



## **International 2.4mR Class**

### **Executive Update May 20, 2021**

Dear 2.4mR Class Members,

This is the first of regular updates being sent out to ICA members. At this time this is being distributed to the membership via the NCA contact for each country. It is hoped that in the near future any news can be via the class website.

As you know elections were held to vote in a number of positions within the executive. Results were posted on March 5<sup>th</sup> with the following positions of the Executive Committee (EC) being filled. In reality this was the 2020 election of officers even though it was completed in early 2021.

President – (Position vacant after resignation of Steve Bullmore)

Vice President - Alexander Sadilek (CZE) - 2 year term (ends 2022)

Director - Jean Paul Alexander (BEL) - 1 year term (ends 2021)

Director - Bruce Millar (CAN) - Director -1 year term (ends 2021)

Class Secretary - Timothy Ripley –

Treasurer – Simon Hill

The first of the monthly executive meetings was held on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the first order of business was the cancellation of the 2021 World championships to be held in Norway in August. The executive supported this decision as it was felt that with the current Covid situation it would be impossible for most sailors to plan to attend such an event in 2021.

This situation led us to the second item on the agenda about how to proceed with elections for a new President. A decision was made that the current four member executive could continue to run things without a president in place until such a time in 2021 when a meeting could be held, and votes could be counted. Alexander Sadilek as vice president would lead the group as acting President until such a time that elections are held.

This led to the third order of business which about how to proceed without an in person AGM in Norway. Over the last few months ideas have evolved and the EC has decided on the following strategy:

Survey the membership about using Zoom to run a modified AGM/Special Meeting. The EC would like to hear from the membership on whether they support the following idea:

**Question to Membership: *Should the EC run an AGM/Special Meeting in October 2021 in order to hear from the NCA representatives and conduct the business of running the class including elections and approvals for other class business. This meeting would take place over Zoom and be run in a professional no biased manner by an experienced professional moderator.***

Please respond to the above question to the class secretary: [timothy.ripley@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.ripley@gmail.com)

The following are some of the important work that the EC is dealing with in the near future:

***New Class Website Coming Soon*** – Work is well underway for a new website. The design will be modern and interactive. The tentative date for introduction is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Other Items

- Strategies for class promotion and participation with Marketing Sub Committee
- Updating/Modernization of Class Rules (2.4mR, Norlin OD)
- Updating /Modernization of the class Constitution
- Working with DIYC on preparation for the 2022 Worlds in Tampa FL, USA

The class Treasurer reports the class is in a good financial position and is ensuring that NCA's are up to date on their class dues submissions.

Kind Regards

Alexander Sadilek ( Vice President)

and the Executive Committee of the International 2.4 Class Association

## Standpoint of EC to the plan "Para-World Championship" in Warnemünde 2021

- Till now there is no NOR available
- On the website of the organizer ( Warnemünder Sailing-club) no any notice about this event.
- We checked the whole calendar of events in Germany and some other European countries for all Classes ( manage2sail) - there are no any Worlds organized, exception- J80/J70 Class Worlds in Denmark
- We checked the document Para Worlds Manual - here is clear written in Part 2, paragraph 3a) :  
[Microsoft Word - FinaldraftRMM270318\\_V2.docx \(sailing.org\)](#)

### 3. Race Documents

*a) The Notice of Race shall be posted on the event website no later than 9 months before the event.  
Preliminary Sailing Instructions shall be posted on the website no later than 30 days before the event.*

- EC decided together with organizer of Worlds-Open in Tonsberg to cancel the Worlds for well know worldwide safety/Covid-19 and problems with transportation of equipment. After this EC decided 2.4mR ICA will not organize any other Worlds in 2021 - for the same reasons.
- Based on mentioned above and other reasons the EC will not support the idea to organize any Worlds in the 2.4mR Class in 2021 - to stay still as a consistent and credible 2,4mR class organisation and fulfill all necessary WS regulations and recommendations for organizing World Championships- special Para-World Championships.
- EC and the whole 2.4mR ICA /members are happy for holding of any regatta or any big event, support of any sponsors, municipalities, private persons - but all this must be well and reliable prepared, and special must be **accessible for all sailors without restrictions** in case of any World Championship.
- EC has not the right to stop the organization of any event, but in this case we can only recommend the organizers of the event in Warnemünde not to use the naming " World Championship".

