



# President's Message



Let me start by thanking Peter Barclay for his 10 years of service as President of IODA. It has been only a few

short months since I have had the honour of being elected as President and I now recognize and appreciate the amount of time and effort that Peter has dedicated to help building this class in all its complexity and various aspects of governance to what it is today.

My goal in taking over the helm, is to ensure the Optimist class maintains its position as the leading sailboat class for beginners and for youth entry into the competitive sailing arena. Combined with this is to ensure the culture of the class is maintained to cover the tenets of good sportsmanship, educating future generations of sailors on the environment, instilling at a young age gender equality, and respect for others.

Since the election, I have spent

time talking and meeting people involved in the class. I had the honour of speaking at the opening and spending some time at the 2017 Asian and Oceanian Championship in Hong Kong in October. It was a fantastic event and the volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure that the event was the success it proved to be.

The IODA class is governed by a dedicated and experienced Executive Committee comprised of volunteers, who collectively have been involved for many years in different aspects of the Optimist Class. I look forward to ensuring the elected officials are working towards the best interests of the Class and its members.

Another task for IODA is to expand out communication with the membership and stakeholders of the Optimist Class globally. We seek feedback from concerned parties on how you think the Optimist family can do better for our members. I beseech you to reach out to myself or the representative of your geographic region, or our technical

and regatta committees to share your thoughts. The only way we can succeed in our goals is with members support and engagement.

Over the past year we have introduced Microsites for all our events that have proven to be very successful in servicing the needs of our members and event organizers. We have been pushing out social media and event media content to our members and stakeholders to help promote the class. We plan to enhance the media reach of our class over the coming year.

As part of this journey, we are launching a new logo and branding for the Optimist class. I am confident that this new 'look and feel' will resonate with youth sailors as well as our Members.

I am proud to be the President of the sailing class that expands to more than 120 countries around the world and the role that we play in the introduction of youth sailors around the globe to the sport of sailing.

**Kevin Whitcraft**  
President, IODA

## 2017 European Team Racing Championship

Lago di Ledro, Italy  
16 teams  
from 10 countries



IODA takes great pride that team racing is a major component of our World and Continental Championships. The sailors enthusiastically take part in the racing and really enjoy the team aspect of the competition.

16 Teams from across Europe gathered in Lago di Ledro, Italy to compete for the 2017 European Team Championship title. Teams consisted of four sailors per country, each with 2 boys and 2 girls.

At the end of stage one, SWE led the way followed by FRA in second and ESP, POL and TUR all tied for third. After Stage 2 SWE and TUR tied for first followed by ESP, GER, and ISR all tied for third in points.

In the final round SWE ended up taking top honours followed by TUR in second and GER in third.

### Overall Results

- 1 Sweden
- 2 Turkey
- 3 Germany
- 4 Spain
- 5 Italy
- 6 Poland
- 7 Israel
- 8 France
- 9 Netherlands
- 10 Greece





The largest World Championship in the history of the Optimist Class with 62 countries represented was hosted by the Royal Varuna Yacht Club in Pattaya, THA from July 11 to 21st. The event has grown considerably since Thailand last hosted the Optimist World Championship in 1979 where 17 countries took part.

281 competitors, all competing in charter boats provided by Far East and Winner, completed six qualifying and 3 final series races for a total of 9 races in total. The competition was fierce with difficult wind and current conditions throughout the event.

Marco Gradoni (ITA) sailed consistently throughout both series to keep ahead of the tough competition to become the 2017 Optimist World Champion. In second overall was Muhammad Fauzi Bin Kaman Shah (MAS) followed by Mic Sig Kos Mohr (CRC) sailing for CRO in third. 4th overall, was 2017 North American Champion, Stephan Baker (USA) with China's Haoze Fang followed

him in 5th overall. Ten different countries were represented in the top 10 overall positions highlighting the depth and breadth of sailing talent at this event.

The top girls in the overall results were Maria Perello (ESP) in 23rd position overall, followed by Palika Poonpat from the host country of THA in 35th overall, and Charlotte Leigh (USA) in 42nd overall.

Forty-eight teams took part in the 2017 Optimist Team Racing World Championships in windy and wavy sailing conditions. Team USA defended their title for the second year in a row and won the IODA Challenge Cup and 2017 World Title. It was a close battle between Team CHN and USA in the Finals Sail Off with USA taking the best of three races. Team CHN took the silver with Team MAS took the bronze.

The Optimist Nations Cup for the best overall combined performance of team members was won by the USA followed by CHN in silver and host country THA in third.

