



MODEL YACHTING ASSOCIATION

8th October 2009

Statement by the Council of the Model Yachting Association acting as the National Class Association for the International One Metre in Great Britain, regarding the Special General Meeting of the IOMICA [to take place on 31.10.09]

Introduction

The International One Metre International Class Association (IOMICA) Executive has called a Special General Meeting to vote on the following:

“It is resolved that IOM ICA will pursue direct ISAF International Class status. If the result of the vote is to proceed then it will be necessary to amend the IOM ICA Constitution, Regulations and Class Rules. Those are outlined in the attached Appendices [see page 2 below]. If the vote is in favour of opposing the resolution then the listed changes will not be used.”

Statement

The MYA Council believes that a ‘no’ vote is in the best interests of the future of international radio sailing and feels that a ‘yes’ vote at this time would be damaging to the future development of the structure of international radio sailing. The MYA Council also feels that the consequences of a ‘yes’ vote have not been fully investigated. Finally, MYA Council believes that it is vital that ISAF-RSD be given the opportunity to re-establish itself under new, enthusiastic leadership and that discussions on the future of international radio sailing be conducted with IOMICA before direct class affiliation is considered.

Explanation

Brief background

International radio controlled sailing is currently looked after by the International Sailing Federation, Radio Sailing Division (ISAF-RSD). This is a division of ISAF, the organisation that looks after all full size sailing world wide. The ISAF-RSD committee is made up largely of model yachtsmen from around the world, represents radio sailing at the highest level, was responsible for writing, and regularly amends Appendix E in the Racing Rules of Sailing and looks after the international radio sailing classes (the A class, Ten Rater, Marblehead and, until 2003, the International One Metre). In 2003 the International One Metre formed an International Class Association and gained a degree of independence from ISAF-RSD in respect of running its class affairs. However, IOMICA remained linked to ISAF-RSD with ISAF-RSD required to ratify any rule changes made to the IOM class. This remains the case to date.

Explanation of proposal

The IOMICA Executive are proposing to remove the IOM class from ISAF-RSD and join the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) directly to gain full international class status. This would see the International One Metre class relating to ISAF in the same way as Lasers, International 14’s, Solings etc..... This would leave ISAF-RSD looking after the A class, Ten Rater and Marblehead.

**Statement by the MYA Council acting as the IOM NCA in GBR
re: Special General Meeting of the IOMICA [to take place on 31.10.09]**

Page 1

Views of the MYA Council acting as the IOM National Class Association for GBR

At the recent MYA Council meeting it was agreed that, due to the large degree of concern regarding the possible implications of the proposal, Council should make its views on the subject public in order to make IOM owners in GBR aware of the situation before they voted on this important matter. Council's concerns can be briefly summed up in the following bullet points:

- IOM members worldwide (including GBR) voted at the 2009 IOMICA AGM to investigate the possibilities of joining ISAF directly. They did not vote for the IOMICA Executive to make a rushed application to join ISAF directly which is what is happening.
- It would seem that the IOMICA Executive have speeded the process up on the basis that RSD was about to be dissolved in November due to its inactivity during the last few years. This is **not** the case as a new Permanent Committee of RSD will be elected in November, headed by former MYA Chairman, Mike Clifton. The MYA Council and the RSD elect are keen to keep all international radio sailing classes under one umbrella which will avoid duplication and the division of the sport's strength and human resources.
- If IOMICA join ISAF directly there are some more onerous regulations that will be applied to the IOM class that will affect **ALL IOM OWNERS**, not just the top skippers. For example, all newly registered boats from 2010 would have to pay a fee of £5 to ISAF and then display an ISAF sticker on their boat.
- If IOMICA join ISAF directly then radio sailing classes will no longer be operating under a single international umbrella organisation.
- IOM class rule ratification will still be required and this would be done by an ISAF committee with little or no radio sailing experience. MYA Council feel that a radio sailing based RSD committee is far better placed to give comment and assist in class rule matters. *(For example, the GBR IOM NCA's effort to permit Measurement Forms to be returned to their owners was finally accepted by the 2008 IOMICA voting, but was rejected by ISAF's 'approving' committee that was set up specially to handle the matter in place of RSD).*

The 'pros' and 'cons' offered by IOMICA Executive in their Appendix A (the full proposal and appendices can be found at http://www.iomclass.org/exec/SGMA10_31_09Amended.pdf) understandably favour the 'pros' as they are putting the motion forward. However, IOM owners in GBR should also read a marked up copy of this document prepared by the New Zealand Radio Yachting Association. This redresses the balance between the 'pros' and 'cons' and is in line the views of MYA Council. The New Zealand document is available on the MYA forum.

MYA Council 8.10.09