seen significant change for the Class. In the 13 months since we last met, the Class has held 4 major championships on 3 continents, including 3 championship regattas in a 5-month period. While planning these regattas, our long-time administrative team stepped down from their roles, which included management and accounting functions. This provided an opportunity to separate those functions for greater efficiency and financial oversight. Steph Banham has joined us as our new Executive Director and Jeff Wadovick as our independent accountant and financial advisor. These changes prompted a fresh look at all of our systems and practices and led to changes that are more efficient and cost-effective for the Class. These administrative and financial changes have included:

- Switching banking systems to more modern, online systems that are less expensive and easier to use;
- Establishing the Class as a proper corporate entity and applying for tax-exempt status, which will make the Class eligible for lower processing fees with many vendors;
- Changing our membership registration system to Our Club Admin, which is less expensive and more efficient and user-friendly than our prior system and is fully GDPR compliant;
- Changing our regatta registration and regatta website systems to Our Club Admin, which is significantly less expensive and easier to use than our prior system and is GDPR compliant;
- Revising our process for considering spec change proposals to allow for better efficiency when warranted and greater transparency throughout the process.

All of our changes have not been purely administrative. Working with World Sailing's Event Committee and Women's Forum, we made a coordinated effort to change the regulations governing world championship titles. As a result, we will be allowed to award a Women's World Champion title for the first time at the 2019 World Championship -- while also retaining our tradition of sailing our fleet in mixed or single gender teams. Looking forward to this, we will focus efforts on supporting female teams in the coming year.

Change has also taken place on the water. With David Campbell-James joining the Executive, we had an opportunity to review and update our Race Management and Support Boat Guidelines and create the new position of Class PRO. David has spearheaded all of this and will serve as our Class PRO at all major championship regattas. We learn something from every regatta and are committed to updating our guidelines to ensure the best practices in safety and race management on an ongoing basis.

Our Copyright Holder, Julian Bethwaite, has proposed significant change to our equipment. Our Executive has spent considerable time on this issue and has attached its statement regarding the proposed change to the agenda for our meeting.

As our Class has grown, so have our championship regattas and the need to manage them carefully. We believe that each event should adhere to a high standard of professionalism and safety. In that regard, we have worked closely with the regatta hosts for previously scheduled events and are in the process of revising our bid guidelines for future events to ensure that proper standards and expectations are established from the outset of the process. Following the safety incident at our 2017 World Championship, we continue to work closely with World Sailing to implement lessons learned from that incident, some of which are in full effect now and others of which remain under discussion with World Sailing.

Looking forward to the coming year, we hope to update and modernize the Class website and revitalize our clinic and development program. As always, we welcome your input and hope the membership will contact the Class with questions, suggestions and concerns.

I conclude by offering my heartfelt thanks for the devotion to our sport shown by those who support our Class with countless hours of their time. I hope all of our members will join me in extending our thanks to the members of our Executive Committee: Vice President Thomas Moss; Treasurer and Class PRO David Campbell-James; Chief Measurer and Chair of the Technical Committee Barry Johnson; Executive Director Steph Banham; Copyright Holder Representatives Chris Turner, Nicky Bethwaite and Paolo Portiglia. Chris Turner and his staff at Ovington have provided tireless support for 29er sailing for many years and are a crucial part of the success of the Class. And we are grateful to Clive Grummet and the team at Our Club Management for the many hours they spent ensuring a seamless transition to our new systems.

Joan Mollerus
President
International 29er Class Association