

International Model Power Boat Association

2013 Telephonic Board of Directors Meeting

November 5th, 2013

7:00 PM Central Time

MINUTES

Present:

President, Chris Rupley
Executive Secretary, John Equi
District 1, Luc White
District 2, Tom Kelly
District 4, Paul Bychowski
District 12, Don Ferrette
District 13, Doug Smock
District 14, Mike Schindler
National Record Director, Doug Smock
National Outboard Director, Bob Kensill
National Gas Director, Chris Rupley
National Nitro Director, Don Ferrette
Past President, Kevin Sheren

Absent:

District 3, John Otto
District 5, Paul Traufler
District 6, Larry Conrad
District 7, Jim Nissen
National Fast Electric Director, Chris Harris
Past President, Bill Zuber

DRAFT COPY

President Chris Rupley called the meeting to order. Chris then asked the Secretary to take a roll call. Secretary determined a quorum was present for the meeting. The minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting were accepted with a motion by D1 Luc White, and seconded by D4 Paul Bychowski; voice vote approval.

Treasurers Report – Brian Schymik reported that he was driving home from work, he would log onto the meeting when he got to the house where he has the paperwork.

Chris then moved on to the district reports.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

D1 – Luc reported that they had a great season and that everything is going well. Not too much is going on now.

D2 – Tom is working on the 2014 schedule for next season. He believes he will add 2 races to the schedule that will replace a couple of events that dropped off. One of his clubs that has not had a race in a few years would like to get back into the schedule. It will be another full season for 2014.

D3 – Absent

D4 – Paul explained that all of the D4 races are over for the season and now he is in the process of setting up club meetings and getting their race agenda for the season. The District meeting will be on December 7th. He is looking forward to racing next season.

D5 – Absent

D6 – Absent

D7 – Absent

D12 – Don said that their season has just completed with the last event being the SAW record trials (Elizabeth City, NC). The last 2 races in D12 had over 100 boats which he has not seen in a couple of seasons. He further explained that the Old Dominion club is back with a new pond and will be active in 2014. Things are looking good across the board in the district.

D13 – Everything is going real well this year. Doug is working to finalize the racing schedule and getting it published. They are ready to rock next year.

D14 – Mike told everyone that they just finished up a couple of weeks ago with the last district race. He is just starting to put the race schedule together for next year. He is working with Greg Hahn (Muncie club) trying to get a good date for his race next year to insure the event is successful. He is working with the other clubs to make sure they have what they need, the same as what was accomplished this year.

Gas Director – Chris Rupley informed us he is having a hard time finding a club that wants to host the Gas Nats next year. He will contact a few other clubs. He asked the Directors to inquire if they know of a club that wants to host the event and give him a call. He further explained that it is not a huge race, it averages around 150 boats over 3 days, so it's not fast paced. There is not a lot required for clubs to host it, so if anyone has information, please let him know.

Nitro Director – Don Ferrette is working on a couple of things concerning the Nitro Nats in 2014, but nothing yet. He is also working for something in 2015 but nobody has stepped up yet. Chris mentioned that he talked with D14 Director, Mike Schindler, but is pretty sure they have not decided as yet for 2014. Mike then explained that he is working with his pond land owner but the land owner is slow to reply to Mike's questions. Mike does not want to delay until the last minute to host, but he must be sure that the lake is in good condition for the event. Maybe something will be obtained in the next few weeks. The River City Club has talked about hosting, but they need positive feedback from the land owner since he is in the process of site improvement. Don wishes to be kept informed of progress; he knows that the site is really nice up in Evansville, IN. That location is the only event location right now. Mike will continue to work with the land owner.

Outboard Director - New Board Member, Bob Kensill has a couple of things in the works. He is working with the NAMBA Outboard Director on the Sport 21 Outboard rules in an attempt to get the rules very close to identical. The other task is the class specifications for the Gas Outboard class, and the Super Stock 45 Tunnel class. He will prepare the 2 documents and send them to the BOD for examination. Comments were called for; there were none.