## 2.4mR Class bid to become an Olympic Class in 2024 – May 2021

### BACKGROUND

In the third week of April the Executive Committee (EC) was contacted by Heiko Kroger (GER) about information that World Sailing (WS) was looking for alternative submissions for the 2024 Olympics. WS had information that the planned mixed offshore event (10<sup>th</sup> medal) did not meet the International Olympic Committee (IOC) requirements. This means that WS should now look at alternative proposals. WS was asking classes that wanted to claim the 10<sup>th</sup> medal spot to present proposals for consideration at the WS mid-year meeting in three weeks' time.

The short notice was compounded with the fact that a group outside of the EC worked independently and presented their work to the EC as a "fait accompli". With this short notice the EC needed to decide quickly and held an emergency EC meeting. The EC was in favour of the idea and accepted the pre-submission work prepared by Heiko. Heiko proceeded with a few edited versions and then gained approval by the EC. The EC endorsed the work and then took the information and made a formal proposal in the format required by WS standards.. The proposal was sent to WS on April 25<sup>th</sup> and accepted by WS.

After some processes had taken place in WS it was asked that a class representative be available on May 14<sup>th</sup> in case WS need to have questions answered about the class and the proposal put forward. Simon Hill (GBR) was chosen by the EC to follow the 5+ hours of the WS meeting and answer questions should he need to.

The classes effort failed to get support and our proposal was rejected. Kites were chosen as the event to be put forward to the IOC. Upon completion of this process Simon Hill learned a few things and has put together his comments and observations below.

### Introduction Issues

- The background is that because of a failing with IFDS/World Sailing a few years ago, Paralympic sailing was dropped off the Olympic selection.
- This caused an immediate and sudden switch in many Para sailors funding and the dynamics of the class as a whole.
- It has become clear to many that to get sailing back into the Paralympics is going to be a long term effort requiring class resources.
- A group outside of the ICA EC initiated the case to make the 2.4 an Olympic class.
- The main weakness in our proposal was that we were un-prepared and lacked a coordinated effort. The class as a whole should be working together with people and resources.

### Lessons Learned

- The other "better prepared" classes have been planning their proposal for months if not years and appear properly funded and have the ability to lobby the voting members more effectively than us.
- The Executive Committee was handed an almost pre-finished presentation to World Sailing. The EC had little time to react and due to time, forced to sign the document in order to meet the WS meeting deadline.
- The EC submitted the proposal but it would have preferred to gain members opinion before committing the class to a full Olympic bid.
- Prior to that meeting World Sailing and their equipment committee decided on the boat(s) they would promote. The 2.4 was not selected at these preliminary meetings.

- The 2.4mR class was requested to attend the World Sailing meeting just in case the 2 boats were not selected.
- I was not asked to talk as we had no proposer or seconder. It is my opinion we would have made ourselves look stupid with what we had to offer against the other presentations.
- What we had prepared and where we are in the big picture of sailing made me realise that we have a mountain to climb.
- We are reliably informed that the other classes had proper lobbying groups getting support from around the world.
- We did not do any of this lobbying and clearly this is a significant factor on why we didn't get selected.
- The presentation of the 470, reminded me that they have thousands of boats, hundreds of regattas, Men, Women and even 16 year old's actively sailing their boat at the highest level.
- The 470 class spoke about the large availability of Second-hand boats or cheap cost of the kite –I have no idea what I would have said if I was asked about the availability of second hand boats.
- Manufacturers were offering "lifetime" discounts to buy boats at a discount.
- We cannot be considered to be a large global class.

### **Our Negative Issues**

- We have just a small amount of boats in Asia and no African 2.4 representation. Russia has a small fleet that is not represented at NCA level.
- Youth is not represented in our fleet in anything other than a token number.
- Our demographics of sailors is mainly OLD people and outside of normal Olympic selection ages.
- The Kite that was chosen is a product that easily goes on a plane, is cheap, and can be sailed with little infrastructure.
- We have only one recognised builder. This is not a stable basis to seek global Olympic status.
- We were poorly prepared and we did not work together or put the right resources into the presentation.

### **Conclusion**

- Even a WS committee member that has a strong background in Paralympic Sailing failed to support our bid and spoke passionately for the Kite!.
- I felt so inadequate if I needed to speak to our presentation and to be frank it was a reminder on how small the 2.4 class is in the big global picture of the sailing world.
- Our Class members should all watch the presentations of the 470 and the Kite to wake up to the fact that an expensive keel boat with 300 OLD sailors is not a good place to start an Olympic bid.
- **I believe we should not have presented our submission to make the 2.4 "Olympic" without an AGM vote on whether the class wants this and the problems it causes. We need to get a clear mandate on this!**
- **If we want this, let us do the job properly and put resources and money behind it.**