

Secretary's Report AGM 2020

The OK Dinghy class continues to expand and grow in many areas of the world in spite of the current global situation. While this report should mainly focus on 2019, it is worth noting that at July 2020, OKDIA has sold more new boat plaques for the year than in any year in the past 40 years, and we are only half way through the year.

Boat, sail and mast labels form a significant part of OKDIA's income, and this has been strong for the past year, highlighting the continuing growth. This year we have also seen new boats in Spain, Russia, Thailand and Canada and a continuing strengthening of the USA fleet with a group in Miami having just imported a container of boats and the old Strandberg Marine moulds. This group includes two Brazilians, who will be the first South American registered OK Dinghy sailors in living memory.

Membership in 2019 was up slightly from 2018 to 804. In 2020 it jumped to 853, a 6% increase. This trend is expected to continue. In 2019 there were 57 new boat plaques sold (compared to 68 in 2018 and 72 so far in 2020).

So it all looks good, except that we have had very little sailing this year.

2019 will be remembered as the year of the fantastic worlds in Wakatere, which now seems like a world away from where we find ourselves this week, when we all hoped to meet in Marstrand. I have to say it has been as much work to cancel and reschedule events as to organise in the first place, but thanks again to all those who remained flexible and helpful to allow us to realign the calendar over the coming years.

Next year will hopefully bring the first worlds in Italy, on Lake Garda. This was supposed to be a key event in our ongoing event programme development. At the moment there is no Europeans in 2021, but I suspect we will wait to see what happens to the European and global situation before making any further firm plans. An autumn championship remains an option, especially as the worlds will be earlier than usual.

We attempted to start a Euro circuit, but this unfortunately got cancelled just weeks after being launched. We will try again next year. There are a few events planned for the European autumn this year and we hope these can go ahead, especially the Autumn Trophy in Bandol and Kiel Week, which increased the entry limit for us after huge interest.

We remain in a good position financially, technically and administratively, but there is still much to do. Over the coming months there will be some proposals to improve our admin side to better accommodate the current growth. These changes will be done by a postal vote before the end of the year.

Finally thanks to Nick Craig for being OKDIA Treasurer for the past three years and for his valuable input on many subjects.

Robert Deaves

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