Past President then had a comment to share on another topic. He recently attended a Record Trials and observed some safety violations. People were sitting within 3 to 5 feet of the water while 100 MPH boats were running. Our rules are specific and must be followed; they were adjusted for Record Trials. Kevin personally took 1000 yards of caution tape, 50 stakes and 10 IMPBA members' signs to erect a barrier. None of the local clubs had anything in place. He further mentioned that we must be very careful to not lose our insurance. President Chris Rupley was aware of the location and would be attending their spring event. Maybe sanctions should be pulled to stop the violations. Don Ferrette had good comments resulting from talks with his lawyer friend. The caution tape will indicate a danger area to visitors; the club has taken steps to protect everyone. An attempt would have been made to give a warning, if someone slips under the tape; they made the choice to enter a restricted area. Doug Smock, Records Director, added good comments. Chris concluded with a summary of good practices.

Treasurer Report – Brian Schymik came onto the conference. He gave a detailed report based on a financial sheet prepared by Secretary John Equi. The organization is in good financial position with combined cash availability of around \$40,000.00. That includes the medical money market fund of \$15,200.00, and \$24,000.00 in the checkbook. Brian thanked John for the accurate record keeping throughout the year. John also keeps expenditures to an absolute minimum. Brian called for questions and there were none. Chris called for a motion to accept, D4 Paul offered and was seconded by Kevin, our Past President. Chris complimented Brian & John on a job well done.

OLD BUSINESS

Sport 40 Strut Placement from D4 Paul Bychowski – This has been out for a one-year trial and now goes to the membership for a vote. Chris called for comments, but there were none.
This goes out as a ballot vote.

Racing Rule Amendment by Doug Smock – Chris explained that this was also out for a one-year trial, and called for any questions or comments and there were none. This goes out as a ballot vote.

Disabled Boat Points Allowance by John Knight – This has been out for a one-year trial. Chris called for comments. Brian Schymik likes the proposal. This goes out as a ballot vote.

Gas Scale Unlimited Rules by Don Ferrette – Chris commended Don for a good job compiling the new rules. This was out for a one-year trial. Chris called for comments and there were none.
This goes out for a ballot vote.

Kevin expanded on the Gas Scale rules with a question to D14 Director Mike Schindler. How did the Gas Scale boats run at his ponds? They had 5 gas boats this year and just used regular heat racing format. Next year, he will use the new rules. D12 Don mentioned that they had a few gas scales, but none were ready to run. Chris mentioned that he thinks the gas scale will be real popular and really take off soon.

Secretary then asked for a definitive answer concerning the previous old business ballots. Answer was to place in the December Roostertail. D1 Luc had a question as to when the voting would actually start. Discussion ensued by John, Luc about time frame and ballot process. D12 Don suggested that December 31 should be the close of voting. Kevin agreed and told the Directors to get their articles in to the office quickly. Chris mentioned that the ballots were for the one-year trial items, everyone has already read about the changes.

NEW BUSINESS

Constitution Wording Clarification by Brian Schymik – Brian and Chris have been looking at this change for a while. He directed everyone to look at the documents they received from the Secretary. In Section B-5 there have been confusing wordings for years. Most recently Chris has made changes that have helped a lot, but there is still duplicate wording and paragraphs that need to be cleaned up. Brian then explained various paragraphs in detail and accentuated the problem areas. His proposal was on a single sheet which completely resolved the duplication and confusion. His change will now read exactly as needed, based on the original intent. He then called for comments. Chris mentioned that the proposal did not really change anything; it just put things in a correct order that makes sense. It did not need to go to the membership in his opinion. D12 Don acknowledged a re-organization. Brian mentioned a tiny change where he added the requirement for 5 members' names on any submitted proposals. There have been requirements in the past for 5 names, then 10 names, then no names though nothing was ever written in this particular spot.

