

OKDIA AGM February 2024

President's Report

Welcome to the 2024 Annual General Meeting for OKDIA and welcome to Brisbane Australia. Brisbane and Queensland were once a stronghold of the OK Dinghy Class in Australia with the 1980 Australian Championships held just across the bay at Sandgate. The class has had a resurgence in Queensland in the last 10 years firstly at Southport on the Gold Coast and now also here at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in Brisbane.

The choice of venue, while originally scheduled for 2023 and delayed a year due to the Pandemic, demonstrates nicely the OKDIA event strategy. Again, our long-term planning has seen a record number of entries for an Australian Worlds, a great venue and facilities and has resulted in the significant growth of a local fleet with around 20 locals sailing this week.

2023 was a big year for the class and signalled the bounce back from the Pandemic. Lyme Regis was huge with close to 150 boats, sailing in glorious open sea conditions. We experienced Lake Garda for the first time as a class for an international event for the European Championships, also with more than 100 boats. Clearly it is important that we fixture events in locations where members want to sail and support the continuing development of the class. With this in mind, we are here in Brisbane, but later in the year we will be in Palma, Mallorca, also for the first time where we expect up to 20 local boats.

As your Committee we continue to meet on a regular basis and I would like to thank the Committee for their efforts during the year. Vice President -Sailing Andreas Pich; Vice President – Marketing Pontus Grael; Vice President – Development Simon Probert; Secretary – Robert Deaves; Treasurer– Peter Robinson; Chair of TC – Alistair Deaves and the Committee position filled by current Webmaster Peter Scheuerl.

There are two things I would like to mention on the work of the Committee;

- Firstly, we had committed to get a first draft of the new strategic road map 2024 to 2034 to this meeting. Unfortunately, that task was allocated to me and I am running behind schedule.
- Second, we have had to make some difficult decisions around finances and expenses during the course of the year which has meant we have eaten into our reserves. We felt each of these decisions, although relatively minor on their own, were important to continue the growth, development and improved professionalism of the class. We felt it is important to us to invest in the future. We expect to return to surplus in 2024.

Finally, I would like to personally thank everyone for your continued support, participation and friendship that makes the OK Dinghy Class special all around the world.

Mark Jackson, President OKDIA

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