

Laser World



March 2017



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WHERE CHAMPIONS ARE MADE



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND
WORLD COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY



USING SOCIAL MEDIA
TO BUILD YOUR FLEET

Remember when life was simple?
It can be again.



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Where Champions



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Dimitrios Papadimitriou GRE



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Guido Gallinaro ITA

Above: Guido Gallinaro of Italy took five bullets in Kiel but was still edged out for the Boys' Under-18 Laser 4.7 title by Dimitrios Papadimitriou of Greece... by just one point. This was indeed a 'big' regatta, with 127 girls and 262 boys competing in the Under-18 fleets alone... plus another 292 entries in the Under-21s.

Kieler Yacht Club took (yet) another big week in its stride when 681 Laser sailors descended on

So often we've seen the battle for Olympic titles come down to a two-horse race, a match race for gold and silver. This summer's Laser 4.7 World Championships and Laser U21 Youth World Championships in Kiel, Germany, brought one of the most dramatic showdowns between two world-class talents, two names to watch out for on the Olympic circuit.

In the boys' division of the Laser 4.7 Youth Worlds, Guido Gallinaro won the penultimate race of the competition with ease, and looked set to defend the world title he'd won in 2015. His closest competitor, Dimitrios Papadimitriou, had only managed 11th. It would take a minor miracle for the Greek to overturn the Italian's advantage.

'My coach told me I can win it, and I said OK, I will go out and win the race and do my best,' said Papadimitriou. He went out and executed the plan perfectly, winning the final race by 1 minute 48 seconds, a country mile in Laser terms. Now he would have to wait to see how Gallinaro fared.

Papadimitriou could scarcely believe his eyes as the Italian struggled across the line in an uncharacteristic 40th place, never having managed to find a way back to the front after a poor start.

Papadimitriou had won his first world championship by a single point.

For Gallinaro it was a cruel way to lose the championship, having had one hand on the title. Even more cruel was the fact that history was repeating itself. Earlier in the year at the Europeans it was another close battle between the Italian and the Greek, and there too it was Papadimitriou who emerged victorious. No doubt Gallinaro will be keen for revenge... the dawn of another

epic rivalry in the Laser, perhaps? Another Ainslie vs Scheidt duel come Tokyo 2020...

Vagelis Chimonas, Papadimitriou's coach, certainly believes we are looking at a young sailor of exceptional talent, one who can remain calm in the most pressured of situations. 'I have known Dimitrios for two years now, and I will work with him in the future in the Laser Radial too. We can expect a lot more from him.'

Organised by the Kieler Yacht Club, these Laser championships threw a little bit of everything at the 681 competitors in terms of weather, from sunshine to rain, and from 5kt to 25kt of wind. There were four championship titles up for grabs, and each of the four champions could truly claim to be an all-rounder. The specialists had their day, but this was a week where the varied conditions demanded a full complement of boathandling, boatspeed and tactical skills.

Emma Savelon had sailed a very consistent regatta but on the final day had to hold off a late charge from Russian sailor Mariia Kislukhina who won both final heats in the girls' division of the Laser 4.7 Youths. But the Dutch competitor held her nerve to score two seventh places, sufficient to give Savelon the world title by 7pt from the Russian.

While the 16-year-old sailor from Medemblik had kept her cool on the racecourse, all the pent-up emotion came pouring out as she stepped ashore, exhausted but elated. 'It hasn't sunk in yet, what I've done. That second race was very tough. My start was far from perfect, and I was on the wrong side of the course on the first upwind leg. Downwind I had to work hard just to keep going as fast as possible, and then had to get everything right on the last beat.'



Are Made!

the former Olympic sailing venue for the 2016 junior world championships.

Add Savelon's win to Marit Bouwmeester's Olympic gold medal at Rio 2016 a few weeks later and the future for women's singlehanded sailing looks bright in the Netherlands.

In the 144-boat Under-21 division for the boys in the Laser Standard the battle came down to just 3pt, with Jonatan Vadnai of Hungary just beating defending champion Joel Rodriguez of Spain. 'It's a fantastic feeling,' said Vadnai. 'A three-point gap after 10 races is nothing. It's been a great battle. This is a feeling I definitely hope to repeat in my career!'

The only clear victory of the championships was by Monika Mikkola, who dominated the Girls' division of the Under-21 Radial fleet. It's a measure of the challenging conditions in Kiel that even the eventual winner capsized on more than one occasion. But Mikkola kept her composure and the 20-year-old Finn led from day one, notching up four wins and two seconds along the way. With her worst scores a 5th and 6th, Mikkola didn't even need to race the final day. It was the perfect way to round off a glittering career at junior level.

