



# Oceania Laser Class Association

ABN 98 398 255 908  
PO Box 5242  
Greenwich NSW 2065  
Australia

## Minutes of 2021 Annual OLCA General Meeting Zoom Online Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Meeting opened 10.40am by Chairman Ken Hurling

### 1. Attendance

Ken Hurling (QLD, ALCA President), John D'Helin (VIC, ALCA Vice President), Geoff Lucas (Treasurer NSW & ACT), Kevin Phillips (NSW & ACT Chair, ALCA Secretary), Rob Lowndes (Masters Rep NSW & ACT), Mike Wilson (QLA Rep), Phil Danks (QLD), Mike Gluskie (TLDA Rep), Peter Merritt (VIC), Don Elks (WA, ALCA Youth Representative), James Mitchell (VIC), Gary Martin (NTLD Rep), Ros Sayers (SALA Rep), Peter Fell (QLD), Nick Page (NZLD), John Goeke (SAASI American Somoa), Glenhall Chen (SAASI)

### 2. Apologies

Neville Koop (Fiji LA), Raema Von Reiche (Samoa)

### 3. Identification and confirmation of voting District Representatives

Laser District representatives present were identified to the chair.

### 4. Minutes of previous AGM at Sandringham Yacht Club, Victoria 5 January 2020

Minutes of the meeting were tabled. Moved and seconded were approved. Business arising from minutes - Nil

### 5. Reports

- a. Chairman – report tabled and presented by Ken Hurling (copy attached)
- b. Treasurer and Public Officer – report was tabled and presented by Geoff Lucas

### 6. Election of Office Bearers

OLCA office bearers nominated on forms held by secretary were declared elected.

- a. President - Ken Hurling (AUS)
- b. Vice-president - Nick Page (NZ)
- c. Treasurer & Public Officer – Geoff Lucas (AUS)
- d. Secretary – Kevin Phillips (AUS)

Additional committee members were left vacant for subsequent confirmation by the OLCA President;

- a. Event Directors
- b. Oceania Class Development

## 7. General Business

**ILCA Event Management:** Ken Hurling outlined the difficult year with COVID cancellation of events starting with the last minute demise of the World Masters at Geelong and extending to all 2020 World Championships scheduled later in the year in the northern hemisphere.

Ken Hurling outlined the new Events and Race Management Sub Committee of ILCA which he chairs. He explained the need to advance allocation to ILCA regions for these large events. These are now being allocated out to four years ahead to allow time for regions to select districts and venues and allow the event organisers time to plan sponsorships, charters and other longer term venue logistics.

Ken commented on the fact that until Melbourne 2020 there had been a nine year gap between ILCA Worlds being held in Oceania. He spoke of an allocation of Standard Men's and Master's Worlds to Oceania in 2024 and plan for these to be run in Victoria (Masters) and Adelaide (Standard Men's).

**ILCA Changes – Constitution:** Nick Page who is on the ILCA World Council and is the ILCA Treasurer outlined work underway to modify the ILCA constitution. This is necessary to reflect the new naming, trademarks, new builders and to streamline the structure of ILCA World Council and its voting. The new arrangements would see removal of the Advisory Council of legacy builders and the inclusion of a single elected representative of all the builders on World Council. This change has yet to be agreed with the remaining legacy builders. Nick who has managed the constitution review for ILCA said the aim was to put the new constitution to a members vote in March or April 2021. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority is needed for this to pass.

**ILCA Changes Builders:** Nick was asked about the new ILCA naming and builders. He gave a summary of the situation and the need for the change due to the class wanting to remain as the Olympic Single Handed Dinghy and WS requiring for this to happen that any builder competent to build the boat had the opportunity to do so. The legacy builder Laser Performance Europe (LPE) which holds the Laser name and Starburst Logo trademarks for 80% of World has so far refused to sign up to be builder under the new arrangements and is not allowing the class to use the trade mark or the name Lasers. Hence the ILCA name and the new sail logo. Nick mentioned that LPE is promoting a new The Laser Class (TLC) organisation headquartered in the Netherlands. TLC applied to World Sailing to represent the Laser class but was rejected.

**Marketing Support:** Peter Merritt suggested that the class generally should look to work with the new builders to develop and publish ILCA class marketing support material on social and traditional media.

