

# International Model Power Boat Association

## Special Executive Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 30, 2017

- Phone Conference •

### **Present:**

President, Chris Rupley

Vice/ Past President, Kevin Sheren

Secretary, Lynne Rupley

District 1, Luc White

District 2, Tom Kelly

District 3, John Otto

District 5, Paul Traufler

District 12, John Crouch

District 13, Doug Smock

District 14, Mike Schindler

National Nitro Director, Mike Betke

National Gas Director, Matt Schofield

Past President, Bill Zuber

### **Absent:**

Treasurer, Mike Chirillo

District 4, Alan Archer

District 6, Larry Conrad

District 7, Jim Nissen

National Fast Electric Director, Chris Harris

*(Natl OB Dir., Natl Scale Dir., National Safety,  
Records Dir., National Tech Rev. Chair,  
National Tech Rev. Mono,  
National Tech Rev. Hydro,  
are non-voting positions)*

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

President Chris Rupley called the Special Meeting of the Voting Board to order at **8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT**. The Secretary took roll call.

**MOTION** by D12 John Crouch to suspend the regular order of business to discuss limited items during this meeting. **SECOND** by D5 Paul Traufler. Motion carried without dissent.

### **Discussion Item 1 – INTERNATS FORMAT:**

President Chris Rupley noted that current rules state “specialty classes” must be run after US-1 events. Chris would like the board to consider allowing the host club to deviate from this rule as necessary if it would help bring numbers up. Discussion followed. PP Bill Zuber noted that rain delays or equipment delays could cause issues in getting US-1 events in. Mike noted B-Sport Tunnel and Team Marathon are the only specialty classes and neither has enough to make a class at this point. Chris noted it was ultimately up to the host club, but wanted to offer any deviations that could help bring up entry numbers.

**MOTION** by D1 to allow deviations from standard Internats rules as regards to Specialty Classes. **SECOND** by John Otto D3. None opposed.

### **Discussion Item 2 - PROCEDURES SECTION:**

President intends to redraft the Procedures section of the rule book to include all power sources. Currently it only addresses Nitro in the International Regatta section. This section should address LSG and FE as well since each power source holds its own “International Regatta” or “Nationals” events. Chris intends to make rules generic to all and to list the various formats allowed for a “National” event. Currently the only place they are officially listed is in the FE section. PP Bill Zuber noted that the “Internats Handbook” has that information. Secretary noted the only versions on backup are all draft versions with editing notations – she has no final version in files. Chris intends to take language for formats as voted on in FE section and combine with the US-1 details.

President feels classes eligible for National and International Champion status should be listed under the proper power section. This would also cut down on information getting changed in one section but not in another where it is repeated. Chris asked for members to email him with any suggestions.

### **Discussion about whether proposal to run Internats every 5 years was voted on in previous years.**

Secretary noted that while this item appears in meeting minutes (May 31, 2012 which can be found online), there was no follow-up vote or adoption of the rule in subsequent minutes or Roostertails.

### **Discussion Item 3 – NATIONAL GAS DIRECTOR :**

LSG Director Matt Schofield reported that a club has submitted a bid for the 2018 Gas Nationals event. Proposed dates are June 15-17. Format to be shoot-out. Club has held previous events.

**MOTION** by D1 to accept club bid and announce location at 2017 event. **SECOND** by D13 Doug Smock. None opposed.

### **Discussion Item 4 – NATIONAL NITRO DIRECTOR :**

National Nitro Director Mike Betke discussed concerns about US-1 format. 15 classes offered, but at this time only 4 are eligible for US-1 status based on 8 boat count. A couple more are close. Concerned that entries are not coming in by now for an event that someone needs to take extended vacation to attend. Bill Z. stated that races are taking longer to fill up, and felt that as it gets closer to deadline of May 11 they will see an uptick in entries. The club plans to continue on with original plan and feels they have spoken with members who plan to come but haven't "officially" entered.

Mike B. wanted Bill and Paul to clarify the boat count for heat racing as none is listed in any of the information put out by Huntsville. Past practice is 5 boats at a National event. Board agreed this is past practice. Bill will pass this on to the club.

Mike Schindler asked for clarification on fees collected for Time Trials and refund policy. Members expressed feedback from members that pricing for event entry may be a factor in low entries. Rules were changed in the 90s to put Time Trials last on schedule so that only eligible US-1 racers had to pay additional Time Trial fee. Discussion followed as to whether or not this saved time and if it affected members staying for banquet. No consensus of opinion was reached.

