

MINUTES OF YAI SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING – 30 AUG 08

1. A Special General Body Meeting of the members of the Yachting Association of India was held at 1130 hrs on 30 Aug 08 at NOMA, Kota House, New Delhi. The following were present: -

CHAIRMAN

Admiral Sureesh Mehta, PVSM, AVSM, ADC President

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lt Gen RR Goswami

VAdm DK Dewan

Lt Gen USP Sinha, VSM

Mr. Rabi Ahuja

Lt Gen SKS Chandele, AVSM

Air Marshal TS Randhawa, VM

Capt (Retd) S Contractor

Brig (Retd) AP Singh, SM**VSM

Mr Ajay Balram

Capt AA Lone

Capt Bunt C Sethi

Brig R Suresh, VSM

Capt R Malhotra

Capt HD Motivala SC

Col R Dandriyal

Cdr Ajay Narang

Executive Vice President

President J-24 Class Assn

President National Optimist Assn

Chairman, Selection Committee

Rep, Laser Class Association

Co-opted Member

Rep National Seabird Assn of India

Chairman Race Management Committee

Chairman Racing Rules & Appeals
Committee

Co-opted Member

Hon Secretary General

Rep National Hobie Class Assn

Rep Offshore Sailing Assn

Rep National Enterprise Assn and
470 Class Assn

Co-opted Member

Hon Jt Secy General

REPRESENTATIVES OF CLASS ASSOCIATIONS / CLUBS

470 Class Association of India

Army Yachting Node, Mumbai

Bombay Sailing Association

Bombay Sappers Sailing Club, Kirkee

Colaba Sailing Club, Mumbai

Corps of Engineers Sailing Club, Pune

Defence Services Sailing Club, New Delhi

Directorate General NCC, New Delhi

EME Sailing Association, Secunderabad

EME Sailing Association, Bhopal
 Golden Arrow Sailing Club, Ferozepur
 Indian Naval Sailing Association
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre Chilka
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre Kochi
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre INS Hamla
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, INS Mandovi
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Goa
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Mumbai
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, INS Valsura, Jamnagar
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Port Blair
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Vizag
 Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Lonavala
 Inland Windsurfing & Sailing Academy, Pune
 J-24 Class Association of India
 Kerala Yachting Association
 Lightning Association of India - Class Association
 Laser Class Association of India
 Marve Sailing Club, Mumbai
 Maithon Yacht Club
 Nainital Yacht Club
 National Enterprise Association
 National Optimist Association of India
 National Seabird Class Association, Mumbai
 National Hobie Class Association
 NDA Sailing Club
 OK Dinghy Association of India
 Offshore Sailing Association, Kochi
 Royal Bombay Yacht Club
 Royal Connaught Boat Club, Pune
 Sea Cadet – Sailing
 Tamil Nadu Sailing Association
 Trishna Sailing Club

LIFE MEMBERS

Lt Gen Gautam Dutt
 VAdm Anup Singh
 Cmde (Retd) AS Bajwa
 Brig (Retd) AP Singh
 Brig MS Pillai
 Mr Ajay Balram

Col S Shekhar
 Cdr (Retd) RS Yadav
 Dr Malav Shroff
 Capt Ravikumar Manian
 Major AK Singh, KC, SM
 Mr Anil Chandra
 Dr Mushtaqh Ali
 Mr R Santhanam

2. Duly filled proxy forms were received from the following member clubs within the stipulated time:-

(a) "For" the proposed amendments to the YAI Constitution.

- (i) Calicut Boat Club
- (ii) National Access Class Association
- (iii) NCC Maharashtra
- (iv) Pransukhlal Mafatlal Hindu Swimming Bath & Boat Club Trust

(b) "Not voted" to the proposed amendments to the YAI Constitution.

- (i) Secunderabad Sailing Club
- (ii) Royal Bombay Yacht Club
- (iii) Bombay Sailing Association
- (iv) Colaba Sailing Association
- (v) Seabird Class Association
- (vi) Lightening Class Association

Item No. 1 - President's Opening Address

3. At the outset the President welcomed all to the Special Meeting which had been specially convened to take up the ratification of the proposed amendments to the YAI's constitution. The President began his address by mentioning that shortly after he took over as the President of YAI, he discerned that the state of Indian yachting left much to be desired. Whilst our sailors had done well in international competitions, at different times, in the past, many of our neighbours had, in the meantime, made far more impressive strides. Accordingly, for the last year or so, restructuring of the YAI Council was being progressed so as to make it more accountable and efficient in working for the broad-basing of the sport. Further he mentioned that it was his firm belief that there was a need to start at the gross-roots i.e. with the youth classes because this was from where an improved crop of sailors, would be available, maybe in 5 years or so. Also,

there was a need to follow laid down Govt. norms for the democratic administration of sports. There was therefore a need for change and, hence, the process to rationalise the structure of the Governing Body i.e. the YAI Council had been started.