It might not be so easy when Mikkola steps up to the Olympic circuit next season. 'This was the last year I qualify at this age level, so it was great to win in Kiel. It will probably be a while before I win anything again...' she added modestly. Mikkola now looks forward to the rigours of campaigning for Tokyo 2020. Vasileia Karachaliou took another silver for Greece with Maité Carlier of Belgium taking bronze.

With almost 700 entries this was a big regatta and, with four divisions, the logistical challenges were significant. But bearing in mind what the same organising team do

every June - running Kieler Woche with 4,000 sailors competing in 2,000 boats in classes ranging from the 420 through to large keelboats of 50ft or more - the Laser Youth World Championship was a walk in the park in comparison.

One invaluable experience for the young competitors at such a big regatta was exposure to the media. The top sailors were interviewed after racing each day and for some the nerves of speaking in front of a camera and answering tough questions appeared to exceed the stresses of racing! It's one of the things that makes the Olympics so unique, and so difficult for some to cope with, the sudden deluge of media attention.

What is impressive about the new generation of sailors coming through is how comfortable they are with working with the media. You can see for yourself if you look through some of the YouTube videos of the Laser regattas (laser4.7.laserworldskiel2016.com)

Another benefit for sailors, coaches and also some of the spectators around the world is the relatively recent facility to scroll back through the live tracking and commentary on previous races held at Kiel. Thanks to SAP Analytics, the sailors can review their own performance and see what were the winning - and losing - moves on the racetrack. There's the old way of running regattas, and there's the 21st century way of running regattas, and Kieler Yacht Club's modern approach to championships is why more and more classes are coming to Kiel-Schilksee to enjoy some of the best regatta management in the world.

This article was first published in Seahorse International Sailing Magazine www.seahorsemagazine.com



Kiel's big opening ceremony



Monika Mikkola FIN

Above: the impressive Finnish sailor Monika Mikkola won the Women's Laser Radial world title by a chunky 16pt margin from runner-up Vasileia Karachaliou of Greece. In fact, Greece had a very strong regatta in Kiel, picking up a number of medals which bodes well for Tokyo 2020. The Kiel event was also 'big' off the water, with an Olympian opening parade (top photo) and later on a similarly well organised closing ceremony.



Using Social Media To Build Your Fleet

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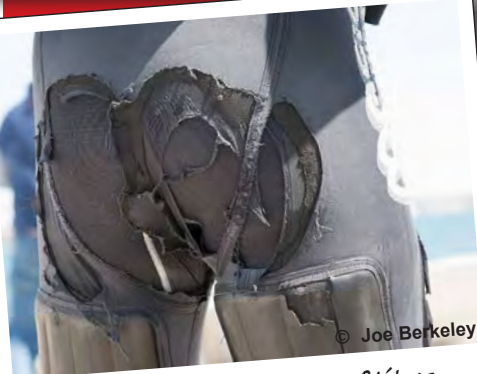
*... great racing, competition,
camaraderie or just good pizza!*



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A picture is worth a thousand words.

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Andy's rear gets lots of likes.

Joe Berkeley explains how social media can help build your fleet, tell a great story and all for free!

People have a lot more options when it comes to free time than they used to. To build a Laser fleet or keep your fleet strong, you need to do whatever you can.

While social media is a great way to waste time, "Hey, look at this kitten video!", it's also a good way to build turnout in your local fleet.

Start with a strategic idea of what your fleet offers. It could be fun. It could be great racing. It could be a combination of competition and camaraderie. It could be pizza after sailing.

When I started doing social media for Newport Frostbite Fleet, the strategy I worked against was "Join the best Laser fleet in the world." For those who race to win like Peter Shope, the fleet is all about world-class competition. For others, who love to be outdoors, it's about the friendship.

To promote your fleet, remember the old saying that a picture is worth one thousand words. Even an iPhone will enable you to capture stills and video of fleet members. If the Race Committee can capture some sailing shots, that's great. Send those out once a week with a write up of the day and scores.

But don't just limit your photography to Lasers out sailing. Look for great shots in the parking lot. One day, Andy Pimental was rigging up and I noted that the seat of his hiking pants was severely worn.

Given the popularity of Kim Kardashian's posterior, I was curious if a photo of Andy Pimental's would be just as popular. It was. While Andy's buttocks did not break the internet, it did procure more likes than a beautiful portrait of Steve Kirkpatrick's face. Andy Pimental noted, "this is as it should be."

You can take great photos with an iPhone. Just make sure the sun is at your back, front lighting the subject. Good lighting and an iPhone is better than lousy lighting and the best camera in the world.

Now you need some good stories to go with your photos. For the most part, these will just fall into your lap. If someone has a new traveler, that could be a story. If a local sailor came back from a faraway regatta, that could be a good story. While you're out racing, you could be thinking about the race in one track of your brain

and writing your regatta report with the other half of your brain at the same time.

