

International Moth Class Association of Australia

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2003/2004 Presidents Report

Of all my 10 years as a member of IMCA (Aus), I unfortunately have never seen the class in such a state of disharmony as it currently is. We, as moth sailors have reached probably our most difficult crossroad of recent times and it is this matter that will be the basis of the majority of my report this year. I believe that the decisions we make now will have a significant effect on the state and future of our class and for this reason I urge all members to think carefully about the actions they take.

Of course the main reason for the current disharmony seems to stem from the use of hydro-foils in the moth class. Every moth sailor, and every sailor for that matter, seems to have an opinion on whether the use of hydro-foils are good or bad for the class and of course, everyone is entitled to their opinion. But we must remain calm and think carefully about what we, the members of our class, actually want. This is not a matter of doing what sailors of other classes think we should do, but what we as current moth sailors see as our future.

I'm sure many of you know that personally I am against the use of hydro-foils in the moth class. This does NOT mean that I am anti-development. I think that the development of a hydro-foiling moth is a spectacular achievement by those who developed it. But is it necessarily a good thing for us? Will it mean more people will join the class? Will any of the existing members leave? These are the questions we must ask ourselves as the current members. I believe we must be careful that we do not develop ourselves into oblivion by scarring off existing members in the hope of maybe attracting new ones. Remember, placing some controls on development does not necessarily equate to an end in advancement.

Despite what you may have read or heard, I do not have some other agenda driving my decision to be "anti-foiler". I find such allegations to be highly offensive and based solely on hearsay. I have only ever, and will only ever, act in a manner that I believe to be the best for the future of the class. Those who accuse me of acting otherwise obviously don't understand how much the moth class means to me.

In an attempt to settle the disharmony, three proposals have been put forward for the IMCA members to vote on. I would like to urge all moth members to take time to think carefully about each of these proposals and ensure your voice is heard by voting with your local state association. The future of the moth class is in your hands.

In other moth news, this year saw another excellent World Moth Championships this time hosted by IMCA France. Five Australians made the long trip and were well rewarded with a very enjoyable regatta both on and off the water. Congratulations to Mark Thorpe who successfully defended his title with a very consistent performance in a competitive fleet representing 8 nations.

Our system of one Public Liability insurance policy to cover all Australian state associations has worked well, although the cost is still quite expensive and is by far the associations biggest outlay. As such, another increase in annual association membership fees unfortunately seems likely this year.

This year sees the National Championships being hosted by IMCA Qld for the first time in 5 years. On behalf of the members I would like to thank Tim Phillips whose efforts and hard work have made this return possible. Thanks Tim.

I would also like to thank our new Secretary/Registrar/Treasurer, Scott Babbage who has done an excellent job in his first year keeping the association running smoothly. Special thanks from the five of us who travelled to the Worlds for your help with keeping track of the money for us. Thanks Scott.