## Overall Results

- 1 Marco Gradoni, ITA
- 2 Muhammad Fauzi Bin Kaman Shah, MAS
- 3 Mic Sig Kos Mohr, CRC
- 4 Stephan Baker, USA
- 5 Haoze Fang, CHN
- 6 Roy Levy, ISR
- 7 Dante Parodi, CHI
- 8 Olivier Jaquet, NED
- 9 Duncan Gregor, HKG
- 10 Panwa Boonnak, THA
- 11 Shupeng Guo, CHN
- 12 Haotian Li, CHN
- 13 Jedtavee Yongyuennarn, THA
- 14 Mitchell Callahan, USA
- 15 Roko Oliver Karl Mohr, CRC
- 16 Paul Clodi, AUT
- 17 Liam O'Keefe, USA
- 18 Jonathan Lio, SGP
- 19 William Pank, GBR
- 20 Malthe Ebdrup, DEN

## Girls

- 1 María Perello, ESP
- 2 Palika Poonpat, THA
- 3 Charlotte Leigh, USA
- 4 Beatriz Gago, POR
- 5 Caroline Sibilly, ISV

## Team Racing World Championship

- 1 USA
- 2 CHN
- 3 MAS

## Nations Cup

- 1 USA
- 2 CHN
- 3 THA

# 2017 South American Championship

Encarnacion, Paraguay  
130 sailors  
from 11 countries



Teams travelled from North and South America to Encarnacion, PAR to take part in the 2017 Optimist South American Championship hosted by the Yacht Club Ypacarai, April 24 to May 1st.

Florencia Chiarella (PER), topped 130 sailors from 11 countries, (ARG, BER, BRA, CHI, MEX, PAR, PER, PUR, USA, URG, USV) to become the 2017 Optimist South American Champion.

Six races were completed over 4 days of fleet racing in the qualifying and finals series.

The top three girls at the championship were the 1st overall winner Florencia Chiarella (PER), followed by teammate Paloma Susana Poggione (PER) in 4th overall and Vanessa Lahrkamp (USA) in 6th overall.

16 teams competed in the 2017 South American Team Racing Championships. ARG2 took top honours followed by fellow team mates (ARG1) in second with PER taking 3rd. In the Nations Cup Team Racing, 8 teams competed. USA1 and USA 3 took the top two spots following by ISV 1 in third.



## Overall Results

- 1 Florencia Chiarella, PER (1)
- 2 Maximo Videla, ARG (2)
- 3 Stefano Viale, PER (3)
- 4 Paloma Susana Poggione, PER
- 5 Dante Parodi, CHI
- 6 Vanessa Lahrkamp, USA
- 7 Lucas Videla, ARG
- 8 Amparo Stupenengo Pefaur, ARG
- 9 Daven Subbiah, USA
- 10 Juan Diego Risso, URU
- 11 Peter Foley, USA
- 12 Santiago Palkin, ARG
- 13 Iker Loza Ramirez, MEX
- 14 Facundo Nina Montedonico, URU
- 15 Gerónimo Laschera Falcón, ARG

## Girls

- 1 Florencia Chiarella, PER
- 2 Paloma Susana Poggione, PER
- 3 Vanessa Lahrkamp, USA
- 4 Facundo Nina Montedonico, URU
- 5 Malena Sciarra, ARG

## Team Racing

### South American Championship

- 1 ARG 1
- 2 ARG 2
- 3 PER 1

### Nations Cup Team Racing

- 1 USA 1
- 2 USA 3
- 3 ISV 1



Historic high water and flooding didn't dampen the Royal Canadian Yacht Club in Toronto, Canada from successfully hosting the 2017 North American Championship June 25th to June 2nd. 178 sailors from 20 nations as far away as AUS, NZ and JPN travelled to Toronto to have the opportunity to take part in a unique Opti experience on Toronto Island across from the downtown city skyline.

Stephan Baker, defended his title to become the North American Champion for a second year in a row. After 5 Qualifying Races and 3 Final races, Stephan won 5 of the 8 races finishing ahead of teammate Thomas Kerrigan (USA) and Anastasios Gkaripis (GRE) for the top three overall positions at the event. Lorenzo Balestrin (BRA) missed out third overall by one point. He was followed by Peter Foley (USA) in 5th who took the 3rd Place in the North American Championship.

The top girls overall were Mia Nicolosi (ISV) in 8th place, followed by Katherine Doble (USA) in 11th place, and Samara Walshe (USA) in 12th place.

The North American Team Racing Championships were held in extremely light wind conditions in Toronto Harbour. 16 teams competed in the 2017 North American Team Racing Championship, with USA 1 taking top honours followed by ISV and USA2 in third. In the Nations Cup, 12 teams battled it out with top honours going to PER 1 followed by ARG 1 and BRA 1 in third.

