



## Australian Laser Class Association Inc

### Annual General Meeting Minutes

30<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – 9.00 am

### Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Manly Qld

Meeting Opened: 9.00 am

#### 1. Attendance

Ken Hurling (QLD, ALCA President), Kevin Phillips (NSW & ACT, ALCA Secretary), Michael Wilson (QLD President), Martin Hinks (SA), Roger King (TAS President), Peter Merritt (VIC), Anne Littlewood (WA) Don Elks (WA, ALCA Youth Representative), Julie Gilham (WA), Jenny Merritt (VIC), Michael McAullay (WA), Daniel Self (QLD), Steve Bryant (NSW & ACT), Kerry Waraker (QLD), Chris Caldecoat (NSW & ACT), Paul Gilham (WA), Brady Lowe (QLD), Michael Wilson (QLD), Mark Taylor (WA), Chris Kelly (WA), Michael Blackburn (NSW), Matt Wearn (WA), Finn Alexander (NSW & ACT), Clare Alexander (NSW & ACT), Ian Alexander (NSW & ACT), Charlotte Alexander (NSW & ACT), Richard Scarr (TAS), Amanda Sargent (TAS), Luke Elliott (WA), Martyn Compton (WA), Mike Gluskie (TAS), Tom Burton (NSW & ACT), Ashley Brunning (QLD), Luke Aulich (VIC), Kath Herrmann (NSW), Rob McMillan (NSW & ACT)

2. **Apologies:** Geoff Lucas (NSW/ACT, ALCA Treasurer), Rob Lowndes (NSW/ACT, ALCA Masters Representative), John d’Helin (VIC President, ALCA Vice President), Bruce Utting (WA President), Julian Bennett (SA President) Gary Martin (NT President)

3. **District Representatives for Voting :** Michael Wilson (QLD), Martin Hinks (SA), Roger King (TAS), Peter Merritt (VIC), Anne Littlewood (WA), Kevin Phillips (NSW & ACT), Ken Hurling (NT)

4. **Confirmation of minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held at Adelaide Sailing Club on 30 December 2016. Moved by Daniel Self, seconded Chris Caldecoat. Accepted.

5. **Business arising:** Item 10 - Note that the ranking of sailors for World Championships other than Masters is unchanged. It remains as posted on the ALCA web site. The new Masters ranking policy introduced on 23 July 2017 is posted on the web site.

#### 6. Reports

**Treasurer:** Treasurer’s report presented by Kevin Phillips on behalf of Geoff Lucas. Report attached. Financial reports (profit and loss, balance sheet) tabled. Moved by Kevin Phillips, seconded Anne Littlewood. Accepted.

**Tasmania District:** Roger King – report attached.

**Victoria District:** Peter Merritt presented John d’Helin’s report – report attached.

**Western Australia District:** Anne Littlewood presented Bruce Utting’s report – report attached.

**NSW & ACT District:** Kevin Phillips – report attached.

**South Australia District:** – report attached.

**Queensland District:** Mike Wilson. There has been a modest growth in membership numbers. Attempts to overcome the issues of distance e.g. Brisbane to Cairns is the same distance as Brisbane to Melbourne. QLA is running Laser sailing forums for all Brisbane clubs. District has healthy financial position and is providing some funds for travel grants to sailors. QLA experience strong Youth and Masters participation but are losing many sailors to life's other interests and challenges in the mid years. Questioned how to retain?

Lots of work needed and undertaken for the Open and Masters Nationals – Mike suggested documenting the process covering the many organisational issues involved. He expressed appreciation for great effort of the District and RQYS and also for the provision of the web site and Facebook presence arranged by PSA.

**Northern Territory:** Kevin Phillips presented Gary Martin's report - report attached.

**Youth Representative:** Don Elks - report attached.

**Masters Representative:** Kevin Phillips presented Rob Lowndes' report - report attached.

**ALCA Chairman:** Ken Hurling - report attached.

## **7. Election of Office Bearers**

President - Ken Hurling (Qld); Vice president - John d'Helin (VIC); Secretary - Kevin Phillips (NSW); Treasurer/Public Officer - Geoff Lucas (NSW). Elected unopposed.

## **8. Sub-Committee Representatives**

Youth – Don Elks and Masters – Rob Lowndes

## **9. Oceania & Australian Championships Rotation and Timing**

With ILCA adopting Oceania as new region and loss of World Sailing World Cup events from southern hemisphere the proposal, as put to the previous AGM in Adelaide, to incorporate the Oceania Continental (Regional) Laser Championships (a 100 points event) with the nationals has been implemented. What was seen by many as needing attention now was to review the timing and arrangements for the event.