Chris had comments about the numbers. D2 Tom realized that pages B-5 & B-6 are now better organized from what he reads. Kevin had comments. Chris called for a motion to add Brian’s change to the constitution; D12 Don offered the motion, D2 seconded. A vote was then called for: Secretary reiterated the impending action to the fact that this goes directly into the rule book. D4 Paul had a question and was answered by Brian. Secretary called for a vote:

D1 – Yes	D5 – Absent	D13 – Yes	Nitro - Yes	
D2 – Yes	D6 – Yes (Proxy)	D14 – Yes	PP - Yes	Proposal
D3 – Absent	D7 – Absent	FE – Absent		Passes
D4 – Yes	D12 – Yes	Gas – Yes		

Outcome: Proposal will be merged into the rule book replacing wording on pages B-5 & B-6.

Constitution Change by Mike Schindler – Chris called for Mike to explain the change. Basically, he wanted to add wording that says “all IMPBA ballots put to a vote by membership must be voted on between the months of May and September. The topic will be posted in the Roostertail at least one quarter before any voting is started. This will allow the District Directors an opportunity to hear from their constituents how a rule is going to affect the overall membership”. This will add transparency to the IMPBA, everything is done out in the open, not behind anyone’s back. Kevin mentioned that the voter turnout in the mentioned months has been horrible, but likes putting them in one full quarter before it goes to anybody, we do have a discussion. Many comments by Kevin, Mike and D12 Don who also liked one full quarter to review any items. Chris reminded us that the items must be submitted 30 days before any meeting that must be considered before sending anything out. Don said that racing rule changes were the ones people were complaining about. Chris does not like tying our hands to only the two months, but does like getting ideas out to allow members to look things over. Discussion continued for several minutes. D13 Doug voiced good points about using trial rules. D2 Tom had questions about the active timeframe for member votes. Mike voiced the opinion that the members need at least 30 days to vote. Don told us that the best voter turnout was always in the winter months. The ballots need to go out when we have the maximum number of members. Springtime and summertime we can talk about proposals. More discussion by D2, Mike, D12 Don, Kevin and Chris followed. The basic change would give members a full quarter to understand what the rules would be before the Board votes on it. After almost 20 minutes of intense discussion and numerous re-writing, it was decided to send it back to Mike Schindler for an official rewording. (Mike did submit a new proposal after the meeting concluded which read: “all racing rule proposals reviewed by the Board will be published in the Roostertail for one full quarter before being voted on by the membership in the following calendar quarter with the exception of one-year trials”. IMPBA President Chris Rupley then contacted each Director per established protocol and received authorization to send the proposal out to the membership for a member vote).

Outcome: proposal will be sent out for a membership vote.

Super Sport Exhaust Rules Proposal by Past President Kevin Sheren – Chris asked Kevin to talk about his change. Kevin tried to lay it out so it was real easy; all it does is promote the class. Most of the boats are over the noise limit and secondly, it’s a safety issue with the exhaust blowing right into the pit man’s face. This allows the new boater to come in with the Aquacraft hull and the Horizon boat right out of the box since they come with tuned pipes. Kevin says the class will grow and bring in new people. The change benefits IMPBA and the members. Chris agrees with Kevin. These boats follow the Thunderboat engine rules. Kevin mentioned that D12 had the class. D12 Don elaborated on what they have been doing, external reliability changes but no internal changes. Several Directors had positive comments, including out newest Director Bob Kensill.

