

Secretary's Report AGM 2025

The expansion of OKDIA in recent years has meant we have taken a good look at our governance and membership rules. These were changed gradually over the last 10-20 years to make new membership easier and structured, but now this needs to be reconsidered in light of recent developments.

OKDIA now has memberships in 20 countries, plus at least three other nations represented. There are some changes proposed to how these vastly different membership sizes are viewed with at least eight considered very small of one or two persons, often based outside that country, and collectively this small group of people has more voting power than two or three of the largest associations combined, representing some 400 sailors. So, some realignment is probably needed, and we hope if the proposals are approved at the AGM, it will be able to better reflect the wishes of the wider membership.

There are also proposals to clarify some of the concepts surrounding certification. There are no real changes contained within the proposals, in many cases just a clarification to make them simpler and clearer to understand and enforce.

Total 2024 OKDIA membership again just fell a few short of the 1,000 mark, but still generally an upward trend.

Major events in 2024 were both new venues for the class. 111 boats for the worlds in Brisbane was a record for Australia and a great achievement. 84 for the Europeans in Palma, was lower than expected but still a good showing, though unfortunately the weather was not cooperative. Both events provided a lot of learning in different areas and one of the focuses of the coming year is to update and reorganise our event documents to make the process more straightforward and streamlined for both the organisers and for OKDIA.

Looking at this year, we had 110 boats at the Europeans in Warnemunde, and now 215 at the worlds on Garda, a truly magnificent turnout.

We are fortunate in having a lot of interest for the coming years and we have various events to vote on at the AGM, but there remain a few gaps. Meanwhile, the early decision to go back to Thailand in 2027 was almost unanimous and gives the organisers there more time to stage another great event.

The big work of the past year has been the new roadmap, and thanks to those who led the working groups and to Pontus for driving it forward, even when everyone's time was short. Hopefully it explains the direction the committee think OKDIA should take, but it remains a live document, so input and feedback are always valuable.

One of the major issues it highlighted was our financial vulnerability. Several unexpected costs and reduced revenues (fewer sail, mast and boat plaques sold) reduced our reserves and this put this into perspective. A range of measures are being taken to rectify this and build a reserve fund, so we are not in this position again. The main proposal is to increase the membership fee to €20 (currently €14.70) from 2026. Also, from Jan 1 2026, mast and sail labels will increase to €20 and boat plaques will increase by a similar percentage.

Finally, thanks again to my fellow committee members for their work over the past year.

Robert Deaves
OKDIA Secretary
August 2025