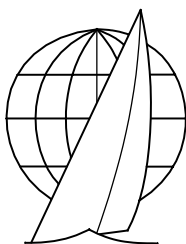


OFFSHORE RACING CONGRESS

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ORC Newsletter 4 2005

Summary of ORC Management meeting in Santa Margherita May 7-8 2005

Under the Chairmanship of Bruno Finzi, a number of topics were discussed as follows;

The new ORC Level Class Rules, REV 3 have been distributed to designers and event organizers for comment. The Rules define three new "box rule" classes for grand prix racing without handicap, the ORC 26, ORC 33 and ORC 42. The most noteworthy amendments from REV 2 are;

- Only one permanent backstay (adjustable aft) allowed
- Mainsail roaches and areas reduced accordingly
- All drafts reduced
- All freeboards increased
- All max beams reduced
- Mast weights and relevant VCG's are still under evaluation by mast builders
- Minimum interior volumes have been redefined, reducing the height of the coachroof. The new formula will be proposed to Congress in November also for the IMS Racing Division for 2006

The Rules for the ORC Level Classes are to be published and distributed in June 2005. The new ORC Classes will be officially presented for the press and owners by ORC Chairman Bruno Finzi and Grand Prix Classes Project Coordinator Paolo Massarini in Punta Ala, Italy 3rd June, following awards at the IMS Mediterranean Championship. Further presentations are scheduled in Spain, the USA and the UK.

Work is in progress also for the event scheduling and administrative aspects of the ORC Level Class Rules. It is planned to initially offer races for the new Classes at existing major events in 2006. Both European and Transatlantic circuits are to be mapped out and sponsorship principles agreed.

A further update on the Grand Prix Classes will be found in the next issue of the Seahorse magazine (3^{1st} May)

Additional improvements of the IMS rule. The ORC Management Committee is dedicated to maintaining and improving the IMS and ORC CLUB rule for the future with an emphasis on equitable handicapping of the broad base fleet. The International Technical

Committee (ITC) will be asked to analyze methods and consequences of a considerable increase in stability. On the research side, new studies are scheduled in the wind tunnel, examining jib overlap and mainsail aspect ratio, as well as hydrodynamic towing tests at high speeds, a study of stern drag effects and other projects. The Management Committee reviewed an update on plans to re-code the Velocity Prediction Program from which IMS time allowances are derived.

Additional support for the Maxi Class . A project group consisting of ITC member Alessandro Nazareth, ORC Chief Measurer, Nicola Sironi, as well as Paolo Massarini and Andrea Merani, will prepare a proposal for a support package to the Wally Yachts Division.

The Rolex IMS World Championship 2005 will be held in Mahon, Menorca 11th-19th July. So far, 31 yachts from 12 countries have announced participation, including entries from Argentina, Switzerland and Russia. This is already an increase of two nations compared to the last Worlds. Boats to especially watch this year will be the 42-foot Grand Soleil 205's, Bressani, Zurich-Santana and Forum Filatelico and the 58-footers, Tau and Cam, as well as the 46 footers, Telefonica and Sky.

The new ORC website. Statistics show a considerable increase of visitors since implementation 1st April. It was decided to further develop the site by adding links to IMS and ORC CLUB certificates to increase transparency and fairness to the largest extent. ORC committee members and permanent staff will also be made more visible.

The ORC Annual Meeting will this year be held in Singapore at the Grand Comptorne Hotel 2nd-8th November in conjunction with ISAF annual meetings. Submissions to the ORC are due from National Authorities not later than Tuesday, September 6th.

The Next ORC Management Committee Meeting will be held in Valencia on 24th-25th September, 2005 and will focus on submissions and preparations for the AGM in Singapore as well as in releasing the beta version of a revised IMS and ORC Club.

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