The closing ceremonies took place on Canada's 150th Birthday and were topped off with a spectacular fireworks display over the iconic city skyline.



## Overall Results

- 1 Stephan Baker, USA (1)
- 2 Thomas Kerrigan, USA (2)
- 3 Anastasios Gkaripis, GRE
- 4 Lorenzo Balestrin, BRA
- 5 Peter Foley, USA (3)
- 6 Rian Geraghty- McDonnell, BER
- 7 Sebastian Riquelme Beckmann, MEX
- 8 Mia Nicolosi, ISV
- 9 James Bougher, AUS
- 10 Tony Slowik, USA
- 11 Katharine Doble, USA
- 12 Samara Walshe, USA
- 13 Diego Riofrio, PER
- 14 Roberto Cardoso, BRA
- 15 Mateo Cortes Suarez, MEX

## Girls

- 1 Mia Nicolosi, ISV
- 2 Katharine Doble, USA
- 3 Samara Walshe, USA

## North American Team Racing Champions

- 1 USA 1
- 2 ISV 1
- 3 USA 2

## Nations Cup

- 1 PER 1
- 2 ARG 1
- 3 BRA 1

# 2017 European Championship

The 2017 Optimist European Championship was hosted by the Yacht Club Port Bourgas in Bourgas, Bulgaria July 30 to August 6th. 261 sailors from 43 countries, enjoyed a week of spectacular sailing conditions to test their skills against one another. The thermal breeze came in each day like clockwork at 1:00pm and quickly built to 12-15 knots.

As the only IODA event that has separate fleets for boys and girls, there is a different dynamic in the boat park as well as on the race course. The boys competed in 3 separate fleets and the girls in 2 fleets. Both divisions, completed 6 races in the Qualification series and 4 races in the Final Series.

In the Boys Division, Stefan Yuill of SRB sailed consistently in both series to place him comfortably in first place ahead of IGOR Kuczys of Poland to capture the 2017 Optimist European Championship Title. Iakovos- Dimitrios Dedesntentopoulos (GRE) followed in third ahead of Demir Dirik of Turkey.

In the Girls Division, Donna Mazzucchelli (ARG) dominated the top spot throughout the entire event to capture the Overall title. However, it was India Page-Wood from Great Britain in second place overall who took home the 2017 Optimist European Championship Title. She was followed by Natascha Rast (SUI) and Johanna Schmidt(AUT), who all took the top three spots in the European Championship.



**Bourgas, Bulgaria**  
261 sailors  
from 43 countries



## Overall Boys Results

1	Stefan Yuill, SRB	(1)
2	Igor Kuczys, POL	(2)
3	Iakovos-Dimitrios Dedesntentopoulos, GRE	(3)
4	Demir Dirik, TUR	
5	Ioannis-Christos Mouzakis, GRE	
6	Dimitrios Bitros, GRE	
7	Can Erturk, TUR	
8	Máté Jeney, HUN	
9	Santiago Palkin, ARG	
10	Oscar Löfgren, SWE	
11	Máté Benyó, HUN	
12	Blake Wilson, AUS	
13	Florian Krauss, GER	
14	Calle Lindbom, SWE	
15	Todor Tuzlukov, BUL	

## Overall Girls Results

1	Donna Mazzucchelli, ARG	
2	India Page-Wood, GBR	(1)
3	Natascha Rast, SUI	(2)
4	Johanna Schmidt, AUT	(3)
5	Gabriela Anthimie Adriana Groenewegen Van Der Weijden, GRE	
6	Cosima Schlueter, GER	
7	Celestina Sabadin, SLO	
8	Ludmila Lira, BRA	
9	Katharina Schwachhofer, GER	
10	Asli Akbeniz, TUR	





**Middle Island, Hong Kong**  
**131 sailors**  
**from 17 countries**

## 2017 Asian & Oceanian Championship



The 2017 Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship was hosted by the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club at their Middle Island facility Sept 30 to Oct 7th. Sailing conditions were fairly consistent over the four days of fleet racing and one day of team racing, but it was the strong tidal currents that challenged the sailors the most. All 6 qualifiers and 4 final races were completed.

Two countries dominated the top 10 positions. SGP had four sailors and TUR had three. Muhammad Daniel Kei Bin Muhammad Yazid (SGP), topped the fleet of 131 sailors from 17 nations to become the overall 2017 Optimist Asian & Oceanian Champion as well as the 2017 Optimist Asian Champion. Battling it out for 2nd and 3rd places was Demir Dirik (TUR), who was 4th at the recent Optimist European

Championship edging out Xilun Lin (CHN) who finished 3rd overall and 2nd Asian. Turkey's Sabri Kerem Erkmen finished 4th overall followed by Finian Lee (SGP) in 5th and 3rd Asian.