The three main issues which had been identified are:

1. People have to travel on or before Christmas Day – a particular problem for WA and Tasmania sailors and for all other sailors when the Nationals are in those states.
2. There is a gap between the end of our Nationals and the AS Youth Championships – this year this is a full 6 days (5-10th January)
3. The event is too long (currently 2 days for measurement and registration 6 days of sailing and 1 lay day i.e. 9 days in total)

There was considerable discussion, summarised below on ideas to improve the arrangements. The decision on this is for the ALCA committee to take.

Most speakers were in favour of starting the event later so that sailors and families could spend Christmas at home even if they have to travel a long distance to the event.

The Australian Sailing Team and others were happy with the rotation arrangement but in favour of a shorter series in terms of days and races. 4-5 days and 8 to 10 races were variously suggested.

Some 44% of the sailors in the Laser Nationals stay on to sail in the AS Youth Championships so unsurprisingly there was a view that a later start to the Laser Nationals and a consequent much reduced gap between the events was a good idea and would reduce costs for families.

Changes outside ALCA's control have been rumoured for the AS Youth Championship and arrangements and timing for AS Sail Melbourne, Sail Sydney and possible a Sail Brisbane. Whatever changes ALCA makes to Laser Nationals may need to be revisited if and when these changes materialise.

Ken Hurling undertook to consult with ALCA districts and in particular Tasmania and Victoria who have upcoming events whose arrangements may not be easily varied. A decision on any event timing and length changes was targeted for announcement at the Nationals Presentation 4 January 2018 allowing good time for sailors to plan ahead for accommodation and travel – Action Ken Hurling.

#### **10. General Business**

**Third Party Insurance for Sailors in International Events:** Anne Littlewood WA initially raised the issue of the cost and the hit and miss nature of this insurance. It was resolved that Geoff Lucas would reactivate enquiries with local insurance companies and then communicate recommendations and options – Action Geoff Lucas

Meeting closed 10.55 am



## Treasurer's Report Year Ended 30 June 2017

My apologies for not being able to attend this year's AGM as I am out of the country.

You will see from the financial statements, the operations for the above financial year resulted in a net surplus of \$1,912.93.

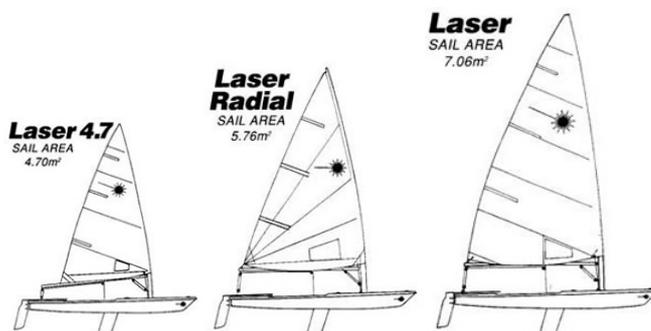
You will note from the Income & Expenditure Account, total income from district levies of \$4,710.00 was down slightly on the previous year's figure and reflected the drop in financial members throughout Australia for the 2015-2016 sailing season to a total of 626 (which figure includes life members). The expenses were also down from those of the previous year and resulted in a surplus of \$1,912.93.

In the Balance Sheet, the Westpac current account balance at 30 June 2017 of \$45,949.93 also includes the trust funds held on behalf of Radial and 4.7 Youth Worlds contestants. Therefore the Net Assets figure of \$20,608.08 represents the actual funds owned by the Association.

As you are probably aware, ALCA acts as a "banker" for the contributions paid by the above youth contestants. From those contributions and subsidies received from Australian Sailing, ALCA pays for the costs of RIB hire, fuel, coaches' air fares, coaches' accommodation costs and other small expense items. The budgets for those events are prepared by Don Elks and I wish to thank Don for his meticulous work in that regard.

Thank you

Geoff Lucas  
Hon. Treasurer  
2 December 2017





## Tasmanian District Laser Association

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8 January, 2018

Mr Kevin Phillips  
Secretary, ALCA

Dear Kevin

### ***2018 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE AUSTRALIAN LASER CLASS ASSOCIATION (ALCA)***

The Tasmanian District Laser Association continues to grow both in membership and capability. More Tasmanian junior sailors are choosing the laser as their “next step” boat of choice. The state-wide coaching program has continued throughout the season under coach Sean Bly’s direction. Four of our sailors attended the youth worlds in 2017 (4.7 and Radial).

