

2025 OKDIA AGM - President's Report

Welcome to the 2025 Annual General meeting for the OKDIA and warm welcome to the 2025 Worlds on Lago di Garda. This is the second time the OK class will host an event on the lake. Last time was for the 2022 Europeans with a 120 boat turn out. In 2025 we have 214 entries by the deadline – an impressive achievement. As many as 45 sailors are travelling all the way from Australia, New Zealand and Thailand to race on the beautiful lake in Northern Italy. I'm sure it will be an event to remember, and many memories will be made.

2024 was a great season and clear sign that we have bounced back from the covid lockdown. The international racing scene was long and started with the Brisbane Worlds in February and ended with the Europeans on Palma de Mallorca in November. The first international event for the fast-growing Palma fleet. We have new sailors showing up at the big events and making their presence known. It is harder than ever to break into the top 10 or even top 20 – competition is fierce. This is only the tip of iceberg in the successes of the class. There is a tremendous power and growth in the countries where many new sailors join the ranks of the already seasoned OK sailors at local clubs and fleets. A great way to combine racing with the camaraderie the class is known for. At a recent event I met Daniel Björndal from the Swedish National Association, who told me about the new fleet that has emerged in Kristinehamn on lake Vänern. In less than a year they have grown from zero to 20 boats and finding good used boats is the only reason limiting the growth.

In addition to the long and exciting season, the OKDIA Committee has worked on several topics to develop the OK class and secure a healthy growth:

- There was a World Sailing conference in November 2024 where OKDIA was represented by Alistair and Robert Deaves. A new leadership was elected, and Alistair was awarded a seat on the International Measurers Sub Committee. It is great to see that our voice is also heard in the bigger sailing community and that we have a possibility to influence the development of sailing, a sport we all love.
- We launched a new website in June of 2024. It is much easier to find what you are looking for and the integration with social media is making it easier to link our exciting news in all our flows and for everyone to participate in sharing our success stories.
- With input from the members and secretaries survey, conducted in 2023, we have worked on a roadmap for the OK class that will take us towards 2030. The last roadmap was launched at the Worlds on Barbados in 2017 and has served us well. The draft 2024-2030 roadmap has been shared as part of the preparations for the AGM and to solicit input.
- The busy and intense year has taken a toll on our finances and as part of the roadmap we are also reviewing potential additional income and the structure in which we operate. Good finances and stability are prerequisites for growing a strong class.

I'm looking forward to the second half of the 2025 European season, an exciting 2026, meeting new and old OK sailors and taking part in professional and competitive events.

Pontus Gäbel, Acting President
OKDIA, July 2025