The top sailors and winners of the 2017 Oceanian Championship were Australians, Toby Coote in 22nd overall, followed by Daniel Links in 29th and Benjamin Hinks in 42nd.

The top girls were Faith Hailey (SGP) in 10th overall followed by Yiyin Zeng (CHN) in 13th and Intira Paniboon (THA) in 15th.

16 teams competed in the 2017 Asian & Oceanian Team Racing Championship. After 31 matches, team CHN won the best 2 out of three races against TUR in the Final Sail Off to win the title. Team TUR took the silver and Team THA1 took the bronze.



### Overall Results

- 1 Muhammad Daniel (1)  
Kei Bin Muhammad Yazid, SGP
- 2 Demir Dirik, TUR
- 3 Xilun Lin, CHN (2)
- 4 Sabri Kerem Erkmen, TUR
- 5 Finian Lee, SGP (3)
- 6 Can Erturk, TUR
- 7 Jedtavee Yongyuennarn, THA
- 8 Duncan Gregor, HKG
- 9 Samuel Hung, SGP
- 10 Faith Hailey Toh, SGP
- 11 Panwa Boonnak, THA
- 12 Max Victor Teo, SGP
- 13 Yiyin Zeng, CHN
- 14 Xiaoneng Chen, CHN
- 15 Intira Panpiboon, THA

### Girls

- 1 Faith Hailey Toh, SGP
- 2 Yiyin Zeng, CHN
- 3 Intira Panpiboon, THA

### Asians & Oceanian Team Racing Championship

- 1 CHN
- 2 TUR
- 3 THA 1

# 2017 African Championship

Alexandria, Egypt  
49 sailors  
from 10 countries



49 sailors from 10 countries (ALG, ANG, EGY, MAR, MOZ, SEY, RSA, TAN, TUN, UAE) travelled to Alexandria, Egypt to compete in the 2017 African Championship hosted by the Montazah Water Sports Club from June 29th to July 6th.

Ten races were completed over 4 days of fleet racing. ANG took the top two spots with Graciano Novaes sailing a consistent regatta to become the 2017 Optimist African Champion followed by teammate Oswaldo Da Gama, the 2016 Optimist African Champion in 2nd. Third place went to Mahmoud El Taonboly from the host country of Egypt.

The top three girls at the event were Egypt's Shahd El Shref in 11th overall, followed by teammate Rania Ibrahim (EGY) in 12th and Boussouar Amani (ALG) in 13th.

The 2017 African Optimist Team Racing Championship had 8 teams vying for the title. After 6 flights, Team ANG battled it out in the final against UAE to defend their title as 2017 African Team Racing Champions. Team UAE took second place followed by TEAM ALG in third.



## Overall Results

- 1 Graciano Novaes, ANG
- 2 Oswaldo Da Gama, ANG
- 3 Mahmoud El Tanboly, EGY
- 4 Mohammad Saeed El Mousaari, UAE
- 5 Emilio Chissingui, ANG
- 6 Abd El Rahman Khaled, EGY
- 7 Bouhadi Walid, ALG
- 8 Oswaldo Carlos, ANG
- 9 Abdulaziz Abdulla Al Hammadi, UAE
- 10 Bend Jaqui Oussama, ALG
- 11 Shahd El Shref, EGY
- 12 Rania Ibrahim, EGY
- 13 Boussouar Amani, ALG
- 14 Denise Parrique, MOZ
- 15 Mohammad Abdulla Al Hamaadi, UAE



## Girls

- 1 Shahd El Shref, EGY
- 2 Rania Ibrahim, EGY
- 3 Boussouar Amani, ALG

## African

### Team Racing Champions

- 1 ANG
- 2 UAE
- 3 ALG

# International Optimist Dinghy Association

**Kevin Whitcraft**, President  
**Carmen Casco**, VP Europe  
**Luis Velasco**, VP Americas  
**Nuno Gomes**, VP Africa, Asia & Oceania  
**Ricardo Navarro**, Chair, Regatta Committee  
**Claudio Zon**, Chair Technical Committee  
**S.V. Balachander**, Treasurer  
**Fiona Kidd**, Secretary General  
**Susan Elliot Beatty**, Regatta Secretary

**Head Office**  
Agnetevej 11  
DK-9000 Aalborg  
DENMARK  
info@optiworld.org  
www.optiworld.org

**Secretariat Office**  
26 Marlborough Avenue  
Toronto, ON, M5R 1X6  
CANADA  
info@optiworld.org  
www.optiworld.org