The TDLA received funding from the Tasmanian government to purchase a 5.5 metre RHIB to continue and improve its coaching and regatta program. This will bypass the need to continually request equipment from yacht clubs at often inconvenient periods of the year. The TDLA is in a sound financial position balancing its books for the year and with a term deposit providing a small annual return.

The TDLA has commenced working with the Mersey Yacht club to host the 2019 Oceania and National Championships. This is will be the first time that the Nationals will have been held outside of Hobart since 1975, when they were last hosted by MYC. The MYC is sited on large grounds on the banks of the Mersey River which flows through Devonport. The racing will be held in Bass Strait on a course some 2.5 nautical miles from the club. The course is open to the sea to the North and winds are generally from the North to North West at around 10 to 20 knots. The MYC is a short distance from the TT Line “Spirit” terminal and adjacent to Trans Bass Strait freight operator Searoad. There is a regional airport at Devonport and a major air passenger terminal at Launceston, 1 hours’ drive away. Accommodation in the area is varied and affordable. There are many activities for athletes supporters in the area. It is believed that the added cost of transport to Tasmania will be offset by the affordability of the Tasmanian experience.

Yours sincerely, **Roger C King**

President

Tasmanian District Laser Association

## **Victorian Laser association 2017 ALCA AGM report.**

At the AGM last year, I indicated we would be making a bid to hold Laser world championships in Victoria in 2020. After completion of the Adelaide Nationals, with the support of the ALCA, we formed a small bid committee which would select the venues & prepare the bid documentation. The VLA committee approved a budget of approx. 25% of our cash reserves to facilitate this process.

I am pleased to report that due to the hard work of the bid committee we have received draft contracts from ILCA for the VLA to conduct four world championships in 2020. The championships are the Open Men & Women's worlds, the Men's radial worlds & the Laser Masters Worlds.

2020 is an Olympic year. We have been advised by ILCA that the Men's & Women's events will be the final selection regattas for the Olympics. This should guarantee the events will be sold out.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the following:

- The General Manager's & Commodores of Sandringham & Royal Geelong Yacht Clubs.
- Our two members of the Laser world council, Ken Hurling & Chris Caldecoat. They lobbied ILCA long & hard to achieve this result.
- Campbell Rose, whose experience in sports administration & his unbelievable ability to open 'doors' to people of influence, was invaluable for the bid process.
- Finally, our two-hard working back room guys Peter Merritt & Jack Graves who negotiated with the clubs, prepared the budgets & developed the final bid documents.

A great job well done!

In 2020 the VLA will be conducting seven major Laser events - I doubt any class association has attempted this before! This is a major ask for clubs & volunteers, so we have decided to split the events between two clubs according to the following schedule:

Sandringham Yacht Club will host the following events:

- The Australian Laser Championship will run concurrently with Oceania continental regatta commencing on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- The Men's Standard Laser world championship will run early February 2020, followed by the Women's worlds run in conjunction with the Men's Radial worlds.

Royal Geelong Yacht Club will host the following events in March 2020.

- The Australian Laser Masters championship.
- The Laser Masters World's.

Several other Olympic classes will be running world championships in Victoria in the summer of 2020. It is anticipated that these Worlds events will attract Victorian Government major events sponsorship funding. For this reason, no official announcements will be made pending advice from Visit Victoria.

These events are only 24 months away. The VLA would hope that all the Laser districts in Australia would see this as a once in 20-year opportunity to build the numbers of sailors & improve their fleets prior to the Nationals & the Worlds. Wouldn't it be great if we could get the ALCA membership up from the current 650 to nearer 1000?

I move that this report be accepted.

John d'Helin

President- Victorian Laser Association.



## **WALA ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

This year has been another successful one for WALA. The following points are worth noting.