4. After approval of the Council during its meeting held in Kochi on 02 Apr 08, the amended constitution and regulations were presented to the General Body during the Special Meeting held on 10 May 08 at Mumbai. However, during the meeting, some members including council members, who incidentally had approved the amendments at the Council Meeting, advocated the need to further debate the issue, as also the necessity to model the new structure on the lines of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

5. Accordingly, the President mentioned that he had directed the Restructuring Committee to have further interaction with the members as also avail the advice of certain other members with requisite experience and international exposure. In keeping with the mood of the House, he also decided to restrict the mandate of the committee, to examine only those articles of the existing constitution that pertained to the composition of the council – the aspect that needed immediate attention.

6. The Committee met in Mumbai on 08 and 09 Jul 08 and held wide ranging discussions with a number of members. The President mentioned that he was extremely happy to note the initiative and enthusiasm shown by all in presenting their views to the committee. Two important issues came out loud and clear during the deliberations. Firstly, for perhaps too long, the YAI had focused purely on racing and trying to win medals in international regattas, without reining-in any fresh blood. The YAI therefore urgently needed to lay greater emphasis on cruising and recreational sailing. Secondly, most sailing nations, as also the ISAF, did not have representatives of individual Class Associations on the Council. Further he mentioned that there were already too many members on the Council and there were more classes being added as we spoke. The Council needs to be leaner and far more effective. Each class did need to have a system of being heard, so the way that was normally done was by clubbing similar classes together.

7. On this aspect, the President mentioned that the YAI had also received a clarification from Mr. Jeff Martin, Chairman of the ISAF Classes Committee who said "I have not heard of any National Authority that has a structure where National Class Associations have an exclusive seat on their National Authorities Council. Even on the ISAF Council, all Class Associations are represented only by a single Classes Committee". Unquote.

8. Nevertheless, in order arrive at a greater consensus as also to meet the aspirations of a larger majority of the yachting fraternity, he had accepted the recommendations of the Restructuring Committee to add one more committee thereby clubbing Class Associations, classes wise, into four committees (as against one in the ISAF, and none in most of the other councils). Further he clarified and unequivocally stated that, just because some Class Associations did not find a place on the new council, did not mean that the class would be neglected. He assured everyone that all classes would continue to be supported as hitherto.
9. Further, in order to comply with IOA guidelines, council members would now need to be elected by all member clubs and Class Associations. He then brought out that he firmly believed that it was the Club which formed the base from where sailors and sailing enthusiasts emerged, and went on to further the sport. Class Associations rightly provided the impetus by getting involved with coaching and conduct of events, so that they were able to popularise the class of boat that they represented. It would therefore be incorrect for Class Associations to consider that they were the sole representatives of the sailor's interests.
10. He then brought out that in this attempt to herald change, if the current organisation had resulted in improved performance of our yachtsmen, he would have been the last one to propose any change. The harsh fact however, was that, our sailing status vis-à-vis other Asian nations, had taken a beating in the past two decades and there was a need to take steps to arrest the systemic decay. The change that was finally being proposed was just one step in the process.
11. The President further brought out that the exercise to restructure had been on for the last 18 months. Since the first draft of the re-structuring proposal, it had undergone many iterations, including the two EGM's where note of a large number of objections and suggestions, were taken and incorporated. The process was initiated by the erstwhile HSG, Capt Nadkarni, & the Committee headed by the Vice President had met often, and those who had persistently made suggestions were invited before the Committee to discuss their objections/suggestions individually. Everyone had been given ample opportunity to project his or her views. Whilst it was true that no model could suit everyone, however, he believed that the present formulation took care of the majority of the objections raised. In the larger interest of the sport, it was therefore imperative that the formulation was not only imbibed but also that the change was subscribed to as quickly as possible. The presence of ladies on the Council was indeed very desirable. He then mentioned that he noticed that there were a few young girls who were sailing regularly and coming up the ladder. Some of them had the makings of fine sailors. He looked forward to the young ladies joining the Council soon.

