

Presidents' Report 2020 OKDIA AGM

Welcome to the 2020 OKDIA AGM. I am imagining myself sitting in the sailing club in beautiful Marstrand with a complimentary OKDIA supplied beer and a room full of passionate OK Dinghy sailors, having just come off the water after a glorious days' sailing in the open sea off the Swedish Coast, welcoming you all to the 2020 AGM.

In fact, as I write this at 12 noon on Saturday 1 August, I should be just leaving my home in Sandringham, Melbourne to travel to the airport to catch my 3pm Thai Airways flight to Stockholm. It seems a lifetime ago when we booked our flights to Sweden for the Marstrand World Championships.

This AGM is like no other and I thank everyone for your cooperation to make this happen in less than ideal circumstances. As you will be aware, the AGM will essentially manage the mechanics of OKDIA for the year, while the key decisions such as rule changes and proposed changes to the constitution have been deferred to a postal ballot later in the year.

The AGM reviews the preceding year's activities. 2019 saw the largest ever fleet of OKs at a southern hemisphere World Championships, held at Wakatere, Auckland, New Zealand. The fleet reflected the massive resurgence of interest in OK Dinghy sailing in New Zealand and the reemergence of OK's in the USA. The event also showed the increasing standard of boats, equipment, competition and professionalism in the class over recent years. It was an extremely well run event and I would like to thank Alistair Deaves and Simon Probert and their team on their achievement.

I would also like to thank the German Association for their work in hosting a successful European Championship in Kiel in June 2019. There were also many other national, regional and local events held during 2019 and I personally enjoyed participating in some and following others from a distance.

The OKDIA Committee has continued to focus on the effective management of the class internationally and continues to promote growth in both existing member countries and in countries new to the OK Dinghy. I would like to thank Robert as Secretary for his excellent work in keeping the organization running. I think you will all agree we are very lucky to have such a competent and hardworking person in our corner working on all our behalf. I would also like to thank the OKDIA Committee for their commitment over the past 18 months. I truly appreciate your contribution and dedication.

I want to mention Nick Craig specifically as our Treasurer. Nick took on the job at the AGM in Barbados 2017, at the same time as dominating the World Championship, I might add. Nick has moved our accounts to the online Xero platform and developed budgets and sound financial practices to support the increased level of revenue and expenditure coinciding with the class growth and increase in professionalism. As we all know Nick is a very busy man with a young family and has indicated a need to step down from the role as Treasurer. I express my sincere thanks for his contribution as Treasurer, in the full knowledge that it is only a small part of his overall and ongoing contribution to the class.

Finally, just a few comments on the meeting and the future plans for a postal ballot on rule and constitution changes. In the next few months, we will be asking you to support how we can practically encourage OKDIA membership in developing countries. We now have quite a few of them. We agreed to some key changes in 2019 such as removing the category of 'associate member' and reducing the minimum number of owners/ sailors to 5 for a country to join OKDIA. In practice we are still finding this to be a barrier to joining, so we are working on a practical solution for your consideration at the postal ballot.

Wherever you are in the world, please stay safe and I hope you are able to get out on the water and have a sail in your OK Dinghy. My fingers are crossed that I will see you all next year in Lake Garda, Italy.

Mark Jackson, President

1 August 2020