John Otto noted that short 3-day format nationals has been more successful in Florida, and they implemented a policy where all entry fees (minus host club expenses) were given out as prizes and covered food costs. This seemed to attract more racers as they knew they would have the chance at great prizes/gift certificates. It was noted that this was also a factor for why Hobart was such a successful event.

President discussed the issues with the long US-1 format and noted that shorter events are generally better attended. Attempts to hold a long format event in recent years were unsuccessful. He wished Huntsville success and hoped the late entries filled up the US-1 classes for them.

As Nitro Director he would like to see an end to the derogatory comments about racers not being "true National champions" if an event is not a US-1 format. Mike B. stated that working on the procedures section and detailing the options available will hopefully help clubs choose a format/length that works for current economic and family conditions and the members going forward. We don't want to have to change/cancel events at last minute.

Mike S. reported that Hobart is definitely cancelled, so that announcement may gain entries for Huntsville since that was a large draw Nitro event.

**ACTION:** D5 Paul Trauffer will pass concerns & suggestions on to the Huntsville club, but feels they will likely stay the course for a few more weeks to see how things look closer to deadline before any changes to the format would be considered.

### **Discussion Item 5 – EXCELLENCE OF PERFORMANCE TROPHY :**

President discussed the condition and cost of shipping this trophy (\$278 @ 37 lbs.) It is inches away from going palette size (36") which would be very expensive. There are 10 spaces available on the current bottom level. It is in poor condition. Some tarnish, but also pitting of the metal. Trophy shops locally cannot refurbish it.

The recipient of the plate on the trophy also receives a replacement plaque. We will get as close as possible to previous style. Josh Black plate (\$6) was not added and plaque was not received from 2012. These have been ordered. (\$150 plus shipping)

In general costs of all trophies have gone up. We will need to consider changing the style going forward. Our income is down. PayPal is VERY convenient for guys, but we do lose some money per membership to fees vs. receiving checks on top of having fewer full-year paid senior members.

D5 noted that a dirt-bike organization he is involved with gets trophies much less than this. Secretary was very reluctant to make any suggestions to change from "traditional" style for this year's US-1 event. Perhaps going forward.

President asks for suggestions from the board on what to do with large Excellence of Performance 3-tier trophy. D13 Doug Smock suggests taking pictures for archiving in rule book and retiring it. Bill Zuber suggests asking membership if anyone wants.

**MOTION:** D14 Mike Schindler to put notice in next Roostertail issue asking any interested party to contact office or it will be destroyed by end of this year. If no one requests it, the plates could be removed and sent to original recipient where possible. SECOND D13 Doug Smock. None opposed. Motion passed.

**UPDATE:** Bill Zuber contacted office. Huntsville is taking trophy. Bill arranged for Steve Ball to pick up from Toledo and deliver to them at Internats.

Discussion followed about ordering of other trophies: President's Cup (\$95), William LeFeber (\$45), Excellence of Performance Plaque (\$150), and US-1s (\$150 each-final number tbd) will be ordered and paid for by IMPBA per past practice. Trophy shop used in past is in Decatur, AL. D14 Mike S. is also getting a quote on cost of US-1 from a vendor in Illinois that they used last time they held Internats, and he will let us know.

**FOLLOW UP:** Nulmage will provide same plaques as previous years @ \$120 each. (mike's vendor was more) Since she is in Decatur, the Huntsville club can pick items up to save the shipping costs. She will put a "placeholder" plate on plaque so recipient can take base home (same for EOP). We will provide a list of recipients and addresses and she will then ship the actual final plates after the race.

Bill later contacted Secretary about also purchasing US-1 embroidered patches and rockers. Club has source. They will see if they can order. IMPBA will not purchase any large quantities, so they must be able to get small quantity and one-off patches.

### **ANNUAL MEETING:**

President asked D5 to coordinate the annual meeting in Huntsville. Paul will be the only Director there. At this time, we will anticipate the meeting being a phone conference. Secretary will supply packets for any guest attendees and slips for LeFeber voting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was requested.

**MOTION** by PP Bill Zuber to adjourn. SECOND by D1 Luc White.

**Meeting adjourned 9:20 PM. ET.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Rupley,  
Secretary