

# Laser World



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INTERVIEW WITH GINTARE SCHEIDT

YOUR NEW PRESIDENT: TRACY USHER!

BATTLE FOR FINAL OLYMPIC PLACES



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# World Council Meeting 2012

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*The World Council*

In attendance were:

Heini Wellmann, Hugh Leicester, Tracy Usher, Carlos Palombo, Jean-Luc Michon, Ian Lineberger, Jeff Martin, Eric Faust, Chris Caldecoat

## Summary of the 2012 ILCA World Council Mid-year Meeting!

The ILCA World Council held its mid-year meeting in Boltzenhagen, Germany, site of the 2012 Senior and Women's World Championships. Due to the length of the agenda, the meeting took place over two days on May 19th and 20th.

In attendance were: Heini Wellmann - President, Hugh Leicester - Vice President and Asia-Pacific Chairman, Tracy Usher - Chairman North America, Carlos Palombo - Chairman South America, Jean-Luc Michon - Chairman Europe, Ian Lineberger - Past President, Jeff Martin - Executive Secretary, Eric Faust - General Manager, Chris Caldecoat - Builders' Advisory Council.

**Elections:** After his report on the state of the class, Heini Wellmann announced that he was retiring as the President of the ILCA and nominated Tracy Usher as his successor. The World Council voted unanimously to elect Tracy as the new ILCA President and thanked Heini for his years of work and dedication. Tracy Usher presented Heini with an award recognizing his service and commitment to the Laser Class.

**Accounts:** The 2010-11 audited accounts were reviewed. (See the accounts summary on this page.) It was noted that a significant portion of the 2011 loss was attributable to the large expenditure for legal fees related to the proposed change to the class rules and the development costs for the new standard rig sail. These were deemed unusual expenses, without which the class would have operated on a break-even basis for the year. Overall the class remains in a good financial position and the World Council remains dedicated to managing costs while providing service to all ILCA members.

**2013 World Championships:** The Masters and Senior Worlds are scheduled to be held in Oman in November of 2013. Oman has been heavily promoting sailing

over the past several years and it is expected to be a world-class event. The Radial Youth Worlds may also be held in Oman over the Christmas holidays in late 2013. Details are forthcoming. For the women, the Radial Worlds are scheduled for Rizhao City, China in late September while the 4.7 and U21 Standard Worlds will be held on Lake Balaton, Hungary.

**2014 World Championships:** ISAF will be running its Sailing World Championship in 2014 so the Senior and Women's Worlds will be held in Santander, Spain. Bids have been received for the Masters Worlds from Barcelona, Spain and Hyeres, France, while Poland has bid for the Radial Youth Worlds. The 4.7 Worlds are slated for Oceania with the Cook Islands or New Zealand as possible locations. Planning is underway so look for more information as it becomes available.

**Review of actions arising from previous meetings:** 1) It was decided that the 4.7 will be continue to be included in future Masters Worlds. 2) The council approved unanimously to introduce a new world championship category for under-21 women to be premiered in 2013. 3) The council agreed that each ILCA Region should nominate a Regional Measurer to act as a liaison to the ILCA Technical Committee. 4) The use of electronic compasses was discussed with no action or decision taken at this time.

**Rules and Technical Issues:** The ILCA continues to look to the future on technical issues, however many of the new developments planned to improve the sails and spars remain on hold as the status of the largest builder continues to be unclear. The Technical Committee will be analyzing several items including: development of an easily adjustable hiking strap, a system for eliminating the rivet in the top section mast collar, and development of a rule on draft stripes on sails. The status of the approved change to the fundamental Class Rule was discussed and the ILCA will continue to address this issue with ISAF and obtain a final ruling on the matter.

