



*International  
Optimist*



*Yearbook 2001*

# *The Optimist*

*From*



*to*



*in over 100 countries*

*To provide sailboat racing  
for young people at low cost*

and

*to co-ordinate youth work  
between member countries*

These are the objectives of the  
International Optimist Dinghy  
Association.

This yearbook is an attempt to  
record how the IODA is  
fulfilling its mission.

*Front cover by Tania  
Zimmermann (Peru), winner of  
UNICEF art competition held in  
Gran Canaria.*

# *Let's start at the beginning*



*Fifty four years ago in Clearwater, Florida a group of citizens wanted to stop their children getting bored. So they asked a local designer called Clark Mills to make a boat for kids to sail. The Optimist was born.*

*Fifty four years later his design is still being sailed by hundreds of thousands of young people in over a hundred countries worldwide.*

*Truly this is the boat in which the young people of the world learn to sail.*

**[www.optiworld.org/ioda-intro.html](http://www.optiworld.org/ioda-intro.html)**

## *Why sailing?*

What is your child going to do this summer? Sit in his bedroom with his computer? Go for nice long walks? Help in the garden?

Sailing has much to offer. Sadly man's old enemy the water is often safer than what man has made of the streets.

All sorts and sizes of people sail. You don't have to be taller, stronger, thinner or, initially, even fitter than the average. Boys and girls have the same capability.

Sailing brings families together. Boats need to be transported and kids cannot drive. So driving to regattas at weekends becomes a family activity.

This is not an exclusive world. 40% of top sailors have parents who do not sail themselves.

## *Why the Optimist?*

It looks funny, doesn't it? But Clark Mills knew a thing or two about kids.

It doesn't tip over! Beginners easily learn to balance themselves, the wind and the boat. It can't run away with you! Let out the only rope and the boat will just sit there. The more water gets in, the less it moves. And it won't sink.

Being alone in the boat is the quickest way to learn. Imagine trying to learn to ride a bicycle on a tandem with daddy!

You quickly learn from your own mistakes and gain that essential of sailing - and perhaps life - responsibility for your own decisions.

# What about the boat?

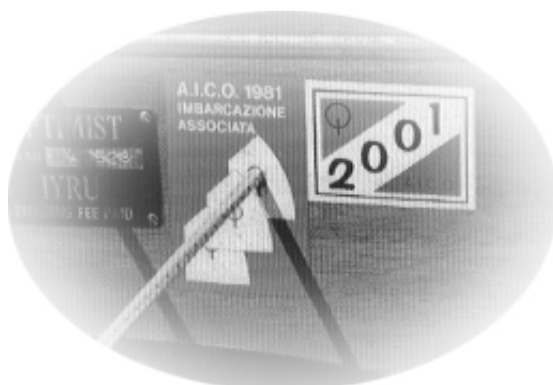


*Your first Optimist will probably be older than you are, and possibly older than your parents!*

*Which is probably not true of your bicycle and certainly not true of your computer. Optimists last for a very long time. A 12 year old boat was placed in the top 20 at the 1999 Europeans and the Italian boat below celebrated its 20th birthday this year. They never become obsolete.*

*So this is not a toy. When you want to change it you will find plenty of buyers. This is a growing market and you will be unlucky if its value falls by \$500 a year.*

*And when you want to buy a new Optimist there are over thirty builders, all with boats just as fast as each other. So in most parts of the world you can buy as good as the best from a builder near you.*



*The first thing you need to go sailing is a boat!*

## **All the same**

Unlike most sailboats the Optimist is a true one-design. The boats are all the same. If you want to race a boat where money or technology make a difference, look elsewhere.

Every builder is regularly inspected to ensure that his hulls conform to tight tolerances and uses similar raw materials and building techniques.

But this does not mean a monopoly or a cartel. Any boatbuilder can build after he has satisfied IODA that he is competent to do so. Over thirty builders in 23 countries have approval,

## **Accessories**

There is greater choice of spars, foils (daggerboard and rudder) and sails. The Optimist is used for everything from teaching 8-year olds to world-class racing by 15-year olds. This is reflected in the equipment available.

But by the time a sailor *needs* top-level gear he or she will be addicted to their lifetime sport.

## **Price?**

Prices vary according to markets but a new hull ready to sail with basic gear should not cost over US\$1,600 + sales taxes.

