

## **OKDIA Presidents Report February 2019**

I am excited to conclude my first term as President of OKDIA. It has been both a privilege and lots of fun at the same time. I have spoken with many OK sailors from member countries who are hugely supportive of what we are trying to achieve and extremely proud of their class of boat.

I firstly need to thank the entire OKDIA Committee for their hard work and support over the past year. It might not seem like much, but I can tell you there is a lot of work being done.

2018 has been a busy year of sailing. We held our first open worlds with split fleets at Warnemunde in July in order to cope with the number of sailors wanting to be part of OK Dinghy sailing at the highest level. We held a hugely successful Europeans in Bandol and an Interdominions at Wakatere as a lead in to the 2019 Worlds in New Zealand.

The class has continued its growth in most countries, while in some of our traditional member countries, we are either stable or holding ground.

We provided a progress report on the Strategic Road Map 2015 to 2024 at the AGM in Warnemunde in July. We have made some further progress since then, including a rewrite of the Constitution which is presented for consideration to the AGM in Wakatere 2019. The purpose of these changes is to bring the constitution up to date with the progress we have made so far. Our next priorities will be modernizing the structure and functioning of the Committee, consolidate our administration and operations and focus on class growth and development in some key new and emerging countries.

In 2018 we made significant progress in the administration of the class and a lot of this has been due to the hard work of our Treasurer Nick Craig and Secretary Robert Deaves. In addition, 2018 was a big year for clarifying and refining the rules and our Technical Committee Chairman Alistair Deaves has put in an enormous effort, including travelling to the Worlds in Germany and World Sailing in London in July to resolve a large number of difficult issues.

Robert has also been extremely active in publicity and marketing including promoting the class in France at the Paris Boat Show, Salon Nautique, as well as the world class publicity he continues to produce for the OK Class.

The class is currently in a great position. We are becoming financially secure, we have attracted high quality suppliers in most countries, we have world class sailors wanting to come along and sail OKs and compete at National and International regattas and we have secured the organizing for the next 4 World Championships at some great venues.

While the class is in great shape, we should never forget it is the sailors who make it such a great class. The culture of the class and the people in the class from around the world, make it great and something I am proud to be a small part of.

Mark Jackson  
President  
OKDIA