

Secretary's Report AGM 2022

It has been another year of growth for OKDIA membership both in terms of nations and individual membership of those member nations.

OKDIA now numbers 17 members, the highest for probably 40 years. In the last year we have welcomed Thailand back, as well as well as welcoming Brazil, Bulgaria and Italy, and this year will ratify the membership of Argentina and Spain. Spanish membership has long been an ambition and then suddenly we see a number of new boats being built as well as used boats being bought. It is very exciting to see this growth to add to our Mediterranean membership.

Overall, individual membership of OKDIA in 2021 rose to 866, a 1.5% increase on 2020, but in 2022 has so far increased to 919, a 6% increase.

In 2021 OKDIA sold 94 building plaques, another new record since 1980, as well as 289 sail labels and 80 mast labels. Most builders and manufacturers are so busy they have waiting lists for production.

The new committee elected at the 2021 AGM has been very active on various new projects, including the charter boat platform. Shipping prices are rumoured to be gradually coming down again, but we still think charter boats will be needed for the next few years to boost local fleets at our major events. There is also ambition to take the fleet to a new exotic location but until international shipping has reset, this seems unlikely.

International events have returned in 2022 and the World Ranking List was resumed at the Spring Cup. We have around 115 boats for the worlds and so far around 50 for the Europeans in Bandol, though we are expecting a final number of about 70-80. Planning for the 2023 worlds in Lyme Regis and the 2024 worlds in Brisbane is also well underway and more information will be published shortly.

Planning is also underway for an 2023 Autumn double bill in Europe with the Europeans on Garda and the Autumn Cup in Bandol.

For the coming years we have a full programme of events, though need a European Championship venue in 2023 and 2024, which will be a full week's event.

The class finances remain in good shape, largely due to sales of boats and gear, even though we have not benefited from event fees for two years. Having this fluidity gives us great flexibility and confidence when we are planning events and new initiatives, and while we have a large surplus at the moment, we consider this a healthy situation given the current economic conditions.

Finally, thanks to my fellow committee members for their work over the past year, which has not been easy through the pandemic. Hopefully, we can now put that behind us and again focus on further developing this great class.

Robert Deaves
OKDIA Secretary
July 2022