

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of OKDIA

held at Cidade de Goa Beach Resort, Goa, India on April 1 2003

Present: Joe Porebski (chair), Robert Deaves, Peter Scheuerl, Gautama Dutta and representatives from AUS, GBR, GER, IND, SWE and NZL

1. (a) Secretary's report

I would start by paying tribute to my predecessor Brenda Andrews, through whose diligent work along with the late Ron Parkin, the class is in the well-ordered state it is today. After just five months in this post, I find there is a lot that she never told me going on and the demands on my time are greater than I initially anticipated.

Membership for 2003 remains at roughly the same level at 2002, down 26 individual members but remaining at 14 national members. The number of new boats in 2002 is 22, up 2 from 2001. However, I feel it is important we expand our membership base, therefore I will be encouraging nations with an interest in OKs, but without an established association, to become Associate members of OKDIA, in the hope that they will develop into full members. This is especially the case in the Far East, where growing economies and the opening of borders may allow sailing to increase, and the OK is ideally suited to the area.

It is especially pleasing to see interest in generating larger fleets in France, the USA and the possibility of an inaugural event in Taiwan later this year. The conditions are right for development if we can exploit the present opportunities.

However, in return I feel OKDIA needs to provide a better service to its members, especially those who do not have active fleets and just support our activities. It has been planned to start a regular email newsletter, perhaps once a month, so that all countries can be kept up-to-date of goings on. The website serves a useful purpose here providing it is looked at regularly. So maybe the email newsletter will act as a reminder of what is available online, thanks to Peter's efforts.

Over the coming year I would also like to introduce some changes into the constitution, to bring it up to date and also to ensure that the quality of our championships remains at the high level we expect from them. These changes will be discussed within the OKDIA Executive Committee before dissemination to the membership.

Other issues:

ISAF have increased the Building Fee Receipt to £17. As a result the fee to National OK Associations will also increase.

The European Championship in Warnemunde is expected to be well attended, being the first OK International Championship in Europe since 2001. Countries are reminded that if they do not pay their membership subscriptions in full before March 15th, they lose 25%

of their International Championship entitlement. A number of countries are currently in this position.

The new rule for carbon masts come into effect on April 1st, but they are not allowable at the current world championship.

There is a desperate need for a Chief Measurer. At present we have no measurement form for the new mast rule. We have no-one with authority at International Championships.

Robert Deaves

(b) The audited accounts for 2002 were accepted by the meeting. Proposed by Nick Craig, Seconded by James McAllister.

2 Election of officers and members of the Committee

The following officers and members of the committee were elected.

President Thomas Hanson-Mild SWE

Vice-President, northern hemisphere

Two proposals were received for this post Bart Bomans, BEL and Maj Gen Rajendra Singh, AVSM, VSM, IND

Bart Bomans was elected 4 votes to 1, 1 abstention.

Webmaster Peter Scheuerl GER

To record changes to the composition of the technical committee

Greg Wilcox, NZL, Paul Rhodes, NZL and Colonel Rajesh Kochhar, VSN joined the technical committee

Thanks were offered to the technical committee for the large amount of work that had been done to produce the new rule for carbon masts.

3. Appointment of an auditor

W E Tyler was appointed.

4. Membership subscriptions

A discussion ensued as to how to promote smaller nations to join OKDIA. It was seen that the £39 basic subscription was too high if a nation had only one or two sailors. It was agreed that a nation could be allowed rights as full members upon payment of the associate fee of £10, but only with specific committee approval.

5. Rule changes

(a) The proposal by the British association to reduce the all-up weight of the OK to 71 kg was defeated by 8 votes to 3.

(b) The proposal by the British association to increase the corrector weights to 10 kg was defeated by 8 votes to 3.

(c) The proposal by the British association to introduce foam sore foils was agreed 8 votes to 3, but because the wording submitted was not approved, a change of rule was deferred until another proposal was presented.

(d) The proposal by the British association to change the constitution, Addendum A, Championships, to allow 10 races of about 75 minutes duration was agreed 10 to 1, but because the wording submitted was not approved, a change of rule was deferred until another proposal was presented.

A general discussion followed.

R Deaves
Secretary

Following the AGM a discussion on other topics ensued.

2006 Worlds

A letter has been received from the Australian Association informing us that of the three possible venues of Lake Macquarie, Black Rock or Adelaide, Lake Macquarie had been chosen

2006 Europeans

The French Association has requested to host the 2006 Europeans. While everyone was in general agreement, it was felt that the venue had to be sea based. Secretary to revert back to French Association.

OK Training Video

Nick Craig mentioned that the British Association had produced a training video which was now on general release, cost GBP 12.

Worlds 2004

Mary Reddyhoff made a presentation regarding the worlds in Parkstone.

Europeans 2003

Paul Rhodes, NZL, was concerned that a European championship had been organised for this summer and felt that this directly affected the number of entries in Goa. He felt that if such a situation arose again, then the matter of whether it should be held should be widely discussed first, as he thought many people would be intending to sail the Europeans instead of the Worlds this year. As the worlds is the premier event, he felt it should have received more support.

Chief Measurer

A Chief Measurer for the class is desperately needed, we are in danger of losing our international status. Volunteers needed! Plans were discussed for incentives for a Chief Measurer e.g. travel paid to worlds, but nothing definite.

Weight centralisation

Weight centralisation is controversial with some saying inevitable & too late to do anything about b/c it is widespread vs. others saying it contravenes the spirit of the rules. General agreement that a reduction in hull weight would reduce this issue and also potentially reduce the cost of the boat. One argument was in favour of relaxing rules to make all boats legal while the opposing viewpoint was to control the current rules better. The TC were to look into exploitations and means of control.

Carbon masts.

Strong view from NZL, AUS & GBR that 5.5kg + 2.5kg of correctors would be more appropriate. Other countries present pretty silent as they have not made masts yet.

Apparent from the internet that BEL & SWE firmly believe 7.4kg is right. Given this, unlikely any rule change will happen before 04 Worlds. We need to work with what we have. Most planned on building to 5.5kg or whatever and sticking a rubber tube in the mast. However, feeling was this is probably technically illegal. General agreement from those present that a short-term rule should be passed allowing dispensation for such a device or more correctors for the 04 Worlds. However, it still leaves open the question, what do we do for the 2003 Europeans?

Measurement at Worlds

Problem discussed over lack of jig. Proposal to have unofficial method of recording measurement at worlds. A form would be provided that each competitors could have completed at each worlds attended to be kept with the certificate as 'proof' that the boat has been 'jigged' or not. General agreed to be a good idea, although not to be used to replace measurement, only as a backup. Secretary to present form ready for use in Warnemunde.

Finances

Although OKDIA's finances are in pretty good order, it was thought that building up further reserves to be a good idea. Secretary proposed to increase world's levy to £10 up from £5. A proposal would be needed at the next meeting to put into effect.

Constitution

The Secretary stated that he thought the constitution needed to be updated and offered to present a proposal for changes to the committee, before being presented at an AGM.