



OKDIA NEWSLETTER

December 2007

From the President

ISAF Conference, Estoril, Portugal

After 100 years ISAF decided to open a "Hall of Fame" copying the OK Class. In order to celebrate this monumental occasion they organised a dinner coinciding with their annual conference held in Estoril, Portugal. The OK class was invited to send two representatives and the committee decided it was a good idea for someone to attend so I got the job. Juliane Hofmann came as well to provide a woman's perspective. We flew with Air Berlin via Palma Mallorca to Lisbon. After arriving at our hotel we decided to make use of the free beer vouchers (naturally) and of course the first people we met in the bar were OK sailors HP Hylander and Patrik Schander. So we had a quick beer then had to get dressed for the first dinner event. Naturally the OKDIA tie came out and off we went.

Hall of Fame

Aperitifs were served in the foyer of the impressive Estoril Casino before the main event. While mixing with the rich, the famous and the Royal for a few gin and tonics we headed into the dinner. Our table was naturally placed where ISAF considered we would have the greatest impact on the crowd, high up at the back. A great vantage point and perfect for throwing things if the need arose. We were sharing the table with a really rich Canadian couple who were complaining about the carbon headfoil on their new Swan 80 and an American Snipe class guy.

The main topic of conversation was who else after Paul Elvstrom would be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Well, Olin Stephens was a good choice and at 99 years old he could still walk unaided to the stage and make a speech as did Paul Elvstrom.



Paul Elvstrom receiving his award



Juliane and Greg with HP Hylander and Patrik Schander

Dame Ellen Macarthur, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Eric Taberly represented the round-the-world sailors (interestingly none of which are ISAF events) and Barbara Kendall rounded off six inductees. Most of the crowd had no idea who Barbara Kendall was (*Ed: she is a board sailing legend who represented New Zealand in the Olympics!*).

Following the dinner (which was quite nice but no seafood or paella but traditional slabs of meat, the fingerfood earlier was better) there was a band doing Elvis covers but by then all the old committee-type people had left so it was up to the OK sailors, now including John Derbyshire, to prop up the bar for a last drink and watch the other twelve people dance.

There were many meetings during the day, but none were relevant to the OK Dinghy, so we did not attend. Instead, we wandered around Cascais, which was a short walk along the seashore from Estoril. I can see why they held the ISAF Worlds there as it is a very nice spot and the sailing area looked very clean with a good breeze. I have to say it was also a lot warmer than Germany at this time of year with temperatures in the mid 20°Cs.

Rolex Sailor of the Year

On Tuesday we had to get dressed up again for the Rolex Sailor of the Year Awards. The venue was a very posh castle in the hills that we all got taken to by bus. Obviously we were on the right one as

Rohan Veal, Vincenzo Onorato and Ed Baird were sitting just in front of us, along with PJ Montgomery and Jim Capron (chairman of US sailing) as well as numerous other nobodies like us. Again it was a very glamorous affair with plenty of backroom deals going on during the aperitif stage. No gin and tonic this time, so we had to settle for champagne but without caviar (bad form). Our table was a pretty good one this time, but again nowhere near the front but we were closer than Ralph Roberts. Sharing with us was the Israeli judge some of you may remember from the Europeans last year, a Swiss guy and some more Americans. So of course we all argued about who would win and Clare Leroy was the favourite (and correct) choice for the woman's award. The yanks were all for Ed Baird and were a little put out when I suggested that perhaps driving a tank, with sixteen of the best sailors, around a course with a budget of at least \$250 million for only seven races was perhaps a little less of an achievement than that of either Robert Scheidt or Rohan Veal. They were there for winning more than one regatta and in Rohan's case winning every race in the Worlds. Considering that Ed lost two races and nearly a third I thought it would have made Rohan a worthy winner. However, money and the America's Cup seemed to sweep all else away and Ed Baird won. A shame for the others but there you go.

The biggest obstacle we faced in trying to promote our small corner of the sailing world was explaining just what an OK is. It is fair to say we do not hold a massive place in the ISAF world. At least the boss of US Sailing knows what an OK is after being on the jury this year at Kiel Week, he also reassured us that we would not become part of the Olympic circus. Princess Anne did ask how much they were.

All in all it was a very nice trip and good fun but I feel the next time we get invited as a class to one of these events we should politely decline and perhaps invite them instead to see why sailing is, despite their best efforts, still a sport for fun.