The next World Council Meeting is slated for November, 2012. The World Council is committed to serving the sailors and all ILCA members are encouraged to submit proposals through their District Laser Associations for inclusion on future agendas.

| ILCA OFFICE                         | 2011 Final Accounts | 2010 Final Accounts |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                       |                     |                     |
| Plaque fees                         | 88,073              | 42,129              |
| Sail buttons fees                   | 63,148              | 45,600              |
| Memberships                         | 85,500              | 76,700              |
| Sale of goods                       | 11,878              | 8,979               |
| Contribution to ILCA for Entry*     | 55,966              | 68,489              |
| Contribution to ILCA for Charter*   | 13,202              | 31,808              |
| Interest receivable                 | 12,383              | 17,090              |
| Service charge to European Region** | 40,728              | 42,054              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>370,877</b>      | <b>332,849</b>      |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                  |                     |                     |
| Publications                        | 19,096              | 19,180              |
| Testing/Development                 | 74,259              | 501                 |
| Salaries/Pension                    | 247,204             | 262,557             |
| Office & Travel                     | 69,881              | 79,341              |
| Auditors / Bank charges             | 3,411               | 4,116               |
| Depreciation                        | 4,581               | 4,716               |
| Cost of Purchases                   | 15,461              | 9,589               |
| ISAF / World Council                | 2,178               | 5,531               |
| Legal Fees                          | 61,601              | 437                 |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>            | <b>497,672</b>      | <b>385,968</b>      |
| <b>Accumulated Funds b/f</b>        | <b>762,277</b>      | <b>815,428</b>      |
| <b>Surplus for year</b>             | <b>-126,795</b>     | <b>-53,119</b>      |
| <b>Prior year adjustment</b>        | <b>-</b>            | <b>-32</b>          |
| <b>Accumulated Funds c/f</b>        | <b>635,482</b>      | <b>762,277</b>      |

\* Championship expenditure is shown within the Contribution to ILCA figures.

\*\* Reimbursement expenses incurred by the ILCA on behalf of the European Region.

# With Thanks To Heini Wellmann

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*After serving more than six years as Class President, Heini Wellmann gives his farewell to ILCA!*

Dear Laser friends,

First of all I would like to congratulate Tracy Usher for his unanimous election by the World Council as new ILCA President. As a very active and excellent sailor, as Chairman of the North American Region and as Head of the Technical and Measurement Committee Tracy was ideally suited to fill this position and I am very grateful that he accepted to serve the Class as the new President.

More than six years ago at the Jeju Island World Council meeting I was elected ILCA President. It is therefore only natural to first look back on what was achieved during these years and then have a short look at the current and future challenges of ILCA.

What was achieved during the six years of my presidency?

My first priority after the election was to introduce more formalised and transparent management procedures for the running of the association. That my election coincided with the start of Zac Hillier in the newly created position as Operations Manager ILCA was a great help. The following was achieved:

- A clear time-line for the preparation and execution of the ILCA World Championships
- A detailed definition of requirements for World Championships
- Introduction of a bid system
- Establishment of two standard contracts, one with the organising club / authority and the other with the charter boat provider
- Establishment of Standard Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions
- Definition and introduction of more transparent accounting management reports for the World Council
- Publication of summarised accounts and World Council decisions in LaserWorld to inform all members

During all those years I continued to participate in many Laser regattas from World Championships to local club regattas. This helped me to better understand the wishes of our members. I also stayed in permanent contact with many District officers.

I am pleased to see that today the association is stronger than ever. There is a very strong participation at regattas all over the World, for example the recent Italian Europa Cup regatta on the Lake of Garda had 551 participants – a new record. All this would not have been possible without the tireless effort of hundreds of volunteers all over the World. I express my heartiest thanks to all of them.

A lot remains to be done:

While the new management procedures are in place their timely execution remains an important area of improvement: a much earlier negotiation and contract signature with the organising authority and charter provider – hence an earlier publication of the Notices of Race. I am convinced that the engagement of Eric Faust as the new General Manager ILCA will help a lot in this area.

Another very important issue is the still unresolved conflict between the main stakeholders, namely ISAF, the Laser builders and the design rights holder. They are totally at odds in their interpretation on the validity of the different agreements – even worse they have ceased to even communicate with each other, preferring to hold fast to their own contradictory positions rather than working to resolve their differences. This is threatening the existence of the Laser Class. Nevertheless, the officers of ILCA will continue to work towards a solution acceptable for our members.

