

J/88 Class Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/17/2020

Start: 12:05 p.m. EST

Adjourn: 1:00 p.m. EST

Present:

Chris & Julie Howell
Jeff Johnstone
Alexander Abell
Dave Corbin
Brice Dunwoodie
Michael Gillian
Andy Graff
Tim Harbick
John Leahey
William Purdy
Alister Thomson
Iris Vogel

Agenda:

1. Attendance and Instructions
2. Class Office Report
3. Approval of Class Budget
4. Rules Proposal
5. Technical Discussion
6. Upcoming Championships
7. New Business

Description:

1. **Attendance and Instructions** – Chris and Iris conducted a roll call and welcomed all to the 2020 Annual Meeting. A quorum is present. Iris summarized that it's been a small season. There are four boats signed up for J/Fest in St. Pete, so we need one more.
2. **Class Office Report** – Chris reported that the Class had 23 Full members this year, representing 18 boats, plus 3 Associate Members. It was a lighter year for the J/88s and all Classes. Membership renewal e-mails will be sent in January. Chris noted that the Class website is being rebuilt right now and is scheduled to launch in January 2021.
3. **Approval of Class Budget** – Chris circulated the J/88 Class Budget: Profit & Loss 2020 and Budget 2021. Since distribution, he added PayPal fees, leaving us about \$1,600 short on the year. Andy wondered if more owners would join if the dues were lower. John has also heard feedback on the high cost of dues. Chris noted that all Associations should have one year's cash reserve in the bank. The primary goals of the Class are to manage memberships, royalty tags, website, etc. and to support major Championships with Public Relations efforts. Our overall field of owners is fairly minimal, so there is only so much income that can come from dues. Brice wondered what additional value we can offer to members, such as training/education via quarterly newsletters and/or webinars. We could gain advertising income from these avenues, although that will be challenging in the short term due to the pandemic. Another idea is a national members-only Slack channel. Andy noted that some owners only join if they are attending a major Championship. We could enforce membership more on a regional basis, but we also don't want to create any barriers to participation. Iris suggested each Fleet designate one significant event as members only. Bill thinks that the cost of dues is minimal compared to the overall cost of a J/88 program. There could also be a members-only section of the website. Chris summarized that the Executive Committee will meet offline to discuss these ideas further. *Andy Graff made a motion to accept the Budget/P&L as presented, seconded by Dave Corbin. The motion passed unanimously.*
4. **Rules Proposal** – Chris circulated the following Vertical Jib Rules proposal:

New Rule 5.5:
All Class jibs delivered on or after January 1, 2021 shall have "vertical" battens, placed parallel

to the luff. Jibs delivered before this date with horizontal, furlable battens may continue to be used at Class sanctioned events until January 1, 2022. After that date, all jibs must have battens meeting the definition of vertical in Appendix A.

Definition of Vertical for Jib battens, added to Appendix A

Under Jib #1 Battens – 3 max (batten pocket centerline parallel to luff +/- 100mm)

Under Jib #2 Battens – 3 max (batten pocket centerline parallel to luff +/- 100mm)

Purpose: In accordance with the principles in the Class Rules opening paragraph:

To lower costs for owners, provide more even equipment for racing, and preserve the J/88s recreational features. It is believed that stiff, horizontal battens are faster than vertical battens, at least while the sail is new. However, they rapidly wear the sail when furled and can also damage spinnakers. Recently, more boats have started using stiffer horizontal battens and dropping their jibs at major events on the downwind legs to save wear on their sails or simply because they don't furl well at all. This development, if left unchecked, threatens to increase the cost of ownership and diminish the boats' recreational appeal. Owners must choose between having a jib that has the best initial speed or one that will provide a good service life and is compatible with repeated use on the furling system. Also, there is a lack of clarity about how poorly a jib can furl and still be considered "furlable" under the current rule. The example of the J/111 fleet is worth noting. In that fleet, all racing boats now have hanked-on jibs that have made the furling jibs obsolete at great cost. These same boats now cannot use their furling systems for casual or distance racing unless they maintain a separate inventory.

Discussion: Andy suggested we amend the sunset date on the jib batten rule from January 1, 2022 to January 1, 2023. Alister prefers 2024. Chris summarized that the Class Rules are closed: if it doesn't say you can, then you cannot. So the rules already prohibit taking the sail down while racing. If the jib is on the deck, it can't be furled. Also, a jib furled with horizontal battens is not able to be fully furled. Andy sees this Rules proposal making the Class more one-design. Bill appreciates that we want to keep costs down, but there is a cost associated with both sets of battens. Alister agreed that legislating this may not be the best way to go, as the horizontal batten is easier to sail, especially short-handed. Andy said that vertical battens are a benefit if a squall comes through. Alex asked if the purpose is to keep people from dropping the sail? Andy responded that this doesn't resolve the issue of not being able to fully furl the jibs when using battens that are too stiff. Brice thought we could have batten specifications, but this may be hard to define. Jeff shared that the J/80 Rule doesn't specify batten type, but the jib must remain hoisted and rigged. Iris stated that we could issue a Rule Interpretation that the jib must stay up, instead of changing the Rule. We could potentially specify permitted battens. Andy recapped that he will revisit the wording. A dedicated virtual meeting will be scheduled to discuss this issue only. When a new plan is set, the Class can proceed with a member vote. Andy withdrew the proposal as currently written.

5. **Technical Discussion** – N/A

6. **Upcoming Championships** –

--2021 J/Fest at St. Petersburg Yacht Club, St. Petersburg, FL, January 22-24, precedes the St. Pete NOOD

--2021 North American Championship/Rolux Big Boat Series at St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco, CA, September 16-19

--2022 North American Championship: host is needed.

7. **New Business** – Brice will work with the Class Office on the Slack channel idea.

Julie Howell

Action Items:

- The Executive Committee will discuss membership value ideas.
- Brice will work with the Class Office on the Slack channel idea.
- Andy will coordinate a review of the Vertical Jib Rules proposal.

Next Meeting: TBD