12. The President mentioned that some members had challenged the legality of the Restructuring Committee and also its composition. He assured everyone that legal opinion had been obtained and that there was no basis for these allegations. Further, we had been at this exercise for about 18 months. It was therefore time to make our final statement and vote on the proposal.

13. Prior to putting the amendments to vote, the President mentioned that he intended opening the house, one last time so that views, if any, that had not been expressed earlier, could be put forward. However, the President exhorted everyone to be brief and to the point in their interventions.

14. Finally, before concluding, the President brought out that, though not a subject on the agenda for the meeting, he had been quite distressed at the manner in which members, including some senior council members, had been openly challenging the decisions of the selection committee, a committee chaired by one of the senior most member of the fraternity. He thereafter reminded everyone that yachting was a gentlemanly sport, and hence the decisions of any appointed committee needed to be respected and complied with. He then put an end to the debate once and for all by mentioning that the decisions of the selection committee were final and are not open to debate.

15. The President then requested the Secretary General to recapitulate the manner in which we had moved since the last Special Meeting held in May 08.

Item No. II - Adoption of New Constitution of the YAI

16. The HSG briefed the General Body on the entire timeline of the restructuring proposal. A copy of the presentation is placed at **Appendix A**.

17. The President then opened the House for discussions and invited members to present their views.

18. Mr Ajay Balram, Life Member mentioned that the interests of Match Racing needed to be looked after by a Committee and not a Sub-Committee under the Chairman (Asian Games/Olympic) Classes Committee. This was accepted by the President and accordingly, a Match Racing Committee would function under the Chairman (Asian Games/ Olympics) Classes Committee.

Action: YAI Secretariat

19. Maj Gen Kochhar, Rep LCAI recommended that the proposed Article 9 (b) (i) be amended to incorporate an additional Chairman Developing Classes Committee so that any developing classes in future could be represented on the YAI Council.
20. In a response to the proposal, Mr Sanathanam opined that such a nomenclature would become a potentially contentious issue as no benchmarks could be established to differentiate between developed classes and developing classes. Also, interests of all the classes other than Asian Games/Olympic and Youth would be looked after by the National Classes Committee and could be reviewed after four years.
21. Mr Ashok Thakkar, Commodore TNSA firstly, recommended that the AGMs should be held at different venues in rotation. Thanking the President for his involvement in the affairs of the YAI despite his busy schedule, he recommended that the Govt. norms should be followed strictly. He opined that the proposal from Maj Gen Kochhar, could be considered subsequently by the YAI Council as any modifications to the promulgated agenda would need to be promulgated 30 days in advance, thus leading to a delay in restructuring of the YAI.
22. Lt Gen Chandele, President OKDAI clarified that there were no legal issues involved and the General Body could discuss and adopt any changes or modify the proposals despite being notified in the agenda for the meeting.
23. Cmde Bajwa (Retd), Life Member stated that the proposed amendments were adequate in addressing the needs of the YAI and further, in future, new Class Associations could be added or old ones removed by the General Body. Dr Malav Shroff, Life Member brought out that internationally there was no difference between developing and developed classes and stated that in his opinion, development of classes should be an ongoing process.
24. Mr Ahuja, Commodore SCS stated that it was not necessary to be on the Council for any Class Association or club to promote its activities, further, he stated that a class of boat was promoted by the number of people who sailed that class and the number of clubs who owned such classes of boats. Maj AK Singh (Retd), Life Member opined that there was a need to concentrate on spreading the spirit of the sport instead of anticipating and proposing additional seats on the Council.
25. The President finally, summed the debate on Maj Gen Kochhar's proposal by stating that as majority of the members had opined against the proposal, the same could be considered and incorporated at subsequent stages when the need for such amendments were considered necessary.