Other dark clouds are the existence in the market place of an increasing number of replica parts, including sails, spars, foils and even hulls and at the same time the unavailability of legal parts, sails and foils in many areas of the World. The ILCA World Council has and will continue to propose solutions on how these issues can be addressed by the builders. It also decided that the measurement structures on the District and Fleet level need to be reinforced.

I wish Tracy Usher all the best in these challenging times. He has the experience and determination to face them.

Long live Laser sailing!



# Your New President: Tracy Usher

© Chuck Lantz

*Tracy Usher thanks the World Council for their faith and explains why he has some big shoes to fill!*

Let me begin by saying it's a great honor to have been selected as the next President of the International Laser Class Association. It's not a position to take lightly, with responsibility to an organization with so many sailors, in so many countries and with such a long and rich history. I'd like to thank my fellow World Council members for their faith in my ability to hold this position and I certainly pledge to work hard to justify it.

Before going on, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Heini Wellmann for his many years of service to the ILCA. Heini joined the World Council over 15 years ago and served the class in several roles before becoming President in 2006. Notable among Heini's accomplishments before becoming President include playing an instrumental role in bringing us the "new rigging" and serving as the first Technical and Measurement Committee Chairman - which included hiring the first Technical Officer to help insure builder compliance with the Laser Construction Manual. Among his achievements as President he created the blueprint for reorganizing the office, restructuring it to better handle the rigors of three classes (4.7, Radial and Standard), two of which are Olympic classes, and the organization of some seven world championships each year. During his service to ILCA, Heini has devoted himself to the tasks that have come before him and worked tirelessly to further the cause of Laser sailing around the world. He leaves behind some extremely large shoes to fill!

For those of you who may not know me I'll try to give a brief introduction: I've lived nearly my entire life on the coast of California, from growing up sailing in Monterey (where I bought my first Laser in 1974), to several years in Southern California (where I did a bit less Laser sailing and a lot more studying) to the San Francisco Bay Area where my wife, Christy, and I now live and sail. I'm employed as a physicist at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, located at Stanford University, but take advantage of every opportunity to get out on the water to enjoy the fantastic Laser sailing conditions San Francisco Bay provides. I've been involved with the Laser Class since 1998, serving first as District Secretary for District 24 (Northern

California), then as the North American Region's vice chairman beginning in 2002 before becoming chairman in 2004. I've served on the World Council since 2002, also serving as chairman of the Technical and Measurement Committee since 2007. Recently I was involved in the organization of the 2011 Laser 4.7 and Masters' World Championship in San Francisco, realizing a decade long dream of bringing a Laser world championship to the St Francis Yacht Club (which was also the 10th consecutive World Masters' Championship I competed in).

All of us are well aware of the still troubled waters the class is navigating. The conflict between the largest builder and the owner of the design rights is ongoing and the rule change, meant to help alleviate this conflict, and passed by some 90% of the members voting, is still pending. Technical developments meant to attack known problem areas, like creating a more durable sail, or addressing bend issues with the spars, have had to be put on hold pending a resolution to the aforementioned crisis. In the meantime, both the European Region (with the most sailors of any region) and the North American Region have been suffering from chronic shortages of sails and spare parts, with an even more difficult situation in the South American Region. This is not only frustrating for the sailors looking for class legal equipment but has also opened the door to the replica parts suppliers that make it difficult to maintain the integrity of our one-design principle. Finally, with the office staffing not at full strength there have been issues in the timely organization of the world championships. Trust me, if anyone in the ILCA organization could simply snap their fingers to solve all or any of these problems, it would have been done but, unfortunately, we are not in direct control of all of these issues.

On the positive side, we are in the process of resolving the ILCA office staffing issues which created problems this past year. As you can read on these pages, we have begun to implement Heini's office reorganization blue print with the key hire of Eric Faust to come in as the new General Manager. Eric has many years of experience with the J/24 Class and has hit the ground running



*Tracy Usher, ILCA President*

in his new role. I'm sure that as the summer progresses we will see the ILCA office once again firing on all cylinders.