The idea is you want to gather up these little nuggets then send them out while they are still fleet news, not fleet history. So even though you're tired and you want to go to bed, stay up just long enough to write your story and send out your photos.

It doesn't matter if there are typos. What matters is that there is a record out there of what happened. People who sailed should read it and say, "I'm so glad I sailed!" People who didn't sail should think, "Oh, I gotta go next weekend."

The biggest capsizes of the day can be a lot more interesting to people than the tale of the guy who started at the boat, hiked really hard and crushed the fleet.

There are also stories that have been good since the beginning of time. The Return of the Prodigal Sailor, the tale of the Master who quit sailing 25 years ago, got a job, got laid off, got fat, got divorced, then came back to great sailing glory.

The tale of the up and comer is always a good read. Fleet dogs are good. Young people are good because they have many friends on social media and it's free advertising. Two generations sailing on the same race course is forever green. There are so many good stories in the Laser class, you just need to look around and grab them.

All you need is a notebook and a pencil. Take some notes at the end of the regatta, collect some quotes, take a photo of the scores, then you have what you need to make your report.

Alright, so this is starting to sound like some work here. Why bother? Well, because you get to sail against more boats. In Newport, four different people regularly contribute to the social media effort and it makes a difference.

Last year, there were more than 100 boats registered for the frostbite season and we had 53 boats on the line on the same day. Which is a lot more fun than looking at stupid videos online.

*Joe Berkeley is a writer, photographer and director.
His work is at joeberkeley.com*

2016 World Council Meeting Summary

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The ILCA World Council recently held its mid-year meeting in London, England on 19 November - 20 November 2016.

*Eric Faust
Executive Secretary*

The ILCA World Council recently held its annual meeting near the London Heathrow Airport. Due to the length of the agenda, the meeting took place over two days on November 19-20, 2016. In attendance were: Tracy Usher - President, Hugh Leicester - Vice President, Carlos Palombo - Chairman South America,

Jean-Luc Michon - Chairman Europe, Ken Hurling - Chairman Asia-Pacific, Andy Roy - Chairman North America, Eric Faust - Executive Secretary, Bahman Kia - Builders' Advisory Council, Laser Performance, Chris Caldecoat - Builders' Advisory Council, Performance Sailcraft Australia, Takao Otani - Consultant, Jeff Martin - Executive Secretary Emeritus and Clive Humphris - Technical Officer.

Elections and Appointments: No resignations were received so the current slate of elected officers remains in place for the coming year. The World Council voted to appoint Nick Page from New Zealand as the ILCA Treasurer and a non-voting member of the World Council. Nick is a recently retired business owner, an active Laser sailor and has served as the Vice-Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Region for the past several years. Nick's knowledge and experience will be welcomed.

Membership and Accounts: ILCA membership remains stable with approximately 14,000 paid members worldwide, a slight decrease over the previous year due mainly to significantly lower membership in Italy. The final accounts from 2015 were presented and approved along with the 2016 projected year-end accounts. The association operated below its budget for the year and ended FY 2015 with a positive net income. Projections showed a modest positive net income is also expected for the year ending December 2016. The World Council remains dedicated to managing costs while providing high-quality service to all ILCA members. This is reflected in the 2017 budget, which was then reviewed and approved as presented.

Regattas and Events: The 2017 schedule is set and work is well underway to finalize the 2018 calendar. The ILCA season kicks off with the 4.7 and Under-21 championships in Nieuwpoort,

Belgium. The Radial Youth Worlds will be held in Medemblik, Netherlands followed immediately by the Radial Men's and Radial Women's Worlds, which will be run concurrently. Split, Croatia will then host two championships in September 2017 – the Standard Men's and Masters Worlds. All events will once again utilize the custom-built regatta entry system designed to facilitate the specific requirements for ILCA events. Possible venues for the 2019 and 2020 championships were also presented and reviewed. There was some discussion about holding a "Corinthian Championship" aimed at creating a fun event for sailors who do not participate at the Olympic level. This idea may be tested on the national or continental level to determine if it is viable format for the class.

Review of Reports and Submissions: A report was received from the Technical and Measurement Committee (TMC) meeting held on the previous day including the wording for several proposed rule changes that will soon be submitted to the membership for the required vote. Clive Humphris reported that he had conducted audits of each Laser builder during the year. The results of his analysis show that, due to tightened tolerances, Lasers are more equal worldwide than ever before. It was reported that all necessary approvals for a material independent top mast section have been obtained and the Laser Builders were encouraged to introduce the new product into the market as soon as possible.

