

**Minutes of the International OK Dinghy Annual General Meeting
held at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, Pattaya, Thailand
on Wednesday 3rd April 2013**

Present: M Wilde (Vice President Southern Hemisphere), D Kraz (Vice President Northern Hemisphere), M Reddyhoff (Secretary), A Deaves (Chair Technical Committee), R Deaves (Marketing)

Representatives from 7 countries: AUS, DEN, GBR, GER, NOR, NZL, POL and some 20 members

Apologies: A Blasse (President), D Ager (Treasurer)

1. Reports from the Officers

(i) President's report read by M Wilde

I am sorry I cannot be here to chair my last meeting as President, hopefully I will be there tomorrow, to have a quite beer. I would like to thank Mike and Mary for taking on my duties at this Worlds in Thailand, in my absence. I have really enjoyed being President for the last 4 years; it has been fun and very rewarding. I still cannot believe so many competitors came to Thailand. I would like to thank you all for believing in the idea, especially the individual who promoted it for me in your individual countries, you know who you are. I also have to thank Rut Subniran, the event organiser, without him we would not be in Thailand at all. He has coordinated everything, I don't know where he found the time, but after meeting with him last year at the Yacht club I reckon we have emailed each other at least once a day, and in the last month 10 time a day. Another very promising thing is the increase in boat builders, a few years ago there was only a few, now each country has one or more. This is great for the class as it allows easier access for new sailors to our fantastic Class. I would also like to thank my Committee as they have done a great job: we have some new rules, had some great publicity, changed the website to allow some advertising and also setup Paypal for easier payments. A special thanks to Mary for her continued work in running the nitty gritty of the association.

Good sailing and thanks

Andre Blasse

(ii) Secretary's report

- We have 9 countries over 3 continents sailing here today. We have to thank Andre and Rut for setting up this amazing World Championship.
- 13 countries are in the OKDIA Association, with 830 paying members – I am sure there are more boats being sailed, so do encourage your friends to join your National Association
- Canada, USA and Ireland remain very small, with just one or two enthusiasts. Canada and USA fleets are separated by 1000s kilometres, so it makes it very difficult to build the fleet. Growth is also restricted because of the difficulty of getting new masts. To import from Europe is prohibitively expensive, unless a group of OK sailors get together to arrange a shipment to a central point and everyone drives to collect. If anyone can help USA and Canada by supplying mast templates to be built under licence or shipment of masts they would be delighted to hear from you.
- Over 40 new boats were built in 2011 and 22 in 2012, so there remains a lot of enthusiasm for the Class, especially after the success of the 50th World Championship in Denmark.
- I receive requests for building plans all the time, usually from the USA, but the most recent set sold went to Hong Kong!
- I think these people search the Internet and look for the active fleets – and we must thank Robert Deaves for his excellent reports which have done much to raise the profile of the Class. It is important the class

website remains current – please send all sailing reports to Peter Scheuerl, whom we should also thank for his work in keeping the OKDIA website up-to-date. Statistics tell us that all of you are on the sailing websites between 9.30 – 12.00 on a Monday morning to read the reports!

- This week I received an email from a non-sailing gentleman in Holland requesting memorabilia from this event as he is enjoying reading the daily reports.
- As well as a GBP and a Euro bank account, we now have a Paypal account, which may help you pay invoices to OKDIA.
- Thanks to Alistair for running the Measurement and to everyone who helped out this time. Alistair will be writing a report for Dick Batt, our International Measurer, highlighting any boat that has a measurement issue. Dick will be at Melbourne. He favours self-checking of boats prior to arrival at the Worlds – the Class rules are on the OKDIA website. Remember to bring lead as it will be another warm venue!
- I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking Andre for his time as President, though hopefully we can thank him in person tomorrow. Andre has been great to work with. He is a great communicator, a visionary and has achieved much to take the Class forward in the last 4 years. And of course, none of us would be here in Thailand if Andre had not taken on the role of event coordinator with Rut.
- There are already thirty one of you registered to do the Europeans in Carnac, I look forward to seeing you there!

(iii) Treasurer's report

Again there was a healthy surplus of income over expenditure. *Completely OK* still contributed, although rather less than the year before. Sales of Building Fee Receipts were significantly higher as was the Worlds Levy. The Worlds Levy has been in place since 1995 I believe. At the time the finances of OKDIA were very rocky. This was seen as a way of “taxing” the sailors who do the worlds events in order to boost reserves. It has served its purpose very well. The levy and the majority of debts for 2012 have now been paid.

Expenditure for the year was made up of several irregular costs, such as medals and a payment to Robert Deaves for his marketing role. The Euro account that we opened was used three times in the last year, by BEL, FRA and GER. It costs some 6Euros a month. We are holding just over 1100 Euros. Hopefully there will still be a Euro the next time I write this report!

The Worlds, that I hope are being thoroughly enjoyed, may end up costing OKDIA a sum of money due to the way in which the club wanted payment. We will have to see how the sums work out after the event.

The accounts were taken as read. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the Accounts.