The lowest prices are paid by national associations and clubs who place orders for a number of boats and invite tenders from several manufacturers.

Another good way to buy is to look for boats which have been chartered for major events.

## **Make it yourself**

For those with some practical ability it remains possible to build your own wooden Optimist.

[www.optiworld.org/ioda-technical.html](http://www.optiworld.org/ioda-technical.html)

# National Associations

## Nearly 100 Associations

Worldwide there are nearly 100 national associations affiliated to IODA.

It is they who ensure the health and growth of the local Class. Parents should not only join but should offer their skills in the service of these largely amateur bodies.

## Calendars

Racing is most fun against sailors of your own level of ability.

Normally this means taking part in "open" regattas organised by other clubs. National associations co-ordinate and publish a calendar of these events.

## Trials

An important function of national associations is to conduct the trial races to select national teams.

These are not just intended for those who expect to qualify and in many countries are attended by up to 200 sailors, sometimes selected from an even bigger rank-list.

In the northern hemisphere trials often start as soon as the weather allows - so you can see Optimists sailing while adults are still trying to find the paint-brush!

## Training

All national associations organise training, and many co-ordinate a programme of training camps and courses.

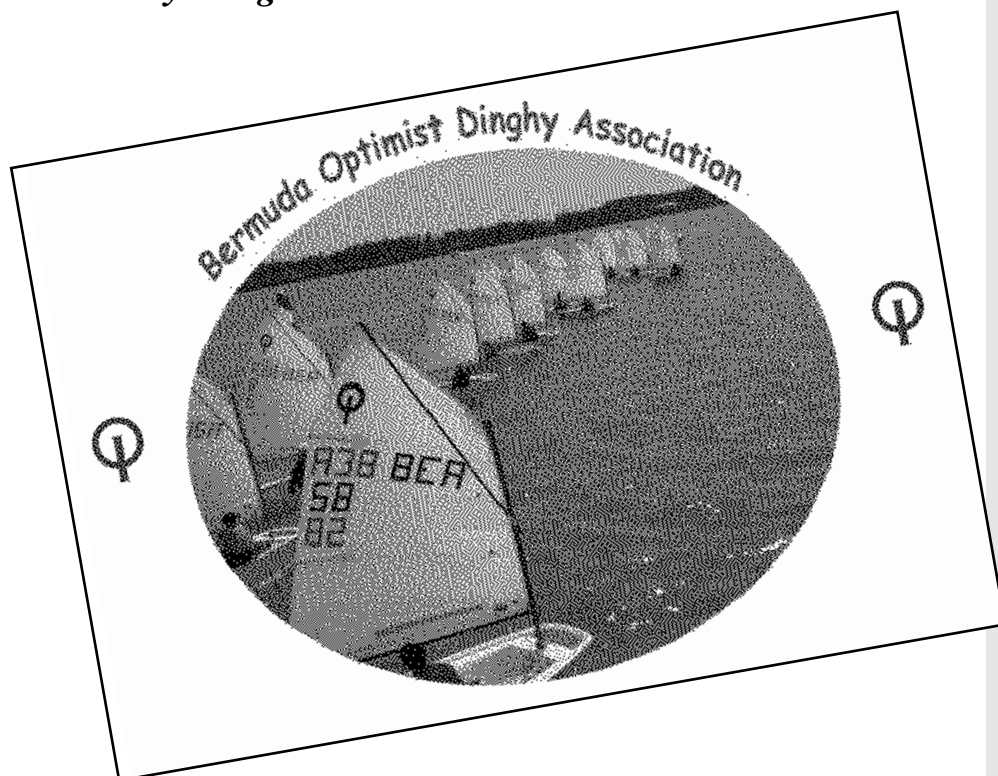
## Measurement

Certification by builders that their products conform to Class Rules has removed much of the bureaucracy of measurement. But boats and equipment still need to be checked and this is an important task of national associations.

Either they or the National Sailing Association issue the sail number, essential before racing.



*Many run great websites!*



[www.optiworld.org/ioda-members.html](http://www.optiworld.org/ioda-members.html)

# Helping newer fleets



## *A wider world*

IODA has doubled the number of member national associations over the last twelve years and is committed to bringing the benefits of sailing to young people worldwide. It offers limited financial aid to “newer countries” in three areas.