Greg Wilcox

From the Secretary

Well, six months on and I am just beginning to get the overview of the job! It has been a steep but fascinating learning curve as I ploughed through the enormous box of papers that represent a large proportion of the OK Dinghy heritage. Much still remains as a heap on my study floor – maybe a filing job for the Christmas holidays! Anyway, back to business:

On reading the Constitution, I noticed some minor adjustments could be made regarding methods of communication. It seems that post and airmail are generally not used; instead we are increasingly relying on email. I would like to suggest the following amendments to reflect these changes:

Constitution amendments:

Amendment 1

Constitution Section 4 Paragraph 10c:

'the Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Members in General or by post for alterations in or additions to the Association Rules'

Amend to read:

'the Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Members in General or by post **or email** for alterations in or additions to the Association Rules'

Amendment 2

Constitution Section 4 Paragraph 11

Meetings of the Committee

Business will mainly be conducted by correspondence through the Class Secretary. All communications to countries outside that of the Secretariat shall be sent by airmail. Any committee member not answering a motion communicated to him or her in writing within three weeks of the date of sending shall be deemed to have agreed to the motion.

Amend to read:

'Business will mainly be conducted by correspondence through the Class Secretary. All communications to countries outside that of the Secretariat shall be sent by airmail **or email**. Any committee member not answering a motion communicated to him or her in writing **by airmail** within three weeks, **or email within two weeks** of the date of sending shall be deemed to have agreed to the motion.

Amendment 3

Constitution Section 5 Paragraph 12g

Meetings of the Association

In the event of a postal ballot, all returns shall be made to the Secretariat within 6 weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper.

Amend to read:

In the event of a ballot, all returns shall be made to the Secretariat. A postal ballot shall be returned within 6 weeks of the date of posting the ballot paper. A ballot circulated by email shall be returned within 3 weeks of the date of circulation of the ballot paper.

Following the Open World Championship to celebrate the 50th year of the OK Dinghy, the Committee discussed the maximum number of entries allowable for future events. The Committee would like to propose the following wording:

Amendment 4

ADDENDA

A International Championship Races Paragraph 1 (c)

The number of boats taking part shall not exceed 80, not including last year's World Champion, who shall have the right to defend the title, and the current Committee and officers of OKDIA. These places do not count to the quota of the relevant National Association.

Amend to read:

The number of boats taking part in a World Championship shall not exceed 80 and the 80 place allocation will reflect the proportion of Full Members in each of the National Associations. Extra to the 80 places, the current and all previous World Champions, the current Committee and officers of OKDIA may participate in the World Championship.

Following on from the presentation of the Hall of Fame awards in 2007, a formal proposal procedure has been outlined below:

Amendment 5

ADDENDA

C Hall of Fame

Nominations to the Hall of Fame may be submitted to the OKDIA Committee by the Secretary of a National Association or a member of the OKDIA Committee. A short report justifying the nomination shall be submitted with the name. A Hall of Fame plaque will be presented to the successful nominee. The final decision on successful entry to the OK Dinghy Hall of Fame will lie with the current OKDIA Committee.

Explanation:

It is important nomination to the Hall of Fame is seen to be a transparent process, which is open to every Full Member of OKDIA. The short report fulfils two functions:

- (i) enlightens those who may be voting on the Hall of Fame nomination
- (ii) the report may be recorded within a Hall of Fame document which may be preserved as part of the heritage of the OK Dinghy Class.

These amendments are the recommendations of the Committee to the Members to alter and add to the Association Rules, according to 10c of the Constitution.

General Administration

Building plaque fees

The cost of the ISAF building plaques has risen year on year, this year being no exception. OKDIA absorbs these costs for approximately three years before passing them onto the membership.

After holding the cost of a builder's plaque at £30.00 since 2004, the Committee has recommended a cost increase to £35.00 a plaque, which includes tax, post and packing, payable from 1st January 2008.

Email address

In the New Year I will be off air from **10-21st January**, whilst getting my computer upgraded. This will include setting up a separate email account so that in future I will communicate with you under the Secretary title, rather than the current one. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Spring Cup 26-27th April, Medemblik

A number of regular participants to this event have voiced their concern about the late notification of the event, and the fact that it has been reduced to two days. Your concerns have been passed onto the organiser. To date, I have not received a response.

Query form

See below: Please respond by 31st January 2008.

OKDIA QUERY FORM 2008

Please complete and return by **31 January 2008** to Mary Reddyhoff,
OKDIA Secretary

National Secretary.....

Address

.....

Tel (international) Fax

E mail

National website (if any)

Number of members you wish to pay for in 2008

Number of new boats in 2007

Name of your 2007 National Champion

Name and address of your chief measurer

.....

.....

Please provide a list of the names and addresses of all other officially
recognised class measurers.

Please return form by email: secretary@okdia.org

Or post to:
Mary Reddyhoff, OKDIA Secretary, Hollyhurst, Wood End Road,
Crow Hill, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3DG ENGLAND