

Secretary's Report AGM 2021

Even though this AGM report mainly refers to 2020, as it is held so late in 2021, it also refers to the 2021 season where needed.

Despite the pandemic we still experienced substantial growth in the class during 2020. All the sailmakers, boatbuilders and mast makers were as busy as ever. That trend continued into 2021 and even though it was still not possible to hold any major events, attendance at many of the other events was very encouraging. I am sure when everything returns to normal we will all be surprised at the level of interest in the class. Many national associations are still expanding and attracting new, and old, sailors back into the class.

Total membership in 2020 was 853, a 6% increase on 2019. That trend decreased in 2021 but looks likely to jump back up strongly in 2022. In 2020 OKDIA sold 82 boat plaques, which is the highest number since 1980. In addition OKDIA sold 318 sail labels and 95 mast labels.

In 2021 we also welcome three new members – Brazil, Bulgaria and Italy. Boats are being built in at least four more countries so we hope to welcome more members soon.

There is very little to say about events in 2020. Almost everything was cancelled. I would like to acknowledge the cooperation of all our future worlds organisers in being so flexible and accommodating and allowing us to shift the calendar by one year. We didn't think it was fair to make this request again in 2021, so the upcoming events will not be moved again, by the cancelled Lake Garda worlds has been rescheduled to 2025.

Though it is really an item for next year's report I'd like to put on record that when the Worlds on Garda was cancelled, we already had a venue pencilled in for the Europeans. As it turns out they could not proceed and by then it was too late to reschedule for anywhere else.

Because we have worlds lined up until 2025, we will not be accepting any bids for future events until 2023 at the earliest and only after the 2022 worlds in Marstrand has taken place. We are however looking for venues for the Europeans from 2024 onwards. We are awaiting a committee decision for a venue in 2022 and have approached Circolo Vela Arco to run the Europeans in 2023 quite late in the year so it does not detract from the Worlds in Britain.

We all hope that in 2022 things will start to return to normal and we can begin to reintroduce all the initiatives that were put on hold in early 2020 such as the Euro League and the World Ranking. The ad hoc Euro Series in 2021 was really an afterthought when we saw that most national events would go ahead, and thanks to Art of Racing for providing headline sponsorship. It provided a very valuable promotional opportunity for the class.

The class finances remain in good shape, even though we have not benefited from event fees for two years. The only major investment in 2020 we invested in new Worlds ties, even though they are still stuck in Australia. We will also need to invest in some new medals in the coming year as stock is now quite low.

Thanks to Jonas Börjesson for his valuable held over the past four years, and to Peter Robinson who has side-stepped from VP to Treasurer, and who, as it turns out was quietly an expert with Xero and has sorted out the accounts, which have been audited for the first time in many years. I look forward to welcoming the new VPs to the committee and continuing to promote and grow the class in the coming years.

Robert Deaves
OKDIA Secretary
November 2021