## *Free boats*

**Countries seeking to start or enlarge Optimist fleets can apply for one free boat for every five bought.**

The boats may be bought from any approved builder and must be owned by an association, club or other ‘not for profit’ organisation. Countries which have benefitted so far are St. Lucia, Barbados, the Cook Islands and Vietnam.

## *Coach-Training Courses*

For newer Optimist sailing countries and regions IODA subsidises the travel and fees of expert instructors to train local coaches.

In 1999/2001 nine such courses were held, involving sixteen countries.

## *Regional regattas*

To encourage participation in regional regattas IODA offers free entry and/or travel for certain countries to send sailors to continental and regional regattas. Those benefitting in 2001 included Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, Trinidad, the Seychelles, and, with the help of the Chinese Yachting Federation, India and Egypt.

# Racing



*It is a small step from sailing round a triangle to trying to do it faster than the next person.*

*And it is a small step from racing in your own club to sailing at a regatta along the bay. All you need is access to a roof-rack or a trailer (and an adult who is willing to drive!)*



## Travel

Boats have to be transported and kids can't drive. So parents can become full-time weekend chauffeurs.

A great idea is to alternate trips with another parent. Then you have at least two kids to look after which stops you getting obsessive about your own. And it is amazing what you will learn about your children and their friends three hours into a five hour car journey!

## Parents

It is very natural to want to help your child, especially if you are a sailor yourself, and to watch and criticise his every move. It is also natural to question your daughter's first boy-friend in great detail. We recommend that you don't do either! Obsessive Optimist parents upset the sailing community: this is not a spectator sport and we are not used to screaming from the sidelines!

## The Rules

The rules of sailing are actually quite simple and are taught as part of sailing. They should be enforced from the start.

**“If you look at competition at junior level you find that rules are often bent or forgotten with the excuse that they are only children. Just when do you expect them to learn manners or rules if not at this level”**

(HRH The Princess Royal Member, International Olympic Committee)

A good way to learn more about the rules if you have a computer is by using a sailing simulator. Several are advertised on the internet.

# Sailing for girls



*There are many theories about young women and sport.  
In the Optimist girls have a choice.*

*All regattas are open to both boys and girls, including the  
World Championship which has twice been won by a girl.  
But the Open European Championship has at least three  
places per country reserved for girls and at that event they  
race separately.*



## ***Together or separately?***

At Optimist age there is very little difference in the physical strength of boys and girls - indeed there is evidence that girls may be the stronger.

## ***A pragmatic view***

The Optimist world accepts the evidence as it is. Some girls are as good as or better than their brothers. In recent years we have had two female open world champions. So at the Worlds we race as one fleet, boys and girls together.

But we also find that only around 15% of those selected on merit for their national teams are girls.

So at the open European Championship we reserve three places for girls and they sail as a separate fleet.

As a result nationally girls have two targets: qualify for the Worlds by getting into the top five, or concentrate on being one of the best three girls.

## ***Other cultures***

It is often thought that sport for girls faces extra problems in non-European societies. This is not the Optimist experience.

Sailing for girls seems to be acceptable to all cultures and creeds and, wherever Optimist fleets start to develop, it is never long before the girls realise that this activity is far too much fun to allow themselves to be left out.

# *International travel*



## *Travel sells sailing!*

*In what has been described as “the age of instant gratification” with hundreds of other choices for young people, sailing cannot flourish if it is confined to little regattas with the same sailors in the local club.*

*International travel has been the growth industry of recent years and in sailing this has led to the boom in sailing holidays in the sun.*

*The Optimist, with its international network, has made use of this trend to offer opportunities to the young people of the world.*

## *Other parts of the world*

Parents rightly believe that experience of other countries and other cultures is a vital part of education.

But it can be difficult to organise.

Exchange visits and language schools are often disappointing, and we have all seen at holiday hotels and campsites bored kids just longing for some excitement and to meet new friends.

## *International regattas*

At Optimist regattas you won't find many bored kids.

Immediately they have a common interest with the people of their own age from different parts of the world, and the excitement of using their existing skills in a new environment.