2. (a) To receive nominations and elect the following officers and members of the committee:

President: Bo Nielsen (DEN) Proposed: POL, Seconded: AUS, Approved: unanimously

A statement by Bo Nielsen was read to the AGM by G Wilcox in his absence. See Appendix II.

Vice-President, Northern Hemisphere: Darius Kraz was re-elected unopposed for a further 2 years

Secretary: Mary Reddyhoff was re-elected unopposed for a further 2 years

(b) To record changes in the composition of the Technical committee

Alex Scoles (GBR) was co-opted onto the Technical committee, making a total of 12 members.

3. Appointment of an auditor.

Mark Perrow (NZL) was elected to the position of auditor unopposed.

4. Membership subscription

Following the advice of the Treasurer, the subscription remains unchanged.

5. Class rule changes

Rule change 1: Sail reinforcement

Current rule:

15. Sail

15.2.2 The body of the sail shall consist of the same woven ply throughout, however a footshelf of not more than 300mm width is permitted to be of a different woven cloth. Primary reinforcement may consist of any material. Secondary reinforcement shall consist of the same material as used in the body of the sail. All woven ply fibres shall be polyester.

Amend rule to read:

15.2.2 The body of the sail shall consist of the same woven ply throughout, however a footshelf of not more than 300mm width is permitted to be of a different woven cloth. Primary reinforcement may consist of any material. Secondary reinforcement shall consist of the same material as used in the body of the sail except for Batten Pocket Patches which can be of any material. All woven ply fibres shall be polyester.

Reasoning: sail makers may use stickyback patches for the batten pocket patches.

Approved unanimously.

Rule change 2: Sail battens

Add rule:

15.2.5 There shall be 4 battens.

Reasoning: the number of battens is missing from the rules.

Approved unanimously.

Rule change 3: Tow rope

Add rule:

16.7 When racing a towing rope, minimum length 8 metres of not less than 8 mm in diameter, which is capable of floating shall be on board.

Reasoning: most people carry a tow rope, for safety reasons we feel this should be a rule.

Amendment tabled by DEN to read: minimum length 10 metres.....not less than 6mm in diameter,

Discussion on individual regatta requirements followed.

Amendment was approved unanimously.

New rule:

16.7 When racing a towing rope, minimum length 10 metres of not less than 6 mm in diameter, which is capable of floating shall be on board.

Approved unanimously.

6. A.O.B

- (i) Led by the Chair of the Technical committee, a brief discussion followed on how to become a licensed mast builder. The license verifies the construction of the mast is in accordance with class rules. Anyone can apply for a license, for which there is no charge. All new masts and current masts that have been altered will be issued with a sticker on successful completion of the measurement process. As the

principal had been agreed during the 2012 AGM, the wording would be circulated to National Secretaries and their agreement sought as described in the constitution.

- (ii) The Chair also stated that the area described in rule 14.2: *within a radius of 12cm from the intersection point of the sheerline and station 2 bulkhead* is deemed to be too small to accommodate corrector weights. To assist compliance with this rule, the Technical committee is proposing the following amendment:

If the hull weight is less than 72kg a maximum of 5kg of corrector weights shall be permanently fastened so as to touch the aft face of the bulkhead at station 2 and situated within *an area of 150mm athwartships, 150mm vertical and 80mm aft* from the intersection point of the sheerline and station 2 bulkhead. Wing nuts are not considered permanent fixing. The total weight of correctors shall be recorded on the certificate. No correctors shall be altered without the boat being re-weighed by a measurer and the certificate amended in accordance with the procedure of the administering authority.

This wording will be circulated to National Secretaries and their agreement sought as described in the constitution.

- (iii) 2013 European Championships in Carnac: France has an excellent and user-friendly website. Some 30 sailors have already registered. DEN has asked FRA for a one day postponement of the start of the Nationals to allow sailors time to arrive in France from the previous regatta.
- (iv) 2014 European Championships at Steinhuder Meer near Hanover Germany has already attracted plenty of sponsorship for food and drink at the event.
- (v) 2014 World Championships in Melbourne, Australia – the basic planning has been completed.
Pre-Worlds warm up regatta 26th – 27th December 2014; 2 / 3 races per day
28th December registration and measurement; Opening Ceremony
29th December Practice race
30th + 31st December Race day 1 and 2 with 2 races a day
1st January 2015 layday!
2 – 4th January Race days 3, 4, 5
Accommodation: a list is being compiled with use of a local school a probability
All OK Dinghy sailors are invited to join in the Sail Melbourne regatta.
- (v) 2015 World Championship in Puck, Poland: in hand but no firm data yet.
- (vi) 2018 World Championship in New Zealand: confirmed, but venue yet to be decided.