Nick Page reported that ILCA was about to employ a new field officer funded from new builder fees. Part of the responsibilities of this new position include class promotion at all levels from club to Olympic sailing.

**Oceania District Members:** The presence of John Goeke and Glenhall Chen from Sailing Association of American Samoa Inc. (SAASI) was acknowledged. There was discussion on ensuring that Oceania Laser District remain financial and viable with ILCA. Ken Hurling mentioned that for most small districts the fee of \$100 USD was required to ensure that their sailors can compete in World Championships, gain World Sailing points and ultimately be eligible for Olympic competition.

It was noted that four of 35 Olympic Standard Rig places in the now 2021 Tokyo Olympics will be filled by Oceania sailors from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and Papua New Guinea while three of 44 places in the Olympic Radial will be from our region - Australia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. There will be four of 44 if New Zealand send a sailor to fill a place they have qualified for.

**Sailing Funding:** The issue of financial support to smaller countries was raised. It was pointed out that World Sailing gains 55% of its revenue from the International Olympic Committee (some \$21M AUD from Rio). This comes as lump sum each four years so the delay to the Tokyo Olympics (along with other issues) have ramifications for WS finances which budgets to break even over the four year cycle.

In more prosperous countries sports including sailing get government funding. For example Australian Sailing gets 50% of its around \$18M p.a. income from the Australian Sports Commission. These funds are directed to elite level sailing and are dependent on results. The smaller Oceania nations don't have the resources or the inclination to fund sport in this way to this extent so their sailors (and other athletes) struggle financially. It is great to see the IOC and WS setting up Olympic qualification to allow these small nations to compete however they and their athletes will struggle to be truly competitive through lack of funding.

The meeting closed at 11.35am

Kevin Phillips OLCA Secretary



# **Oceania Laser Class Association**

## Oceania Chair - Annual Report, 2020

2020 has been a year like no other with so many unprecedented challenges.

At the beginning of the year the Victorian Laser Class Association in partnership with Sandringham and Royal Geelong Yacht Clubs hosted a string of events including three ILCA World Championships. These events involved over 1300 laser sailors worldwide.

With the world starting to shut down due to the COVID-19 virus a decision was taken by the ILCA World Council on advice from the Federal & State Health Departments and in conjunction with the organising committee to cancel the World Masters Event. This decision was a devastating blow to all concerned and not made lightly as the impact on international competitors could cause havoc. Although many of the competitors were disappointed with this decision it wasn't long before they realised they needed to return home as quickly as possible.

Resulting from the COVID disruption OLCA and ALCA developed a COVID-19 policy the principles of which have since been adopted by ILCA and available to all sailors.

The introduction of a mobile event app proved a big hit with the sailors at the 2020 events in Melbourne. The provision of notifications, results, race documents and signing on and off was much appreciated by the sailors and officials alike. This app is a work in progress and is continuing to be updated and improved.

Unfortunately, with the borders closed, the world generally shut down and most events cancelled for 2020 and along with 2021 not looking too promising there is not a lot to report. The most important realisation from all this upheaval is how crucial it is to encourage and support local club sailing wherever possible.

On the upside, COVID-19 has given us time to reflect, rethink and replan for the future.

Thank you & stay safe,

Ken Hurling OAM  
Chair Oceania Laser Class Association.



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## Treasurer's Report Year Ended 30 June 2020

I have pleasure in presenting the financial statements for the above financial year.

The Income and Expenditure Statement shows a surplus of \$11,628.00 as compared to a surplus of \$3,832.18 for the preceding year of \$3,832.18. This year the second tranche under the sponsorship with Tourism Fiji of \$A30,000.00 was received.

These funds were retained in Fiji by Nigel Skeggs of Denarau Marina as arranged with Ken Hurling in order to pay out the numerous expenses associated with running the 2019 Oceania event rather than try to pay each of these amounts by international transfer from OLCA's bank account in Australia.

A schedule of income and expenditure in \$FJ has been supplied by Nigel Skeggs and is attached to these financial statements. This schedule has been converted into \$A and incorporated into the financial records of OLCA for the year.

As these funds were not received and deposited into OLCA's bank account, as treasurer I have not been able to verify the figures as shown in this statement. You will note the statement shows there is a balance of \$FJ10,945.00 held at 30 June 2020 which equates to \$A7,497.00.

Thank you

Geoff Lucas  
Hon. Treasurer