## *Calendar*

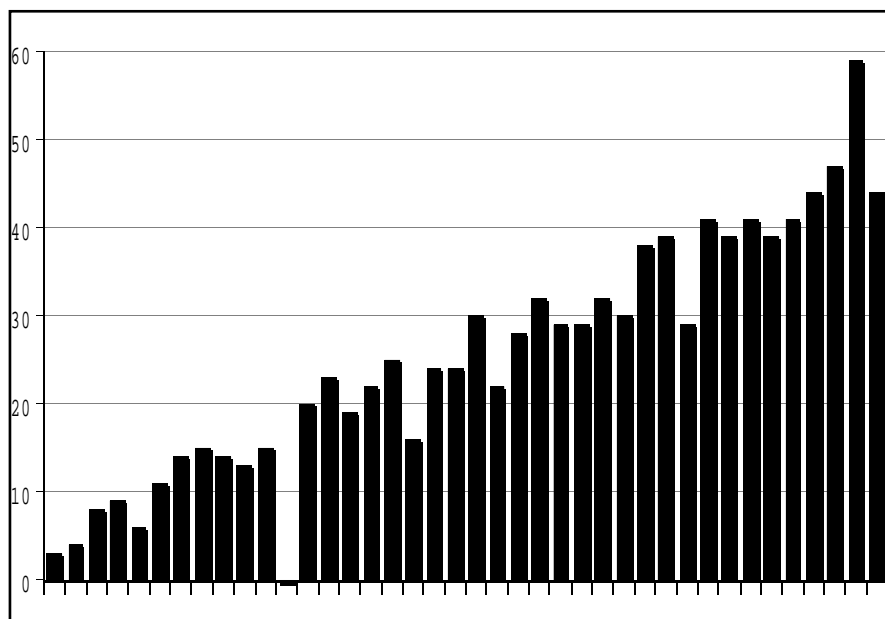
There are literally hundreds of regattas worldwide to choose from, almost all of them welcoming foreign sailors of all levels of experience.

At Easter thousands of young sailors in the northern hemisphere head south to begin their sailing year. In the summer those not selected for championships can find a warm welcome at national events which are almost always open, such regattas as the Tomis Trophy in Romania, Flanders Youth Week, Carentec in Brittany, and the scores of summer regattas in the USA.

## *and it's so easy*

If you can drive there, an Optimist fits easily on the roof of almost any car. And if you can't there is a good chance of chartering or borrowing a boat when you get there - just like the one at home!

# Past IODA World Championships



north

| Date | Venue         | Countries |
|------|---------------|-----------|
| 1962 | G. Britain    | 3         |
| 1963 | Sweden        | 4         |
| 1964 | Denmark       | 8         |
| 1965 | Finland       | 9         |
| 1966 | U.S.A.        | 6         |
| 1967 | Austria       | 11        |
| 1968 | France        | 14        |
| 1969 | Great Britain | 15        |
| 1970 | Spain         | 14        |
| 1971 | Germany       | 13        |
| 1972 | Sweden        | 15        |
| 1973 | CANCELLED     |           |
| 1974 | Switzerland   | 20        |
| 1975 | Denmark       | 23        |
| 1976 | Turkey        | 19        |
| 1977 | Yugoslavia    | 22        |
| 1978 | France        | 25        |
| 1979 | Thailand      | 16        |
| 1980 | Portugal      | 24        |
| 1981 | Ireland       | 24        |
| 1982 | Italy         | 30        |
| 1983 | Brasil        | 22        |
| 1984 | Canada        | 28        |
| 1985 | Finland       | 32        |
| 1986 | Spain         | 29        |
| 1987 | Holland       | 29        |
| 1988 | France        | 32        |
| 1989 | Japan         | 30        |
| 1990 | Portugal      | 38        |
| 1991 | Greece        | 39        |
| 1992 | Argentina     | 29        |
| 1993 | Spain         | 41        |
| 1994 | Italy         | 39        |
| 1995 | Finland       | 41        |
| 1996 | South Africa  | 39        |
| 1997 | N. Ireland    | 41        |
| 1998 | Portugal      | 44        |
| 1999 | Martinique    | 47        |
| 2000 | Spain         | 59        |
| 2001 | China         | 44        |

For full listing see:

[www.optiworld.org/  
ioda-history.html](http://www.optiworld.org/ioda-history.html)