26. Brig R Suresh, rep NHCA recommended the need for a separate Multi-Hull Committee to look after the interests of catamarans like Hobie, etc. with a view to broad-base such classes and provide an opportunity to participate in international events. The President clarified that broad-basing was to have more people on water instead of representation at international regattas.
27. Col (Retd) Navneet Mittal, Commodore, Kerala Yachting Association strongly recommended that there was a need to bring in simplicity in managing the sport and the interests of Class Associations were adequately covered under the new proposals. Further, he stated that as the President had brought out, the YAI still had three Classes Committees as against only one at the ISAF and none in most advanced yachting nations.
28. Accepting the views of the members, the President ruled that since the present proposals looked after the interests of all Class Associations adequately, there was no need to have a separate Multi-Hull Committee on the Council.
29. Mr Anil Chandra, Life Member opined that promotion of the sport should be given more impetus rather than winning medals at international participation. He stressed the need to encourage opening of more sailing schools. He further stated that in addition to a large coastline, there were many huge water bodies in the hinterland, which could be potential nurseries for sailing and sailors.
30. Capt (Retd) Contractor, Commodore RBYC, representing the views of RBYC, CSC, BSA, Seabird Class Association and Lightning Class Association, recommended that the proposals should be reviewed after two years instead of four years and corrections applied, where necessary. He further, proposed that such a review committee should not have any members of the present restructuring committee. He also opined that the clause of having 50 boats to be on the Council be amended and the number of boats stipulated be reduced. Capt (Retd) Contractor in his capacity of Govt. Observer further brought out the views of the MoYAS with respect to the sport and stated that Govt. funding would be available for promoting only youth classes in future.
31. In response, the President agreed that any specific proposals could be looked at earlier than the stipulated period. Further, the President opined that the stipulation on the number of boats should remain since it ensures that Class Associations take adequate interest in promoting their class in the country, thereby contributing to broad basing of the sport.
32. Brig Saini, rep EMESA recommended that the youth classes should be selected by the Council based on the potential of the sailors. He stated that the Laser Class was sailed as Laser (Radial) and Laser (4.7) for youth category and as such there was a lot

of enthusiasm amongst the youth to take up sailing in these classes. He therefore, once again recommended that the Laser (Radial) and Laser (4.7) also be placed under the Youth Classes. The President stated that he was aware that the Laser Class was gaining popularity, however, it could be represented only as the Laser Class, through either of the three Class Committees on the Council. He further, brought out that the Council would ensure that foreign participation would not be restricted to Optimist and 420 Classes only. The HSG brought out that during the Long Term Development Plan Meeting, Laser class was given priority and financial assistance for participation in events abroad would be provided by the MoYAS.

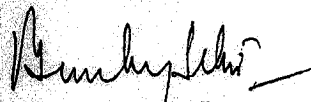
33. The President, thereafter, put the amendments to the Constitution to vote and asked for all those who were against adoption of the amendments to raise their hands. No member present at the meeting opposed the proposal, and thus the ratification to the proposed amendments to the YAI Constitution was unanimously accepted by the General Body. Consequent to ratification of amendments to the constitution, the President YAI directed that nominations be obtained from members for the new posts on the Council and elections be initiated for those elective posts where more than one candidate was nominated by the members.


Action: YAI Secretariat

34. The meeting concluded with Mr Rabi Ahuja proposing a vote of thanks to the Chair. Mr Ahuja mentioned that in his entire 30 odd years in the field of yachting, he had not seen any other President take as much interest in steering the course of the sport in the country, as he had seen the present President. Further, he mentioned that ratification of the amendments of the constitution was only the beginning of the process and people with the right credentials would need to get elected on the new council so that the sport could flourish in the country.

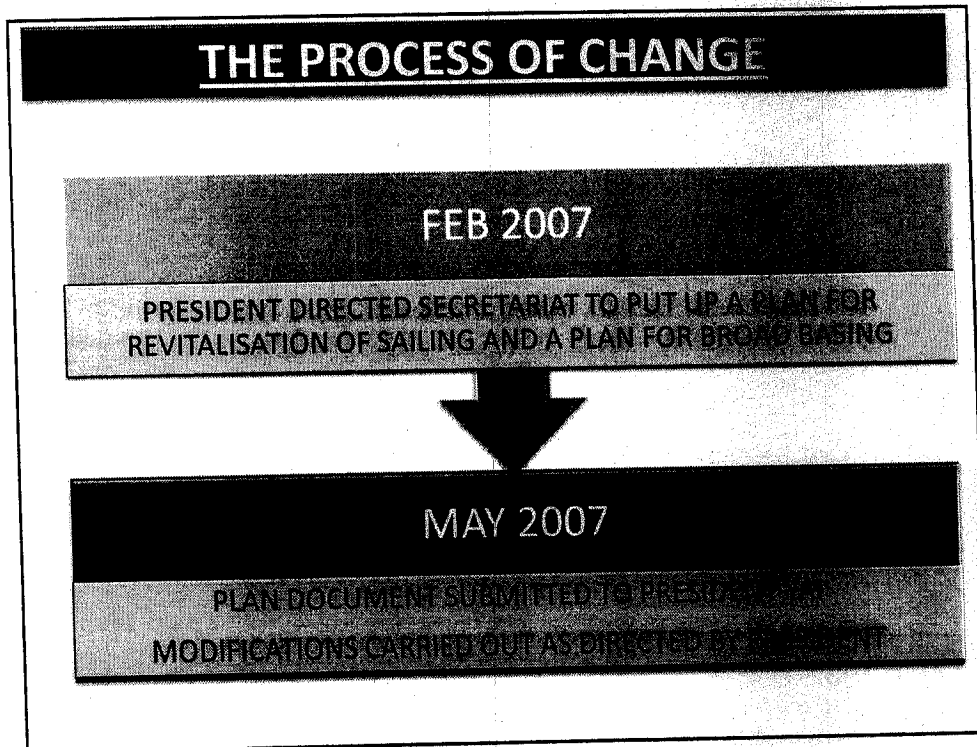
35. There being no other points, the meeting was concluded.