1. Strong performances by our members at National and International level. 25 WA sailors entered in QLD Nationals, a good result.
2. Successful State Titles at FSC and planning is well underway for 2018 at SOPYC
3. Development of new WALA website and continued development of facebook page, along with regular member emails, has enabled WALA to maintain outstanding levels of communication with our Laser community .
4. Updating of the WALA constitution to meet new regulations
5. WALA Travel Grants awarded to many sailors for their participation at International events during the Northern Hemisphere Summer season
6. Continuation of WALA Nationals Coaching Strategy . This strategy ensures all participants at Open and Youth Nationals have access to quality coaching throughout both events.
7. Forty foot Container to transport lasers to Nationals , coordinated by WALA
8. School Holiday Laser Camps – during each school holidays WALA is conducting coaching for laser 4.7 sailors, 4 hours per day over 4 days. Usually between 10- 20 participants, and we rotate around different clubs. Last camp was held during July , and future camps will be based on current demand at the time. FSC and SOPYC combined their resources to conduct a 5 day coaching camp for all sailors attending Nationals, Youths and Masters Nationals, during December 2017
9. WALA has supported several local Yacht Clubs by providing 4.7 sails and bottom sections for use in promoting the Laser Class to transitioning young sailors

I would like to acknowledge the good work done by all members of the WALA committee and thank them for their contribution to the above highlights. Also thanks must go to all Clubs who hosted Laser events throughout the year.

Bruce Utting - President WALA



# Laser



## NSW/ACT District

### **NSW & ACT District Report to ALCA AGM 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

NSW/ACT Lasers have had a successful 2016/17 season and first half of 2017/18 season.

#### NSW/ACT District Sailing

Last season we ran four district regattas which attracted 378 entries in total. This is an increase of 40% over the previous season.

So far this season had had 60 entries in our season opening Coast Championship and 128 competed in the State Championships held from Double Bay Sailing Club on Sydney Harbour in November. For this regatta we had a very high class field including 22 in the 4.7 which was very pleasing to see.

We combined our State Open and Masters Championships this season so as not to detract from the National Masters which is in the same week in which we traditionally run our own separate State Masters event. We expect strong support from NSW & ACT sailors for the Mooloolaba event.

We had good conditions for the majority of our events and thanks to our top notch RO's Col Chidgey the events ran very smoothly. For the States event at Double Bay Adam South stood in for Col and did a great job. Running big sailing events on Sydney Harbour on a summer weekend is not for the faint hearted. Adam's experience here was much appreciated.

State Standard Rig Champion for 2017/18 were recently named Australian Sailing's Youth Sailor of the Year Finn Alexander DBSC/RSYS. Marlina Berzins BDSC/RSYS, who won in the just completed Sail Sydney event, was the Radial State Champion. Mark Louis RSYS won the 4.7's event where only three points separated the first five places.

Thanks to the host clubs for putting on a great show for us. Though we pay \$1,000 per event per day to the clubs to cover their running costs. The on the water and in the club house teams make the events work. They do it just for the love of the sport and we thank them one and all.

#### International Sailing

There is a lot of elite level sailing happening in Sydney through the Australian Sailing Team activities and Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron coaching squads. The quality and skill level of these sailors as exhibited in international events is fantastic. We have been encouraging Australian Sailing to schedule their elite sailor's programs to allow these sailors to attend and compete in our local events. This we see would be great for the up and coming sailors. So far we have had limited success.

Australia and in particular NSW/ACT Laser Masters Sailors did very well in the World Masters in trying conditions at Slit Croatia in October this year.

There were 350 competitors from around the Laser world. Our District punched above its weight winning two age categories and 6 cubes over all. Congratulations to NSW & ACT winners Brett Beyer (Master Standard), Martin White (GM Radial) for their Division wins.

### NSW/ACT Membership

Overall our District membership for the year was slightly down at 227. We like to keep our membership numbers healthy not so much for revenue as we pass around half our collected membership fees onto ALCA and ILCA to help to support their activities. The greater the number of Australian Laser sailors we have as members the larger our allocation of places in limited entry international events.

### Administration

Hopefully we are keeping sailors informed on sailing, events, results and Laser sailing happenings through laser.asn.au. We try not to barrage members and others on our email list with endless messages.

A special thank you to our own small team of helpers in particular RO's Col Chidgey, Andrew McLachlan and Adam South, our treasurer Geoff Lucas, membership secretary and regatta helper Kath Herrmann, VC and measurer John Sprague, regatta helpers Sue Phillips Dave and Elaine Edmiston, Youth representative Stuart Plenderleith, Women's representative Lauren Crossman and advisor and Masters Representative Rob Lowndes for their work and support.

A special thanks to the many people who helped out with administration and on the water for our events. Without people just stepping up as required we could never have managed the tasks involved in staging these events.