# *IODA championships*

**In 2001 over 700 young sailors from over 70 countries represented their countries at IODA championships.**



## **The Championship Year in figures**

| <i>Event</i>        | <i>Sailors</i> | <i>Countries</i> |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Worlds</b>       | <b>208</b>     | <b>44</b>        |
| <b>Europeans</b>    | <b>234</b>     | <b>35</b>        |
| <b>S. Americans</b> | <b>162</b>     | <b>15</b>        |
| <b>N. Americans</b> | <b>112</b>     | <b>10</b>        |
| <b>Asians</b>       | <b>57</b>      | <b>16</b>        |
| <b>Africans</b>     | <b>47</b>      | <b>9</b>         |
| <b>Oceanians</b>    | <b>50?</b>     | <b>9 ?</b>       |

## *All six continents*

With the creation of an IODA African Championship this year the Optimist became the first boat class to organise, in addition to its Worlds, a championship on each continent.

## *Achievable goals*

Young people need goals. As local fleets develop, from Malta to Mauritius to Myanmar, IODA aims to keep the sailors interested by providing the achievable target of selection as part of a national team. Who has not dreamed of representing his or her country?

## *Selection*

From the start of the first Optimist championships in the 60s and 70s teams to participate in them have been *selected* on the basis of trials held in the Optimist.

## *. . . . of as many as possible*

But, almost from the foundation of the IODA European Championship in 1983, the Optimist Class took the unusual path of having different sailors selected for different championships. In this way most larger countries select at least *thirteen* sailors each year for national teams.

## *Memories*

To represent your country is an unforgettable experience. Many of those who participate in our championships may never aspire to do so as adults. But they will always be able to look back and say:

“I was an under-16 sailing international”.

***IODA World Championship***

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Lucas Calabrese         | Argentina |
| 2. Zhu Ye                  | China     |
| 3. Abdul Rahim             | Malaysia  |
| 4. Matheus Dellagnelo      | Brasil    |
| 5. Teo Wee Chin            | Singapore |
| 6. Mario Segers            | Argentina |
| 7. Cristobal Penate        | Spain     |
| 8. Charles Henri Montredon | France    |
| 9. Emil Balgayda           | Poland    |
| 10. Victor Bergstrom       | Sweden    |
| 11. Xu Lijia               | China     |
| 12. Joaquín Razetto        | Peru      |
| 13. Jesse Kirkland         | Bermuda   |
| 14. Sandra Sandqvist       | Sweden    |
| 15. Luciano Oggero         | Argentina |
| 16. Eduardo Zalvide Lopez  | Spain     |
| 17. Dany Stanisic          | Slovenia  |
| 18. Vincenzo Randazzo      | Italy     |
| 19. Fabio Zeni             | Italy     |
| 20. Sime Fantela           | Croatia   |

***Girls***

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Xu Lijia             | China       |
| 2. Sandra Sandqvist     | Sweden      |
| 3. Renée Groeneveld     | Netherlands |
| 4. Leigh Kempton        | U.S.A.      |
| 5. Lisa Tait            | Ireland     |
| 6. Tina Mrak            | Slovenia    |
| 7. Yoko Kiuchi          | Japan       |
| 8. Sarah Tan Wei Lin    | Singapore   |
| 9. Nurul Maisara        | Malaysia    |
| 10. Maria Gracia Verand | Peru        |

***Team Racing***

- |              |    |           |
|--------------|----|-----------|
| 1. Argentina | 5= | France    |
| 2. Japan     | 5= | Italy     |
| 3. Croatia   | 5= | Singapore |
| 4. China     | 5= | Spain     |

