

Secretary's Report AGM 2023

For the seventh year in a row OKDIA membership has increased and it is now the highest for several decades at 947. After a 5-6% increase for several years, there was a lower 3% increase, but still an upward trend.

OKDIA now numbers 18 member nations and during the year the OKDIA office has worked with many of the smaller members to advise and guide them through the process of membership, measurement, and certification.

There is an increasing amount of work corresponding with their federations to request authority and dispensation for various operations and getting approvals for membership and certification. For example, in Bandol we sought FFV approval to allow OKDIA to appoint a non-French measurer to get the Spanish boats measured so they could compete.

These new and emerging associations may be small but need a disproportionate amount of time compared to the larger and more established associations. However, it is very encouraging to see so many new nations and we all hope they continue to grow in the coming years.

In 2022 OKDIA sold 56 building plaques, a decrease after several years of increasing sales. We also sold 335 sail labels and 155 mast labels, both a big increase on 2021. During 2022 we also set up distribution centres in New Zealand and Australia to overcome the recent delays with international post.

The clamour to return to competitive sailing was readily apparent in 2022 with 109 entries for the Worlds in Marstrand and 76 for the Europeans in Bandol. Despite the problems and uncertainty that Brexit has caused, Lyme Regis has attracted a huge 148 entries, which if everyone shows up will be the largest OK Dinghy World Championship ever. The previous record was 145 in 2012.

Over the year the Committee has been busy reviewing the Roadmap and renewing it for the next 10 years and we hope to bring that work to a conclusion soon. Part of that process was the two surveys carried out in May, which produced some interesting and useful information. Thanks to Pontus for leading that process and producing the presentations.

The committee is also exploring a new website but as you can imagine this is a huge amount of work. During the year we published the charter boat platform to assist with boats at worlds due to the high cost of containers. This met with limited success but with container costs coming down, we are hopeful of a number of European containers going to Brisbane next year.

An event strategy is also being formed. We are in discussions with Palma for an event in 2024 and are actively looking for interesting venues for the coming years, hopefully in some new countries.

The class finances remain in good shape, though general cost of living increases have meant we have been more stretched than usual, hence the recommended increases this year. We feel small regular increases are better than infrequent larger steps to maintain financial stability.

Finally, thanks again to my fellow committee members for their work over the past year. Mike Wilde is retiring and there's no doubt that we are in the comfortable position we find ourselves in today thanks to his lightbulb moment in Thailand in 2013, beer in hand, feet in pool, when he proposed a new direction for the class. Thanks Oscar.

If the growth and enthusiasm within the class continues, we are in a great position for the future.

Robert Deaves
OKDIA Secretary
June 2023