Regional Matters: Because Laser activity in Asia has increased over the years, the World Council voted to split the existing Asia-Pacific Region in two parts. The two regions will now be named the Asian Region and the Oceania Region. Takao Otani will soon nominate an Asian Chairman and Vice Chairman for approval by the World Council while the Oceania Region will retain the officers from the old Asia-Pacific Region. Each Regional Chairman then gave a report on activities in his area and Jeff Martin gave a report on the recent World Sailing Conference in Barcelona.

Next Meeting: The next World Council Meeting is slated for November 2017.

ILCA FINANCIAL SUMMARY	2015	2014
INCOME	USD	USD
Plaque fees	175,266	151,166
Sail buttons fees	156,749	107,607
Membership Dues	126,703	135,776
Sales (less COGS)	-7,169	-9,940
Contribution from Entry	166,577	171,805
Contribution from Charter	58,387	18,214
Other Income	538	5,175
Total Income	677,051	579,803
EXPENSES		
Publications	23,986	20,815
Technical Development	13,232	13,233
Administration	380,771	398,195
Office & Overheads	41,946	47,586
Professional Services	73,845	28,752
Bank/ Merchant Fees	45,655	26,327
World Council Expenses	15,162	15,160
Travel & Meetings	33,825	25,942
Other Expenses	8,323	5,343
Total Expenses	636,745	581,353
Accumulated Funds b/f	810,857	812,407
Net Income	40,306	-1,550
Accumulated Funds c/f	851,163	810,857

President's Report

© Thom Touw

Tracy Usher discusses changes to the equipment and to the ILCA!

Living here in the San Francisco Bay area we see March as the transition month as the thermal breezes the area is famous for reawaken for another season. March is also the month that welcomes Spring and for sailors in the northern hemisphere it is time to start laying those plans for Laser sailing for the upcoming year!

This year's world championship events have all been scheduled for Europe, beginning with the 4.7 and under 21 Worlds in Belgium, followed by the Laser Radial Youth, Men's and Women's Worlds in Medemblik and culminating with the Standard Men's and Master's Worlds in Split. This should be an amazing Summer of sailing and we are expecting high demand for all events!

Also new in time for Spring is the new ILCA website! A driving force behind the new website was to place it in a more universal framework which would

greatly ease the task of updating and maintaining the site. Additional goals were to simplify navigation to make it more obvious how to find things (e.g. the class rules), break the old news section into various sections so one can easily find regatta reports, how to articles, interviews with other Laser sailors, etc. Another important feature is to tie directly into social media which is increasingly the place where people get their initial updates. The new site debuted just a few weeks ago, please take it for a test drive and send feedback back to the class office!

An interesting news item you can find on the new website is the announcement of the introduction of the new composite upper mast section. We expect this spar to "trickle" into the market initially as all the builders get their vendors up to speed but expect that by Summer it will be available worldwide.



Tracy Usher

Finally, as the adage goes - "may you live in interesting times". And we certainly do! The World Council is aware of supply issues being experienced in several areas of the world. ILCA has discussed this issue with the builder in question with assurances that any shortages are short term in nature. At this same time we are also working to address other issues which have the possibility to impact the class going forward.

In the meantime, we're looking forward to another great year of Laser sailing! See you on the water!

Jeff Martin reviews his favourite rule book:

"The Rules in Practice 2017 - 2020" by Bryan Willis.

Published by fernhurstbooks.com since 1985 a new edition is written by Bryan after each Olympic Games when the International Sailing Federation now called "World Sailing" publishes the new "Racing Rules of Sailing" for the next four year cycle.

Bryan's book is well illustrated using Laser diagrams in 90 pages showing a variety of situations on the course from start to finish. Each diagram has easy to follow comments on what the options are for each boat in the diagram. Also included is a full set of racing rules. It is great for looking up situations that happened in a race or just going step by step round a race course.

For 2017 the biggest change is the long overdue introduction of two new rules; Rule 6 Betting and Anti-Corruption Code (World Sailing Regulation 37) and Rule 7 Disciplinary Code (World Sailing Regulation 35). Significantly the introduce a new definition support

person – any person who provides support to a competitor including coaches, medics, parent or guardian of the competitor. A support person is now added to a revised rule 69 now headed "Misconduct". If a support person has broken a rule the Protest Committee may take action against the support person and may also penalize a competitor for the breach of a rule by a support person.

World Sailing Regulations can be found at: <http://www.sailing.org/documents/regulations/regulations.php>

Of interest to Laser sailors; Rule 22.3 now reads "A boat moving astern, or sideways to windward, through the water by backing a sail shall keep clear of one that is not". This is sometimes known as "crabbing" and is common on a start line. Rule 64.3 now says if you have broken a class rule in more than one race in the same event a penalty may be imposed for each race.

Changes to right of way rules 18.2, 18.3 and 19.1 will be discussed in the next LaserWorld.