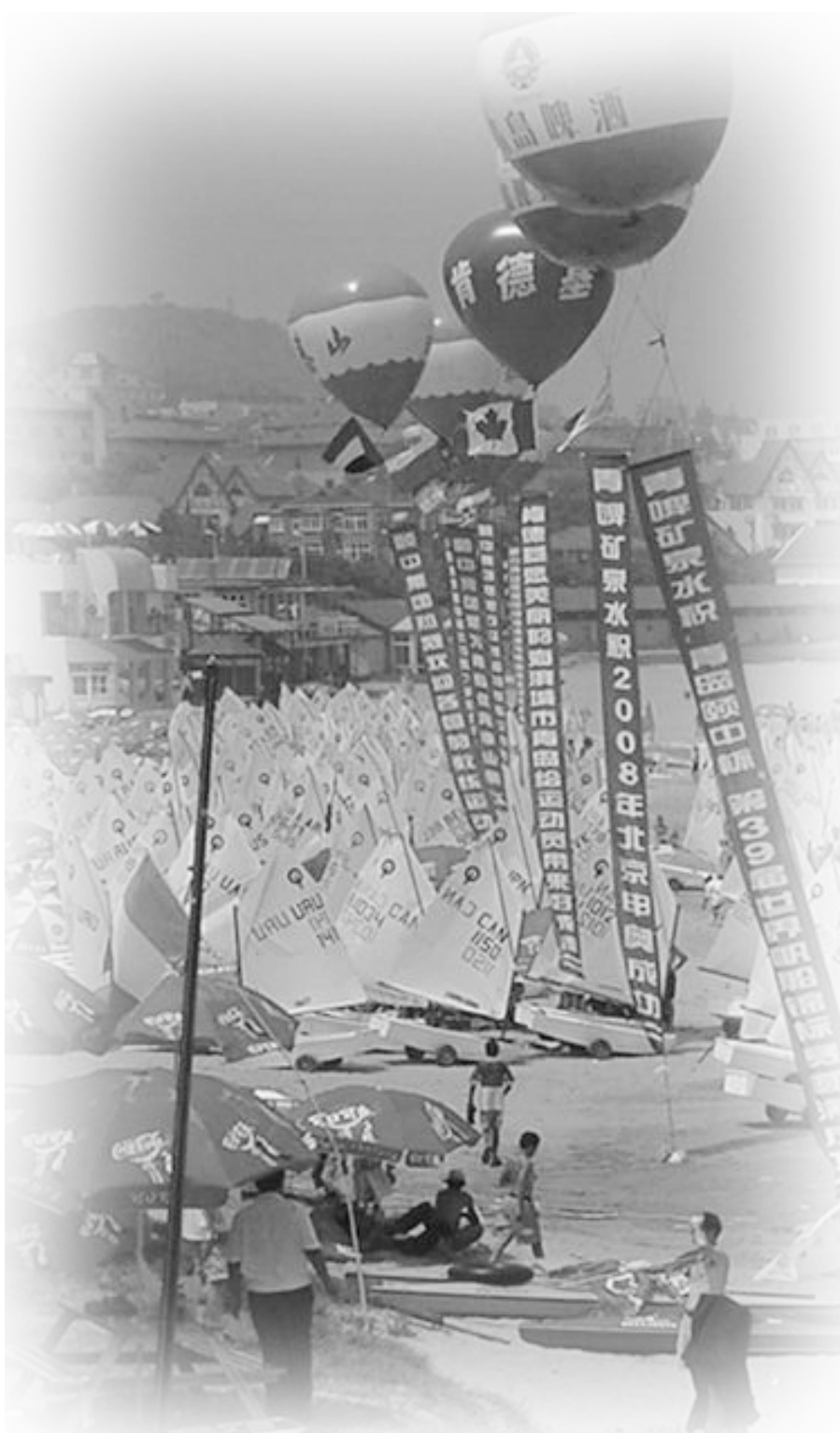
***Miami Herald Trophy******(Team Aggregate Scores - 4 sailors)***

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Argentina    | 23. Germany         |
| 2. China        | 24. Great Britain   |
| 3. Spain        | 25. Bermuda         |
| 4. Singapore    | 26. Ireland         |
| 5. Italy        | 27. Uruguay         |
| 6. France       | 28. Thailand        |
| 7. Croatia      | 29. Belgium         |
| 8. Sweden       | 30. Norway          |
| 9. Peru         | 31. South Africa    |
| 10. Mexico      | 32. Tahiti          |
| 11. Japan       | 33. Austria         |
| 12. Brasil      | 34. Korea           |
| 13. Poland      | 35. Russia          |
| 14. Malaysia    | 36. Denmark         |
| 15. Slovenia    | 37. Canada          |
| 16. Netherlands | 38. Hong Kong       |
| 17. Switzerland | 39. Egypt           |
| 18. Greece      | 40. U.A.Emirates    |
| 19. Portugal    | 41. India*          |
| 20. New Zealand | 42. Chinese Taipei* |
| 21. U.S.A.      | 43. Australia*      |
| 22. Finland     | 44. Slovakia*       |
- \* = incomplete teams



# World Championship

Sailors from 82 countries have participated in IODA World Championships



*The Worlds remains the ultimate goal of Optimist racers*

While IODA has recently encouraged the growth of continental and regional championships to facilitate sailors worldwide, the Worlds remains the focal point of the year.