Kevin would like to have the proposal go out for a one-year trial, but it is ultimately up to the Board to decide. Several directors liked the one-year trial. Records Director Doug stated that records for the class would not be allowed with tuned pipes under the one year. Chris called for any additional comments. D2 Tom welcomed any RTR boats that met the rules for this class. Chris then called for a motion for a one-year trial, D1 Luc offered & D2 Tom seconded. A vote followed:

D1 – Yes	D5 – Absent	D13 – Yes	Nitro - Yes	
D2 – Yes	D6 – Abstain (Proxy)	D14 – Yes	PP - Yes	Proposal
D3 – Absent	D7 – Absent	FE – Absent		Passes
D4 – Yes	D12 – Yes	Gas – Yes		

Outcome: Approved for one-year trial in 2014.

FE Classes Voltage Limits by Doug Smock – Chris had Doug explain the change. Doug had some evidence that the FE LI-PO batteries are being “pushed” basically over charging the cell packs. This is a very dangerous practice that can result in an explosion or fire. IMPBA has plus and minus voltages percentages in the rule book. Doug went on to say that he had a long discussion with our Fast Electric Director Chris Harris and both of them agreed that the existing 17% figure could almost be said that IMPBA is promoting over charging. We are not promoting this, but the discussion exists. He has checked several current records and believes the 4.23 volts per cell will get things covered and eliminate anyone over charging. The voltage must be checked before the boats go in the water at record trials, but not so much at heat racing since there is no advantage. His recommendation is to assign a maximum voltage per cell and remove the percentages. The biggest aspect is the safety aspect. Many Directors along with Chris Rupley and Kevin Sheren had questions for Doug. For more than 15 minutes, there was a highly technical question and answer period with all Directors getting satisfactory answers. It was ultimately agreed that Doug’s 4.23 volt per cell was a good number, and he clarified what needed to be changed in the rule book voltage limits table. Since this was a safety change, the Board will add notations in the Safety section and the FE section of the rule book. Chris calls for a motion to make the change, D2 Tom offered and Kevin seconded. Chris has John take a Director vote:

D1 – Yes	D5 – Absent	D13 – Yes	Nitro - Yes	
D2 – Yes	D6 – Yes	D14 – Yes	PP - Yes	Proposal
D3 – Absent	D7 – Absent	FE – Yes		Passes
D4 – Yes	D12 – Yes	Gas – Yes		

Final Outcome: Wording will be added to the Safety section for FE LI-PO cells to be at a maximum of 4.23 volts per cell for time trials before a run. Same data will appear in the Fast Electric, Section J.

Race Name Change from John Knight at the Charleston Model Boaters (CMB): Chris read the proposal; John Knight wishes to change the race name from the existing “World Outboard Tunnel Championships (WTC)” to “IMPBA Tunnel Nationals”. John needs Board approval to add the “National” name to the race title. Chris calls for discussion. D12 Don likes the change since it’s a specified event; we have a Gas Nationals and an FE Nationals. Chris mentioned that it is a big tunnel race. Don says changing the name makes more sense. O/B Director, Bob thinks that changing this might take the outboards out of the yearly International Regatta. Chris also thought about this, if the tunnels have their own Nationals, do we need to include them in the Nitro Nationals? Bob added that it would make the Nitro Nats smaller, maybe more affordable. Kevin disagreed, he thinks leaving the name as is better. Previous discussions on using the word “Nationals” is that using that word should be minimized.

They already have the Fall Nationals. This would place two “Nationals” with the Charleston club. The current name of “world” is working very well; they brought in 200 boats last year and 300 in 2013. Chris said this is a big race, all tunnel boats. D14 Mike does not see the need to change; using “Nationals” continues to detract from our National races. D4 Paul had comments about the grandfathered in “Nationals”, only the 3 current Nats, the Nitro, Gas and the Fast Electric. Kevin then asked why the CMB club sold out in 6 hours with 325 boats. People look at this Tunnel race as a National race. Extensive discussion by almost all directors for 15 minutes. D13 Doug likes something like “IMPBA Tunnel Championships,” D12 Don was thinking the same thing, “IMPBA Outboard Tunnel Championships.” Kevin likes this wording, Bob Kensill gave everyone some historical data concerning outboards and how the class broke from pure hydros. Since the outboards have grown bigger and bigger in popularity, it might be time for a Tunnel Nationals. D14 Mike had statistical numbers from previous regattas. Bob then reiterated that John Knight is requesting a specific name change. Don offered a possibility of it being tabled to see if John accepts our options. Kevin offered a two fold motion that we turn down their request for “IMPBA Tunnel Nationals” and if they wish to change it to the “IMPBA Outboard Tunnel Championships,” then the Board could agree to it. He then offered a motion for a yes or no vote to allow them to use the name of the “Tunnel Nationals.” Chris agrees with Kevin’s proposal. Bob told us that the club wants the new name; he’s a member of the club. D4 Paul offered a second. Secretary repeated the intent of the vote for clarification, all agreed and then went for a District vote.