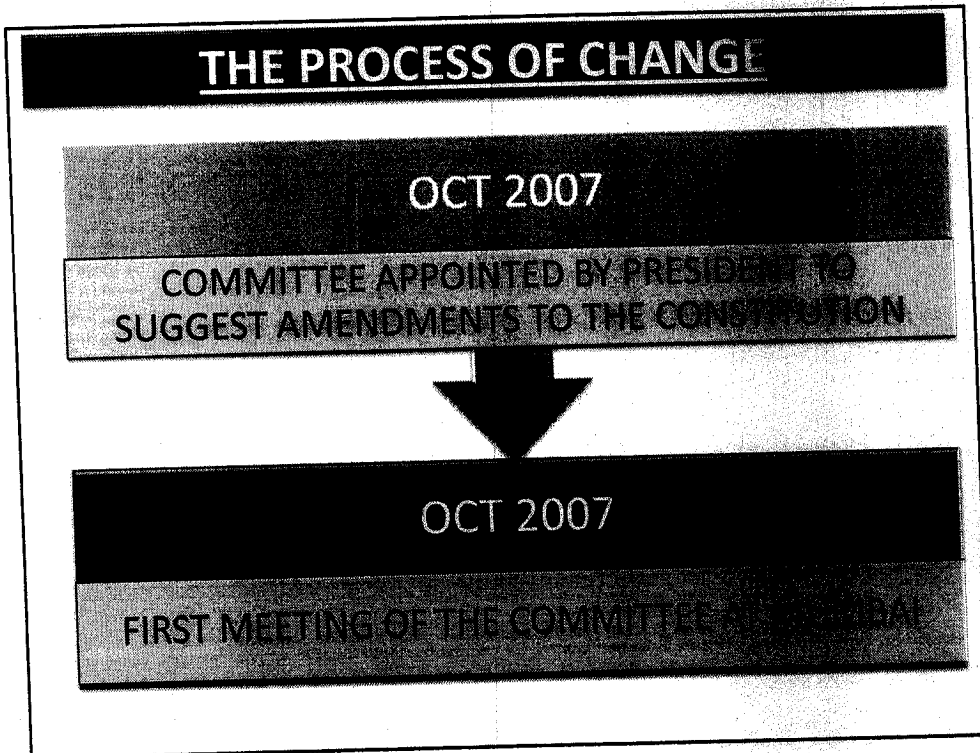
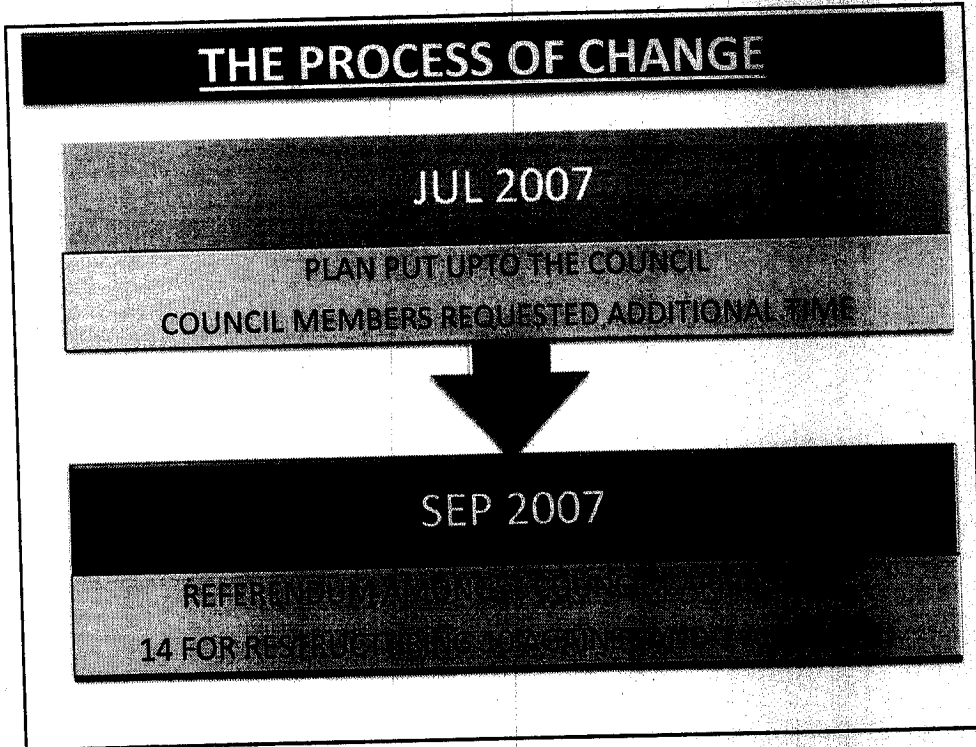
36. These Minutes are issued with the approval of the President YAI.