A special thanks to Double Bay Sailing Club, Gosford Sailing Club, South Lakes ASC, Georges River SC, Double Bay SC and Great Lakes SC for their support in hosting events for us in the last and this season.

Cheers

Kevin Phillips  
Chair NSW/ACT Laser Association

## Report to ALCA AGM RQYS Brisbane 2017

While still small in numbers the quality of our fleet has gained ground in the last two years with much effort put into developing our youth sailors  
We now have eight young sailors attending training sessions with Australian Sailing coach Alex Zimmerman.

After returning to SA, Luke Hookings has been a welcome addition to our ranks, taking coaching which has been enthusiastically received by the squad.  
This a great effort as Luke while well qualified is not a full time coach.

It may be somewhat of an understatement but this is where our near future lies

With such a large fleet of Optis in the state, we are getting enquiries from sailors wanting to make the transition to the Laser class via the 4.7 and Radial.

We also hope to decentralise from Adelaide Sailing Club in the next season and beyond with much interest coming from Largs Bay Sailing Club in forming a fleet

We have already had a tryout morning in November with six young sailors trying out a club Laser and also an association Laser, more sessions are to follow in the new year.

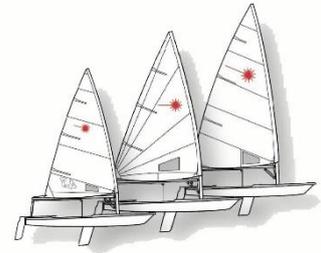
We have five youth reps at this event and will have six at the Youth Nationals which follow.

In the masters division, six of us are travelling to Mooloolaba in February .

Steve Sampson  
Secretary SA Laser Association

# Northern Territory District Laser Class Association

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## NT District Laser Class Association (NTDLCA)

### Annual report

Laser sailing in the NT is still active with the Laser sailing regularly at the Darwin Sailing Club. Lasers have also been sailed in the Gove Boat Club however over the past 18 months the increased activity of large crocodiles in the vicinity of the club has affected all off the beach sailing activities and no organised events have been held in Gove.

The NTDLCA is a resident Class Association at the Darwin Sailing Club and Lasers sail in weekly club events. A regular fleet of 5 to 6 Lasers are sailed in Darwin however due to the small numbers they are grouped in with other dinghies with a similar yardsticks and sailed as a mixed fleet. The Laser Class is also recognised as a Class in the NT Championship and is sailed as a separate Class with Australian Sailing Medals awarded to placing in the Class.

2017 Laser results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phil Toonson,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paris van den Herik and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Martin.

Although the numbers have been low over the past couple of years the NTDLA is optimistic that the fleets will increase. The Laser 4.7 is seen as the preferred progression for juniors from the Minnow fleet and the Laser is also one of the preferred class for the NT Sailing Team. Members of the NT Sailing Team will be competing in the Laser Nationals and the Australian Sailing Youth Championship in 2017/18.

In 2019 the Arafura Games will be reinstated as a premium sporting event in the NT and sailing has been included as one of the core sports for the games. As this is the first time the games has been run since 2013 the sailing event will consist of match racing in Elliot7 keel boats. The NTDLA is confident that in future games the Laser will again be seen as the ideal vessel for fleet racing and will be included in the Games.

Laser sailing is alive and well in the NT and the NTDLCA invites all Laser sailors to visit Darwin and join in. The sailing season runs from April to October, the water is warm and flat with 8 to 12 knots of breeze and up to 25 knots late in the season making Darwin the best kept secret in the sailing world and the ideal place to spend the winter months.

Gary Martin  
NTDLCA President.

# 2017 ALCA Youth Development Report

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

ALCA Youth Development is about all sailors, the occasional, the weekend, the aspiring champion. ALCA has had considerable success in broadening the opportunity for sailors to challenge themselves in recent years with recent changes.

In 2008 Australian Youth teams had a different kind of support, an Australian coach at an event was dependent on elite sailors attending, the focus was on the elite, funding grants were available for sailing associations but underutilised. Many sailors arranged their own coaches, many were not Australian, sailors were not united as teams or training together, results were uninspiring for all but a few.

In 2009 a lot ALCA created a Youth Development role, the approach was to build participation by making elite coaching and competition more accessible, promoting 3 peak events:

1. Midwinters at RQYS
2. Australian Nationals
3. ILCA Worlds

The aim was to encourage aspiring sailors to think about building competition into their program. ALCA began what is now an ongoing conversation with YA/AS and State HP programs to do what we could to support coaching at ILCA Worlds.

