

OFFSHORE RACING CONGRESS

World Leader in Rating Technology

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ORC Newsletter 7 2006-10-30

The ORC AGM in Helsinki

Next focus for ORC is the Annual General Meeting in Helsinki 1st to 7th November, coordinated with ISAF Annual meeting. A total of 46 submissions have been received from national authorities and the ORC committees have started to work to address them.

Important decisions about policy and technical matters regarding IMS and ORC Club future development are on the table, as well as the locations of the World Championships and the regional main events for IMS and its Classes in 2007.

The ORC Annual Dinner will be held at "Restaurant Pörssi" - Fabiankatu 14, Helsinki on Monday 6th November 2006 at 20.30 hrs

IMS World Championship 2006

The IMS World Championship held in August in Neustadt, Germany, saw Russian Sergey Shevtsov as IMS World Champion in the large Division with his Grand Soleil 42R. He and his all-Russian crew on "Yugtransit" had a very good performance last summer in a series of events. Swedish Synergia 40 "Datacommunication" skippered by Ralf Oestholm was runner up, Oestholm being supported by Volvo Ocean Race skipper Matthew Humpries. Third was German IMX 40 "Moonshine", who won the Corinthian Trophy.

The small boats Division was won by German veteran "Froeschkoenig", an old Optima 101/106 skippered by Detlef Almong and kept in excellent racing conditions, who was able to keep the lead in front of Sven Christensen's German X-332 "No Limits". The fleet was composed by 50 entries from 8 countries, equally spread in the two Divisions.

IMS 600 World Championship 2006

George Andreadis from Greece won the IMS 600 Worlds held in September in Aghios Nikolaos in Crete with his Grand Soleil 42R "Meliti IV" under a wide range of weather conditions. Stiff competition for 2nd and 3rd place developed between Greek IMX 40 "Alpha Bank" with skipper Theodoros Tsoulfas and Italian Comet 41s "Wind Song" with skipper Serguey Chevtsov. In the end the latter got the 2nd place in the fleet of 12 boats from 6 countries.

IMS 670 World Championship 2006

The event held in Puerto Santa Maria near Cadiz, in southern Spain, was a real thriller. Spanish skipper Van der Ploeg on his X-37 "Turismo Madrid" took an early lead over Jesús Pintos "Carpantxo", another X-37, in the heels. On the last day Van der Ploeg had a bad result and

“Carpantxo” won the title. Third was the Spanish Grand Soleil 37 “ONO”, on a fleet of 32 boats from 4 countries.

The Giants Championships – Maxis and Perinis

In September at the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, “Magic Carpet Squared” owned by Sir Lindsay Owen-Jones won the Wally class using “Imax” – a derivative of IMS - and the Farr 70 “Atalanta II” owned by Carlo Puri Negri won the Mini Maxi Class, that used IMS/ORC Club handicaps. The Mini Maxi and Wally classes now show the biggest numbers within the several Maxi Divisions, and both classes have confirmed that they will continue to race in 2007 with ORC systems.

In parallel with the Maxis in Porto Cervo, the Giants of ORC Club sailed in Porto Rotondo, Italy, the Perini Navi Cup. 16 such giants yachts sailed in coastal races in the vicinity of Olbia, a few miles south of Porto Cervo, including also the brand new “Maltese Falcon”, an extremely innovative sailing ship who resulted the winner of the series.

Baltic Sea Championship 2006

A final event in Bornholm, Denmark, in September concluded a circuit of seven qualification events this season in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Germany.

After eight races in the HSH Nordbank final event in Denmark Swedish Synergia-40 “Data Communication” skippered by Ralf Oestholm won the series achieving the title of North European IMS Champion 2006. A similar circuit is being organized for 2007.

Progress in the ORC GP Classes

The ORC GP Classes continue their progress. The GP 42 is leading the way with two boats in the water, one from Italy designed by Farr and the other from Croatia designed by Botin/carkeek. Others will soon follow from many different countries and continents.

The International GP 42 Association was formed in Valencia in September. Filippo Faruffini (IT) was elected President, with Jan Santana (ESP), Michael Unsworth (UK) and Chris Shining (US) being members of a Steering Committee.

The Spanish Federation has supported the GP42 Class, transferring to this Class for 2007 the racing circuit and title that was allocated for the last few years to the IMS 600 Class. This led to several new constructions being started.

The provisional 2007 racing calendar will tentatively include an opening event in Cres, Croatia, 21-23 June, within the IMS European Championship, another in Valencia 13-15 July within the Trofeo de la Reina, then in Palma de Majorca 28 July-5 August within the Copa del Rey and Cascais August 30-September 1st within the Trofeu Quebramar. Additional regattas are also considered in Cala Galera (Italy), St Tropez (France) and Puerto Calero (Canary Islands). The 2008 races are foreseen to start in Key West and Miami. There have been a few amendments to the GP 42 measurement procedures, but the fundamentals of the Rule are intended to be frozen until 31st Dec 2010.

Regarding the other GP classes, the first GP 26 has been built in Italy by Giorgio Grassi for buyer Giuseppe Giuffre, and others have started in South America. The GP 33 is showing interest in South America, and several other fleets are showing an increasing interest.

The ORC Management Committee has agreed to extend the same concept of One-Design IMS certificates to the GP Classes. This means that for each one of the GP classes every year a “Class” IMS certificate will be issued, that will be the identical for all boats belonging to the class, and will enable GP boats to participate in handicap events without requiring a full IMS measurement.

South American Offshore Sailing

ORC organized a seminar about IMS and ORC Club in Argentina, followed by another one at Ilha Bella, Brazil, as part of the activity of the recently organised South American IMS/ORC Committee. The South American events were discussed and planning for the next years was organized. One of the decisions was to start to revalidate the IMS/ORCLCUB certificates in all South American countries at the beginning of the year instead of the beginning of June, as it was customary for Southern Hemisphere countries.

New ORC constituencies

Some fleets have expressed the desire to use ORC Club instead of their local PHRF or simple rating systems, and this has led to successful experiments in Korea, Texas and Ukraine. The eastern Baltic countries and Russia have also shown good interest in developing IMS/ORC Club. The central European countries (Austria, Slovakia, Tzchech Republic, Hungary) have had successful series of events in the Adriatic, coordinated by Zoran Grubica and the Croatian Rating Office, but also working on their own to organize fleets mostly composed of charter boats and used to rather primitive yardstick handicaps.

A new ORC Rating Office has been established in Valetta, Malta. Godwin Zammit is the appointed Rating Officer and Chief Measurer and Royal Malta Yacht Club will be the ORC Nominating body for Malta.

Portugal will revert to ORC Club

In a letter of September 2006 to ORC, the Associação Portuguesa de Regatas (APR) and the Associação Naval de Lisboa (ANL) announced their intent to revert to ORC Club for the offshore racing in 2007, a step towards the integration with the existing IMS fleets now limited to the more competitive yachts.

Standard ORC Club certificate applications

ORC has started a project to offer standard certificate applications for ORC Club, to be offered for series production boats from major manufacturers. These applications for ORC Club certificates are to be sent by the owner to national rating offices or to ORC central processing office. This is intended to speed up the process and cut costs.

IMS One Design Certificate for X-35

An IMS One Design certificate has been issued for the new class of the X-35. This means that any boat of the class that want to compete in any IMS event (and is in compliance with the Class Rules) can obtain a "class" IMS certificate that does not require any further measurement or declaration.

The X-35 joins the family of several One Design classes having an OD IMS certificate, with identical handicaps and measurements for all individuals of the class.

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