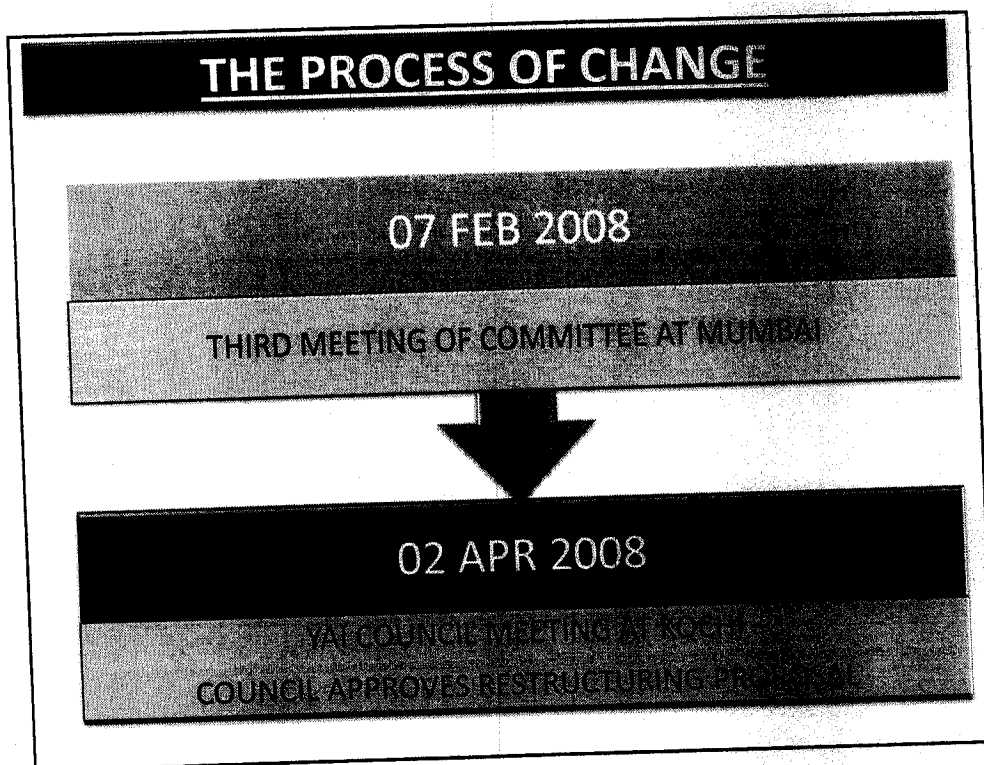
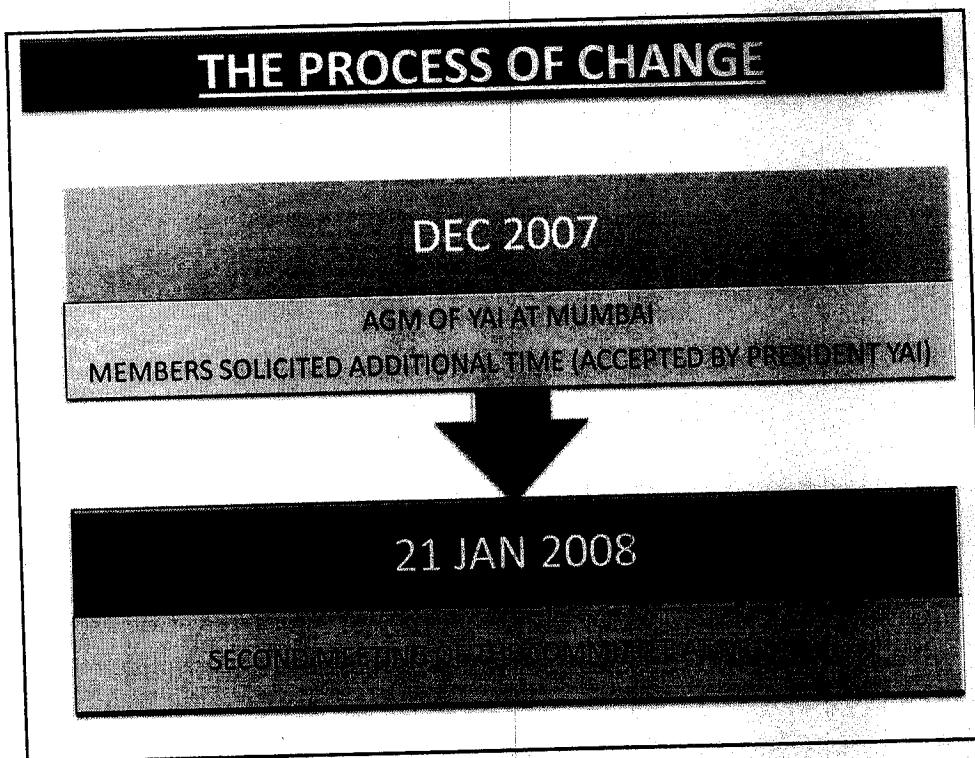