Over a short period of years a talent pool of experienced sailors has grown, some are part of state HP programs. State HP programs are beginning (since 2015) to provide direct support for ILCA Australian Youth Worlds coaching. At the same time participation at Youth Worlds continues to trend upward.

Increased participation, AS and State HP support and fundraising has meant that since 2015 girls have had access to a dedicated coach at ILCA Youth Worlds.

Additionally Australian Coaches are gaining experience at World events, often from the Australian Sailing Squad.

The table below shows Australia was able to field 2 large teams at Youth Worlds, each with 2 coaches, ALCA was instrumental in raising

2017 Radial team, Medemblik Holland budget	\$ 23,122 approx	2017 4.7 team, Nieuwpoort Belgium budget	\$ 18,123 approx
ALCA raised finance, coaches paid, Tristan Brown & Laura Caldecoat team coaches		ALCA raised finance, coaches paid, Tristan Brown & Ryan Palk team coaches	
1 Page Caldecoat	1s	1 Kristen Wadley	10g
2 Maddie O'Shea	30s	2 Paige Caldecoat	14g
3 Amelia Bentlie	50s	3 Silvie Stannage	21gu16
4 Zac Littlewood	7gu17	4 Finn O'dea	5g
5 Sam King	14g	5 Zac West	7g
6 Caelin Winchcombe	16g	6 Jack Littlechild	28g
7 Ethan McAullay	26g	7 Michael Compton	31g
8 Indiabeau Laborie	17s	8 Frazer Brew	35g
9 Max Gluskie	44su17	9 Boston Cortis	45g
10 Nathan Briant	45su17	10 Mark Louis	51g
		11 Nicholas Smart	22s
		12 Daniel Costandi	53su16
		13 Michael Parks	23bu16
		14 Ezra Kaye	11b
		15 Axel Fleet	44bu17

Despite good results in Youths ALCA is still struggling to get genuine support for U21 Youth World's, discussions are planned with new AS management.

### **Upcoming ILCA events**

#### **2018 ILCA Laser u21 World Champs**

1-8 July 2018, Gdania Poland

#### **2018 ILCA Laser 4.7 Youth World Champs**

9-17 July 2018, Gdania Poland

#### **2018 ILCA Laser Radial Youth World Champs**

18-25 August 2018, Kiel Germany

### **In Summary**

2018 will be a challenge for State associations as ever to keep 4.7 Junior Class feeds into Youth classes, Radials and Standards. HP sailors with potential will transition into the State HP programs, Australian Youth Bridging and Australian Sailing Squad programs.

ALCA cannot expect coaching arrangement to continue, work needs to continue to hold the gains we have made and extend them to u21's if possible. Please see the attached

ALCA will continue to develop 4.7 and Radial and U21 Classes remain for young sailors.

Regards

Don Elks

Youth Development

Australian Laser Class Association

**Australian Laser Class Association**  
**Masters Report for Annual General Meeting**  
**30<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

New Ranking Policy

The ALCA's long standing world masters ranking policy was reviewed and rewritten. This has caused unnecessary concern amongst some masters so it is worth re-stating the reasons for the change and what the effect will be.

The previous policy ranked current world and national champions first and all remaining applicants were ranked on a first come, first served basis. The problem in 2017 was that a record 66 Australians applied for entry for the Split worlds with an overall entry limit of 350 boats so it was highly likely that not all Australian applicants would be offered a place. The old policy meant that some applicants who were new to Lasers and never even been to a District regatta entered as soon as entries opened and so were ranked above some applicants with a long history of high level performance and supporting the class. So the ranking process needed to be reviewed.

A new ranking policy was adopted on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 for future world masters regattas. The policy is published on the ALCA web site. The policy still ranks current world and Australian champions first but then ranks applicants based on performance and attendance at world, national and district level.

In the end, all Australians who wanted to sail at Split were offered a place. We expect that all applicants will get an offer next year for Ireland – a less attractive venue for many masters. However masters who have demonstrated a higher level of performance and supported their district will have earlier certainty that they will receive an offer than under the old policy.

