

Secretary's Report AGM 2024

Projected membership for 2024 (some returns are not yet in) should be in the region of 970, up from 947 in 2023, and from 919 in 2022. When the Roadmap was endorsed by the AGM in 2014 membership was around 750. There is a continual upward trend that should see us pass 1,000 members in the next few years.

OKDIA numbers 18 member nations and much of the work for the OKDIA office is working with the smaller members to advise and guide them through the process of membership, measurement, and certification. One example during 2023 was to gain FIV permission to send a measurer to Italy to measure the two Italian boats. As well as building huge goodwill, this resulted in two Italian boats at the Europeans on Garda, the first Italian boats at a championship that anyone can remember.

Both major championships in 2023 attracted record numbers. 144 boats in Britain was incredible and just short of the largest worlds ever, while 112 on Lake Garda was amazing and the largest Europeans ever. We now have 110 entries in Brisbane, which is a record for Australia. That's three events in a row when class records have been smashed. But it's not just about breaking record numbers, it is about putting on quality events at great locations, that provides competitive, but fun racing, alongside the social activities for which the class is famous.

These increasing numbers show no sign of subsiding, so I think we are going to have to look hard at our traditional formats and come up with something that works for a large fleet without losing what is crucial for OK sailors. Do we want to continue with big, long courses, or move to smaller groups on shorter courses? The Committee will be engaging with the membership over the coming year as we debate this, so there is a plan in place for the 2025 World Championship in Garda where 200 boats are expected. The dates have been set at 12-19 September at Circolo Vela Arco.

The class finances remain buoyant, though reserves are lower than recent years. This matter was addressed at the 2023 AGM with an increase in all fees by 5%, which should reset the balance by 2025. In 2023 OKDIA sold 55 building plaques, almost the same as 2022, as well as 274 sail labels and 37 mast labels, both down compared to 2022.

Over the year the Committee has continued to review the Roadmap and carried out two surveys to see what has gone well and what could be improved. A new website is in progress, a new magazine was published in January, with another planned in the summer. And in the Autumn, we have the first ever OK Dinghy championship in Spain, with the Europeans in Mallorca. There is huge interest in going to Palma and it is sure to be a great event.

As usual, final thanks again to my fellow committee members for their work over the past year. We have a diverse range of skills on the committee and after a while of finding their feet, we work well towards meeting individual and group objectives.

The future for OKDIA and the OK Dinghy continues to look auspicious.

Robert Deaves
OKDIA Secretary
February 2024