7. Close of AGM at 10.18am.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

OKDIA Income and Expenditure to year ending 31/12/12

	2011	2012
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions (i)	1299.00	1302.00
Building Fee Receipts (ii)	440.00	1184.45
World Championship Levy (iii)	660.00	1460.00
Plans	90.00	54.80
Completely OK	720.36	464.65
Overpayments made	<u>13.15</u>	<u>5.00</u>
	3222.51	4470.90
<u>Expenditure</u>		
ISAF subscription	207.60	218.40
Purchase of Building Fee Receipts	-	512.27
Bank Charges	-	22.23
Secretarial expenses	-	453.23
Medals	-	106.00
Hall of Fame	-	809.73
Robert Deaves	-	300.00
Worlds Expenses	<u>330.00</u>	-
	537.60	2421.86
Surplus for year		2049.04

Notes

- (i) AUS £132 BEL £30 CAN £20 DEN £184 FRA £40 GBR £236 GER £348 NOR £20 NZL £110 POL £30 SWE £122
USA £30
- (ii) DEN £400 GBR £400 NZL £200 POL £40 SWE £144.45
- (iii) 146 entries in Denmark

The Hall of Fame trophies invoice was paid twice, so we are in credit with Glasfoto who produce them.

Robert Deaves stepped in at the last minute to run the AGM in Denmark and carry out other secretarial duties. He was invited to submit an invoice for his work done.

OKDIA finances as at 31/12/12

Cash at bank	£	£8906.06
Money owed to OKDIA		<u>£2226.45</u>
		11132.51
Cash at bank Euro		1150.50

APPENDIX II

Dear Committee/AGM

I would love to take on the responsibility as President of OKDIA. I think it is a great responsibility but luckily it is an organization with great enthusiasm and a greatly motivated team.

What makes the OK-Class great is the boat and the people. We have so far been able to see development without losing the spirit of the class and losing sailors. The people within the class is our biggest asset and what attracts new sailors. People don't join the class to sit alone on a boat, they do it because they love the competition and the chance to share their passion for sailing with friends.

The class is not just about the constitution of OKDIA, it is the social camaraderie that keeps us together. I sail the OK class and so do some of my best friends, and for exactly that reason people tend to hang around the class for +20 years. It might sound very simple but truth is that this is a very precious thing that we should never take for granted and always keep in mind.

During my six years in the Danish Association I was privileged to be involved with a renewed interest in the OK and a lot of new sailors joining the class.

I must say that it is a great pleasure to be able to contribute to a successful and growing class and for those reasons I will look forward to working for the class.

I have a big heart for this class and would like contribute with my skills and enthusiasm.

Best regards

Bo

OPEN FORUM

The Vice President Southern Hemisphere opened a discussion on:

- **Venues for future World Championships**

Everyone agreed the decision to come to Thailand had been a bold one as Goa had not been well attended in 2003. We were fortunate that Rut Subniran had agreed to take on the organization of the event on behalf of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club. Andre Blasse had also been pro-active in visiting the Yacht Club and working closely with Rut. It demonstrated that a World Championship could be held in countries which had no OK Dinghy Association.

Everyone agreed that a return to the Royal Varuna Yacht Club would be greeted most favourably.

Everyone was encouraged to think of other suitable venues for a World Championship. The central Americas was suggested as water and air temperatures would be suitable. The Class was also keen to see members of the USA and Canadian Associations participating at a World Championship.

We may not be so fortunate to have personnel like Rut at other suitable venues. It may necessitate a member of OKDIA committee to visit the Club for the initial planning meetings. This would incur a cost.

- **Marketing the Class**

The Technical Committee is constantly reviewing the Rules to ensure sailing remains fair for everyone.

The Committee tries to source venues for World Championships that excite sailors to attend eg. Thailand.

The Royal Varuna Yacht Club was delighted with the publicity they gained from hosting the Singha OK Dinghy World Championship. Robert's reports were featured on the front pages of the ISAF weekly bulletin and Yachts & Yachting.

Awareness of the OK Dinghy Class has been increased through the publicity that Robert has brought to the Class from his report writing. Numbers of active sailors has increased, especially in Denmark. Enquiries about the OK and purchase of plans to build an OK have also increased.

Peter Scheuerl has rebuilt the website, adding a number of new features, some of which bring in revenue. He adds links and reports when he receives them – it is the responsibility of every sailor in every country to help promote the Class through publication of regatta reports, try a boat days, photographs and videos.

The Class would like to do more:

- (i) Produce a magazine similar to Finfare in hard copy to send to key people in the sailing world; also produce an electronic version. The aim to further increase awareness of the Class.
- (ii) Continue to develop the OKDIA website
- (iii) Get the OK Dinghy on the ISAF approved Class list for regional games eg. Asia Games.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Class will need to set aside money from the OKDIA account to meet the increased costs of marketing.

- **Sources of revenue**

Currently OKDIA gets £1.50 from each subscription that OK Dinghy sailors give to their National Associations.

Could this subscription be raised – and if so by how much?

Increase the levy that OKDIA gets from every sailor who enters a World Championship. The levy has been fixed for a number of years at £10. Should this figure be raised? If National Associations agree to run a World Championship in an exotic location eg. Thailand, it will be necessary to raise the OKDIA levy to meet these expenses.

ISAF building plaques: National Associations purchase these at £40 each.

Building plans: £15 + P&P

Completely OK – have all members got a copy of this history of the Class?

- **Special General Meeting**

All countries agreed to hold a special general meeting. The meeting will be virtual and comprise 3 agenda items:

- (i) Vote on the wording for the mast license
- (ii) Vote on the wording for the positioning of the corrector weights
- (iii) Vote on the marketing plan.