D1 – No	D5 – Absent	D13 – Yes	Nitro - Abstain	
D2 – No	D6 – Abstain	D14 – No	PP - No	Proposal
D3 – Absent	D7 – Absent	FE – Abstain		Fails
D4 – No	D12 – No	Gas – Abstain		

Final Outcome: John Knight race name change fails; Bob Kensill will convey the word to John Knight and the CMB club.

Northern Nationals Site Change by Tom Kelly and Chris Rupley – Chris explained that this event was held in a northern Ontario pond for years, but the London club has lost their pond. Another club in Canada, an hour south, still in D2 would like to take over the Northern Nationals. It’s the Southern Ontario Model Boat club; Tony Jacuzzi is their President. They would like to pick up that event with the Board’s approval. D4 had questions which were answered. Chris had questions which were answered. Chris then called for discussion. D14 Mike had no problems with the change. D12 Don thought that they held the event in 2013, and asked if they would have the race in 2014. The answer was yes, no break in conducting the race. If the new club is approved to host, then they must be aware of no rules deviations. Discussion was concluded, Chris called for a motion to allow as requested. D1 made the motion, D14 seconded. Secretary read what was being voted on, and added that the club must follow National rules, no deviations; examples voiced are no open mono, no open riggers.

D1 – Yes	D5 – Absent	D13 – Abstain	Nitro - Yes	
D2 – Yes	D6 – Yes	D14 – Yes	PP - Yes	Proposal
D3 – Absent	D7 – Absent	FE – Abstain		Passes
D4 – Abstain	D12 – Yes	Gas – Yes		

Final Outcome: Southern Ontario club can assume the Northern Nationals race provided there is no deviation from National rules.

Wrist Band Activity by Secretary John Equi – 7500 bands were purchased and 5070 were distributed to the clubs. He would like for each Director to contact their clubs to find out how many they have left. The clubs also need to anticipate how many they will need for their 2014 schedule. If more are needed, the clubs could call their Director for more. D2 Tom had questions and received a good answer. The bands sent were for a full year's use, all races the club hosts.

Other New Business – Secretary relayed information that IMPBA has 980 total paid and life members. This comprised 733 Senior, 196 Family & Junior for a total of 929 paid, as of November 5. D1 Luc has picked up members, as well as D12 with an old club returning next year.

2014 Regatta Location – D14 Mike is currently talking with their landowner and expects a solid answer by Thanksgiving. Bob Kensill mentioned that Charleston is interested. Chris would like to hear from D14, then Charleston.

Executive Session: Meeting continued with only the elected voting board members for about 20 minutes.

At the end of the business part, the Secretary John Equi announced that he is retiring from the Secretary position for IMPBA, a position he has held for nine years. He will stay on for several months and complete the insurance buy since everything was already in place. He will also assist the new Secretary with training to provide a smooth transition. Discussion ensued. Chris Rupley's wife, Lynne would like the position. More discussion followed, and then a vote was taken. All approved. **Final Outcome: Lynne Rupley is the new Secretary.**

Motion to adjourn was made by D2 Tom and seconded by Kevin Sheren.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM CST.