

CLASSIC

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Vega

The Voda “Vega Upgrading Working Group”

To: Members of the working group
A summary of developments in the Netherlands.

Cc:
Board of the Vega One Design Association
Ver. Kring van VEGA-Zeilers
Dansk Vega Klub
Deutsche Vega-Klassenvereinigung
Vega Association of Great Britain
Den Norske Vegaklubben
Vegaklubben
The American Vega Association

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During our last Voda meeting at the Harwich IFR 2008, it was decided to form a “Vega Upgrading Working Group”. Reason was to investigate possibilities ensuring safe service life, status and a fair market price of the Vega.

Lüder Heideman and Klaus Schaberg of Germany, John Trim of Great Britain and undersigned, Rob Kloosterman of the Netherlands accepted this challenge. Below you will find my findings.

The group kicked off with two possible focus points. On the one hand we could aim for sort of a quality certification. This way safety and quality would be assured, while at the same time the yacht could be distinguished in the second hand yachting market. On the other hand we should emphasize Vega’s “classic” status, a “vintage” yacht if you like.

Today, in my opinion, both options are still valid. At the same time I came to the conclusion, Vega on its own has insufficient clout to realize both objectives. Luckily we are not alone. Many other types of yachts are in the same position.

That’s why in the Netherlands, recently we teamed up and formed the “Platform of PolyClassics”. Members are owner organisations of Albin Vega, Contessa, Marieholm, Nicholson, Trintella, Vindö and the Waterkampioen, renowned Dutch yachting magazine.

Joined characteristic for the time being: “Polyester long keeled sailing cabin cruiser of the sixties/seventies”. Participation of institutions like yacht experts and insurers is under consideration. This moment the Platform represents some 800 yacht owners and more to come.

An achievement sofar is our coordinated approach towards the organizing committee of the bi-annual Dutch Classic Yacht Regatta, sofar dominated by “wood and steel”. Realisation of own PolyClassic Regatta’s and participation in other regatta’s will follow. Next on the program are: expanding the Platform, formulating criteria for an optional periodical technical examination and market development.

Until here this summary of developments in the Netherlands. Members are invited to advise their findings sofar. At the same time I would like to ask Vega country organizations whether or not they deem it feasible and necessary to organize a joined Platform as described above.

Awaiting your comments, I remain,

With kind regards,

Rob Kloosterman
Ver. Kring van VEGA-Zeilers, the Netherlands
secretary