As for the other issues, I'm quite optimistic that we will soon start seeing progress in resolving these as well. I believe that with the Olympics only a few short weeks away, and with a new quadrennium just around the corner, there is a renewed desire amongst all parties to find the way forward. Solving this should also break the log jam on addressing the much needed improvements to equipment. I sincerely hope to have much more to say on this very soon.

In the meantime, we are moving into the heart of the Northern Hemisphere sailing season which, here in the Bay Area, means sailing a few evenings during the week and regattas on the weekends to use for training for the big championship events later this summer. At these events I'll be looking forward to meeting fellow sailors and hearing what they have to say about the sport we all love. Still, in a class as big as this it is impossible to be at every regatta and meet everyone so I hope people do make use of the readily available contact information on the ILCA website and contact me over any issue they may have.

See you on the water!

Tracy Usher



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A minute with ....

# Gintare Scheidt

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We talk to Gintare Scheidt, winner of the Laser Radial Women's World Championship 2012 in Boltenhagen, Germany. Gintare is married to Robert Scheidt, ex Laser World Champion and four times Olympic Medallist.

## How Does It Feel To Be Laser Radial Women's World Champion?

Feels great. If I could make my family and my country happy, even for a moment, that means everything to me.

## How Did You Train For This Championship?

I did more physical preparation, but still I think I was more ready mentally. Conditions that we had in Boltenhagen was not about the speed, mostly it was about tactics, fast reaction and playing the shifts.

## Your Comments On The Regatta?

Every day was different from the other. We had strong and light winds, even sea breeze, which was nice. I knew, the key was consistent racing, that's what I focused on. I didn't win a single race, but won the championship. I collected 50 points, so my average of 10 races was fifth place.

## Does Robert Ever Give You Tips?

Yes, we talk about our races and discuss different situations on the water. He is strong in rules, so I can ask his advice. Usually every day before we go to race we choose the tip of a day. Like: "Today – no yellow flag".

## Do You & Robert Train Together?

We love to go for a bike ride together, or swimming. For sailing Laser we don't have much time, when there is wind, he sails his "Star" and me Laser Radial. In Brazil we had one week of sailing Lasers together.

## How Do You Spend Your Free Time?

We stay and do things with our son Erik who turns 3 in August. He miss us a lot.

## How Do You Both Juggle Parenthood With Your Olympic Campaigns?

It's not easy, but possible. We have to divide our time between sailing and family. Our nanny is great, and she helps a lot. For a few regattas we take him with us. He starts to understand, so he always tells me: "mommy, go sail fast and come back, I wait for you". I have to do my best, otherwise it wouldn't be worthy leaving him at home.

## Time Spent In Weymouth To Prepare For The 2012 Olympics?

I did three regattas there, training camp is still to go.

## Do You Have A Training Partner? No

## What Are Your Expectations/Hopes For The Olympics 2012?

My hope is we have a decent wind. My goal is top 10.

## Are You & Robert Competitive Against One Another?

Yes but only in mini golf field!

## Who Would Win In A Laser Radial - You or Robert? Robert

## Favourite Sailing Venue?

Kauna's Lake, Lithuania (my home city is Kaunas). It's beautiful and many good memories...

## Favourite Sport After Sailing?

Swimming and mountain biking!

## Visits To Gym?

I try to do something every day. A TRX trainer, ball, some weights and a hiking bench in our garden is our gym.

## Hours On The Water Each Week?

Hard to tell, very different each week.

## First Thing You Do When Coming Ashore From A Race?

Get a hot shower!

## Favourite Colour? Earth colours!

## Your Breakfast This Morning?

Egg and bread, cottage cheese, yogurt, fruit.... My favourite is pancakes with banana

## Favourite Ice Cream? Chocolate!

## Your Perfect Meal?

Fried shrimps with garlic bread.

## Favourite City? Torbole sul Garda

## Best TV Show: Olympic Games!

## Music? Classic and Pop

## Favourite Drink? Fresh orange juice

## Favourite Books? Lance Armstrong

## Your Perfect Holiday? No sailing!

## Best Holiday Destination? Lithuania

## Most Influential Person? My Mom

## Top Three Things You Would Take To A Desert Island?

A big knife – to make a wooden boat.  
Laser sail and hiking pants - to sail out!