District Web Sites

I wrote the following paragraph in my report for the Dec 2014 AGM:

“Just one beef and recommendation in preparing this report. We MUST keep full results of our regattas on our ALCA (national events) and District (local events) web sites to avoid losing the history. For example, I could only find the Paynesville results on the Gippsland Lakes YC site after some searching – when they delete those results we lose that history. The only place I could find the Port Stephens results was on the Qld District website. **We risk losing this important history if we do not store it on servers under YA, host district or ALCA control with links to the ALCA website.**”

That paragraph still applies today and in searching for data for modelling the new policy some districts had good regatta history and others had none. For example, I could not find any results on the VLA website. Let's try to preserve the history of our wonderful Laser class. The web site for the last nationals in Adelaide has already been closed down. Not good.

Finally

A pleasing 60 masters sailed in the open nationals in Adelaide last year and we are all looking forward to the next separate masters national at Mooloolaba in February 2017.

Rob Lowndes  
Chairman ALCA Masters Sub-Committee



## ALCA Presidents Report 2017/18

### Australian Laser Sailing

Congratulations to all the Laser sailors who competed at the Adelaide Sailing Club in the 2017 Nationals. Well done to our National Champions Matthew Wearne WA Standard, Rhett Gowans Vic Radial, and Jack Littlechild NSW/ACT 4.7 rig.

Thanks to the Adelaide Sailing Club and the South Australian Laser Class Association for hosting this great event.

Thanks also to the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron and the Queensland District Laser Association for their work in running the current Oceania and National Championships.

I am looking forward to being in Devonport Tasmania with Roger King and his team next year for what is shaping up to be another great Oceania and National's event sailing on Bass Strait - the same waters where we had the 1975 Nationals.

ALCA Membership has been stable over the last nine years from a high of 658 to 630 but all Districts are down from 10 years ago. Victoria has achieved the biggest increase in membership on a year to year basis from 118 to 134.

I hope that we can increase membership to 1,000 by 2020. If we can achieve this it will give us a stronger voice when bidding for ILCA World Championships. As well as our number of allocated places for the limited entry international events is linked to our number of members this increase would let more of our sailors have the opportunity to sail in these major events.

On this meeting's agenda we have the Nationals timing and rotation as an issue. In my view the arrangement we have with the rotation synchronised with other classes and having the Masters split every two years has produced strong competitive fleets and worked well for the

class. This has helped in seeing Lasers, compared to other classes, having a stronger national and international base with many sailors attending ILCA Worlds and Continental Championships.

To all district presidents and their committees and volunteers – thank you for what you do, you are at the coal face of our class. Please keep up the great work.

The Australian Laser Class Association Committee has the class in their hearts. You may think that we only have one meeting a year but it's a big one - it never stops. Each member is a specialist in the area they represent. On behalf of the members I would like to thank them for a great job. John d'Helin Vice President, Geoff Lucas Treasurer and Public Officer, Kevin Phillips Secretary, Rob Lowndes Masters Representative and Don Elks Youth Representative.

### International Laser Sailing

Congratulations to the record number of Australian Laser sailors who represented us in World ILCA and World Sailing events in the past year. I would like to especially mention ILCA Worlds podium placed sailors Tom Burton (2) and Matthew Wearn (3) Laser Standard Worlds, Zac Littlewood (3) Radial Men's Worlds, Brett Beyer (1) Standard Masters Worlds, Mark Bethwaite (2) GGM Standard Worlds, Martin White (1) GM Radial Worlds, Rob Lowndes (2) and Kerry Waraker (3) GGM Radial Worlds. Kerry was also the first Laser Legend in the Worlds. Well done all who competed.

At ILCA level there have been some personnel changes that you should know about, Jean-Luc from France has stepped aside as chief ILCA measurer and Aileen Hoon from Singapore has taken up the position. Adam South from NSW is in the process of becoming a National Measurer and then be an international Laser measurer.

Aileen Hoon is also the ILCA Chair for Asia and in recent discussions I had with her we agreed that we would like to see the two regions (Asia and Oceania) work together and to support each other's events and training opportunities as they present from time to time.

### Oceania Region Changes

As you may be aware the ILCA changed its regional structure to be in line with the Olympic

movement's five geographic rings. One of these rings represents Oceania. As a result Australia is now in ILCA's Oceania Region.

There are 24 potential member countries in Oceania most have Lasers and sail in some local events. The goal ahead is to welcome them all into the ILCA family and to help facilitate and promote Laser sailing in them.

I see opportunities in the future to promote Laser sailing both here and in Oceania with initiatives such as a sailor exchange program and Laser coach exchanges between OLCA countries. I am hoping to have at least one of these operational in 2018.