 (Bunty C Sethi)
 Captain
 Secretary General
 17 Sep 08

 **ITEM II**

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF YAI







YAI COUNCIL MEETING – 02 APR 08 DECISIONS

- No quota system for services or civilians on the council
- YAI council to be restructured as per the recommendations of the Restructuring Committee
- No voting rights for life associate members
- Proposed Regulations approved
- Some Regulations which were considered to be stringent to be redrafted, in consultation with Mr. Ajay Balram
- **A Special Meeting of the General Body to be convened on 10 May 08 in Mumbai to vote upon the amendments to Constitution & Regulations**

THE PROCESS OF CHANGE

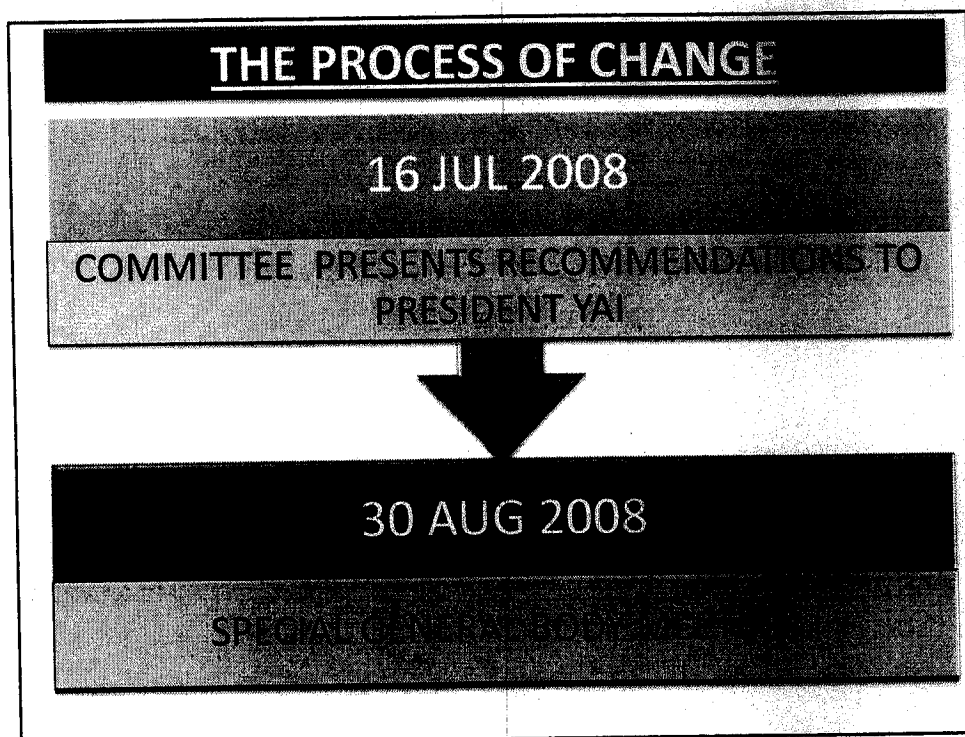
10 MAY 2008

SGM AT MUMBAI
MEMBERS SOLICITED ADDITIONAL TIME (ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT YAI)



08/09 JUL 2008

COMMITTEE MET AT MUMBAI
INTERACTION WITH MEMBERS OF CLASS ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS



4th COMMITTEE MEETING – 08 & 09 JUL 2008

- Since proposed Regulations & Bye-Laws considered stringent by Clubs/Class Associations mandate of Restructuring Committee was restricted to
 - Examining only Para 8 & 9 of constitution which pertain to structure of present council
 - Regulations & Bye Laws to be examined at a later date
- Inputs obtained from members with requisite experience and international exposure.

FORMAT FOR DELIBERATIONS

- Following Presidents of Class Associations invited for discussions
 - 420 Class Association
 - Match Racing Association
 - Hobie Class Association
 - Laser Class Association
- Commodores of following Clubs also invited
 - Colaba Sailing Club
 - Royal Bombay Yacht Club
 - Bombay Sailing Association
 - Royal Madras Yacht Club
 - Secunderabad Sailing Club
- Life Members of YAI
 - Mr. Shyam Chainani
- Open House during 1430 -1700 on 09 Jul 08 hrs for any other member Club / Class Association / Life Member.
 - No life member came for discussions

IMPORTANT ISSUES - MEETING ON 08/09 JUL 08

- There is a definite and urgent need to restructure the YAI Council.
- YAI focus has been purely on racing. There is a need to broad-base the sport with greater emphasis on cruising and recreational sailing.
- The IOA guidelines on having an elected body need to be complied with since most National Sports Federations have already complied with the guidelines.