## Your Sporting Hero? My husband!



**Name:** Gintare Volungeviciute Scheidt

**Age:** 29

## Championship Success:

- > 2006 Europeans - 2nd
- > 2008 Beijing Olympics - Silver
- > 2010 Europeans – 3rd
- > 2012 Laser Radial Worlds - Gold

## Started Sailing?

8 years old

## First Boat You Sailed?

Optimist dinghy

## Who Introduced You To Sailing?

My parents took me to the club and my first coach put me in the boat.

# Tough Battle for Final Olympic Places

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*Andrea Aidana from Guatemala*



© Nils Bergmann

*Tough Competition in Boltenshagen, Germany*



© Thom Touw

*Rohini Rau, India*



© Richard Langdon, Ocean Images

*ISAF Worlds in Perth, Australia*

## *Record 71 Nations Take Part In Olympic Qualifications*

If ever there was any doubt that the Laser is the equipment that delivers universality to the sailing world a quick look at the participation in the Laser and Laser Radial events at the ISAF Worlds in Perth and the Class Worlds in Germany shows an impressive 71 nations from all 6 continents attempting to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games in the Laser and Laser Radial.

### *"really tough to qualify"*

With only 48 countries allowed in the one person men (Laser) and 39 in the one person women (Laser Radial) there was bound to be lots of disappointment amongst the celebrations. Sailors from 15 nations failed to qualify their country in the Laser Radial and from 17 nations in the Laser. In the Laser and Laser Radial it is really tough to qualify.

At the class world championships in Germany the battle for Olympic country qualification was as intense as the battle to be crowned 2012 World Champion. In the Laser Radial women from 24 countries were racing to get one of the remaining 9 Olympic places and in the men 29 countries were racing for 12 places. These races were divided into two parts as for both the men and women, if you qualified for the gold fleet it guaranteed your country a place in the Olympics. Coincidentally 6 countries in both the men's and women's fleets qualified for the Olympics by getting into the gold fleets. This left 3 women's places and 6 men's places available in the respective silver fleets. As the men were racing in 3 fleets the sailors who did not make the cut for the silver fleet lost their chance of Olympic glory after the 8 qualifier races.

The fourth and fifth level of competition was, for some sailors, the race to win national selection for the Olympics. 20 sailors from 7 countries in the women's fleet and 41 sailors from 13 countries in the men's fleet were still trying to finish top of their country qualification or achieve the minimum qualification criteria set by their National Olympic committee.

### *"For nine nations Laser delivered their only Olympic representative"*

Akrout Youseff from Tunisia grabbed the only Olympic place for his country with an improving light wind performance that qualified him for the gold fleet after 8 of the 14 races. With him went the 2009 Laser Radial World Youth champion, Keerati Bualong from Thailand. Gustavo Lima from Portugal was another world champion who qualified early by making the cut to the gold fleet. This 2003 Laser Standard World Champion has been campaigning a Star over the last few years.

Mexican, Ricardo Montemayor took the last Olympic country place on an epic final day when after 14 races he finished just two points ahead of Enrique Arathon from El Salvador who was only 10 points ahead of David Alfonso from Puerto Rico with Moldova's Alexander Denisiuc only 3 points further points.

### *"Less than 2 points a race separated these last 3 sailors from also being the only sailing representative of their country at the Olympic Games."*

The story was similar in the Women's fleet when Phillipine van Aanholt qualified for the gold fleet to give the Netherlands Antilles their only sailing place at the Olympics. She follows in the footsteps of her father Cor van Aanholt who represented Netherlands Antilles in the Laser at the 2000 Olympic Games. Andrea Aidana from Guatemala and Andrea Foglia from Uruguay made it a hat trick of gold fleet qualification places for the smaller nations from the southern part of the American continent.

Mayumi Roller and Paloma Schmidt made it a good end for the Caribbean and South America taking the last two qualification places for US Virgin Islands and Peru. Once again those that just missed a place did so by the same small margins as the men. After 12 races Reka Kare from Hungary and was only 5 points away from qualification and Rohini Rau just 2 overall places from being the first woman to represent India in sailing at the Olympic Games.