Some of the consequences and actions which follow from the creation of Oceania Region are:

- The formation of the Oceania Laser Class Association OLCA is now in the final stages with the Constitution only to be agreed on before we are incorporated in NSW.
- Members of OLCA will be each ILCA Laser District in the Oceania Region.
- Initially OLCA will have as members 13 Laser districts from 7 countries. These countries represent 96% of the 40.6 million people in Oceania.
- Voting will be by district so Australia will continue with a strong seven voice in the Region.
- The formative OLCA committee is Ken Hurling Qld, Kevin Phillips NSW/ACT, Nic Page NZ, Neville Koop Fiji, Geoff Lucas NSW/ACT.

In the early stages all Oceania Championships will be combined with the Australian Championships and follow its rotation. From time to time the Oceania Championships will be separated. The current plan for these events up until 2021 is:

- 2017/18 OLCA events combined with the Australian Nationals here at RQYS.
- 2018 February OLCA Masters event combined with National Masters Mooloolaba Qld.
- 2018 October Masters event in Fiji.
- 2018/19 OLCA events combined with Australian Nationals in Devonport Tasmania.
- 2019/20 OLCA events combined with Australian Nationals in Sandringham Victoria.
- 2020 January ILCA Laser Radial Worlds Victoria Sandringham Olympic selection

Event.

- 2020 January ILCA Laser Standard Worlds Victoria Sandringham Olympic selection Event.
- 2020 February Masters Nationals Masters Reunion Regatta and ILCA Masters Worlds Geelong Vic. We have booked a hall that seats 700 people for the Masters Reunion dinner.
- 2021 proposed 4.7 and Oceania Youth Championship North Marianas
- 2021/22 OLCA events combined with the Australian Nationals in Western Australia.
- 2021 A proposed Oceania Masters event in New Zealand dates TBA.

A strong reason for us to propose and make these changes is that we need to establish the brand Oceania and publicise it and where we are in the Laser and the sailing world.

So what do we see as the advantage of Oceania for the ALCA and Australian National Championships?

- In the future will see more International Sailors in attendance.
- Having this new region means we will have more cube events in our vicinity.
- The 100 point Regatta and the involvement with World Sailing can only help expand our National Championship and increase quality and numbers.
- Because of the way we rotate around Australia we will take a 100 point World Sailing event to all Australian Districts. Some of these would normally miss out. For example other classes tend to support eastern states where we support all Australian Districts and treat them as equal.
- All Oceania and Australian Championship events will come under ILCA selection for World Championship events.

#### Thoughts on National Championship Timing and Rotation

After going around Australia with Lasers for over sixteen years I haven't any real issues with the dates, rotation or the way we run events in partnership with our Districts. Some problems come from outside influences that we have no control over. Some come along thinking that everything is broken and that we need to change everything to fix it. In my view change for change sake is a recipe for disaster. For example the two biggest events on the Australian East

Coast in the past have had over 700 sailors in attendance. From the average club sailor up to World and Olympic Champions, names like Ben Anslley, Robert Scheidt and many others came to our shores to compete and enjoy our Australian events. The powers that be changed the dates and locations for various reasons and these events are now down to half the number of entries.

If we look at the theme, “Laser Sail for Life” and as we go through our life situations change, early years Mum at Dad drive us around the country and to events throughout our state. Then it’s Apprenticeships or University and before we know where we are boy meets girl and our young sailors are parents themselves. We cater for Members from 10 the 80 years of age, each age group has different age priorities that need to be considered if we make changes.

The Nationals dates we have at the moment may not suit you in the life phase now, but will in the future. If we propose to change things let’s not finish up like others flip flopping dates and locations.

No matter what decision we make on dates, duration or location, the Laser Class will always be strong. At present ILCA has 120 member countries, with the expansion in Asia, Africa, Oceania we could exceed IOC with more members. Imagine a Worlds with over 100 Countries competing together - some time dreams come true.

#### Perpetual Oceania Trophies Acquisition Initiative

In the next 12 months I will be asking all Districts to support the acquisition of Oceania perpetual trophies. This year’s winners will be on the Trophies for next year. 4.7 Boy Girl, Youth Radial Boy Girl, Under 16 Boy Girl, Under 21 Boy Girl, Radial Woman, Standard Men – ten trophies. The Masters is another issue but this would be a good start. In the coming months each District will receive a request for one off payment of \$200 to assist with this initiative. If anyone has a better idea please let me know.

Have a great 2018 Sailing year,

Thank You

Ken Hurling OAM

Lasers Sail for Life