IMPORTANT ISSUES - MEETING ON 08/09 JUL 08

- Most advanced sailing nations including the ISAF do not have any Class Associations represented on the Council due to the obvious clash of interests.
- Motor boating needs to be taken under the ambit of YAI not to regulate but for safety reasons.
- Considering its rising popularity, Match Racing needs to be represented by a full fledged committee.
- The tasks of Club Development and Sailing Development needed to be clubbed.

IMPORTANT ISSUES - MEETING ON 08/09 JUL 08

- Classes of boats to be clubbed, in accordance with ISAF/Asian Games guidelines, into the following four categories to ensure that interests of racing, cruising and offshore sailing are equally and adequately represented on the council
 - **Chairman National (Asian Games and Olympic Classes) Committee.** Will comprise of all Asian Games and Olympic Class Associations affiliated to the YAI, except Youth Classes. A separate Match Racing Committee (Chairman-President MRAI) will function under the Chairman of this committee.
 - **Chairman Youth Classes Committee.** Will comprise of all Youth Class Associations affiliated to the YAI, viz, the Optimist Class Association of India and the 420 Class Association of India.
 - **Chairman National Classes Committee.** Will comprise of all other Class Associations affiliated to the YAI, except Youth Classes.
 - **Chairman Offshore & Motor Boating.**

IMPORTANT ISSUES - MEETING ON 08/09 JUL 08

- Only classes with more than 50 boats would be eligible for election within the particular committee.
- In case only a single Class Association meets the criteria, the President of that Class Association would be deemed to be elected unopposed to the Council.
- Classes of boats in each committee would be reviewed by the Council once every four years.

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE
TO PRESIDENT YAI - 16 JUL 08**

- Restructuring mandatory for growth of yachting in India
- YAI council to be restructured as per final structure indicated
 - Necessary constitutional amendments to be carried out for implementation
- Separate committee to be constituted to examine Regulations & Bye Laws
- A Special Meeting of General Body to be convened to vote on the constitutional amendments