Each member country may send up to five sailors, who race in six divisions to reduce congestion on the start line.

The best sixteen teams also compete in the IODA World Team-Racing Championship.

The regatta has been held on all five continents and in 2000 was hosted by the proposed 2008 Olympic venue in Qingdao, China. In 2001 it will be held, for the first time in 36 years, in the U.S.A.

Our special millennium Worlds for 2000 in Spain attracted sailors from 59 countries, establishing a new world record for the most countries sailing the same boat in any event in the history of sailing.

The 2001 Worlds attracted a “mere” 44 nations but even this is a nearly 50% increase on the 30 nations which participated last time we had the event in Asia in 1989.

# North America



## ***IODA North American Championship***

| <i>Open</i>              | <i>N. American</i> |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. Jonathan Calvet       | Argentina          |   |
| 2. Federico Norman       | Argentina          |   |
| 3. T.J. Tullo            | U.S.A.             | 1 |
| 4. Mitch Hall            | U.S.A.             | 2 |
| 5. Ricardo Brockman      | Mexico             | 3 |
| 6. C.H. Fasulo           | U.S.A.             | 4 |
| 7. Martín Alsogaray      | Argentina          |   |
| 8. Charles Abell         | U.S.A.             | 5 |
| 9. Andre Arueira         | Brasil             |   |
| 10. Keiko Hirai          | Japan              |   |
| 11. Todd Hawkins         | U.S.A.             | 6 |
| 12. Philip Wender        | Brasil             |   |
| 13. Sebastian Peri Brusa | Argentina          |   |
| 14. Patrick Curran       | U.S.A.             | 7 |
| 15. Kyle Rogachenko      | U.S.A.             | 8 |

### ***Girls***

|                      |           |   |
|----------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. Keiko Hirai       | Japan     |   |
| 2. Leigh Kempton     | U.S.A.    | 1 |
| 3. Augustina Torre   | Argentina |   |
| 4. Sarah Mease       | U.S.A.    | 2 |
| 5. Constanza Vasquez | Argentina |   |
| 6. Martina Silva     | Argentina |   |
| 7. Kaitlin Storck    | U.S.A.    | 3 |

### ***Team***

*Open:* Argentina      *N. American :* Mexico

### ***U.S.A. - bringing it back home***

Having invented the Optimist the U.S.A. almost ignored it!

In the 70s only 300 boats were registered and in the 80s only 1,300. Then in 1990 things started to move, with over 8,000 boats registered in the last decade.

The geographical spread has been equally phenomenal.

In 1989 only seven states had serious fleets and national teams were Floridan; there are now Optimists in at least thirty states and the teams are far more representative.

### ***South (and north) of the border***

**Canada** is one of the oldest and most enthusiastic members of IODA but climate seems to prevent major growth. **Mexico**, who started Optimist sailing in the late 80s, now have over 450 registered boats with over 60 at their nationals. **Bermuda** has experienced a recent boom with rapidly improving results at major events.

### ***The Caribbean potential***

The potential in the Caribbean with its constant winds and warm seas is gradually being realised.

Spreading outwards from the USVI and the French Antilles, Optimists are now sailed in at least twelve countries.

IODA is encouraging co-operation with small travel grants to regional regattas.

### ***Builders***

North America has been one of the great beneficiaries of the re-established one-design Optimist. Imported boats are no longer seen as faster than those made in the U.S.A. and prices are falling accordingly.

# Europe

## *European Championship - Boys*

| <i>Open</i> |                               | <i>Euro</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.          | Yasushi Kondo Japan           |             |
| 2.          | Joaquín Blanco Akbalat Spain  | 1           |
| 3.          | Stefano Cherin Italy          | 2           |
| 4.          | Henrique Duarte Haddad Brasil |             |
| 5.          | Philip White G. Britain       | 3           |
| 6.          | Guilherme Barbosa Lima Brasil |             |
| 7.          | Stjepan Cesic Croatia         | 4           |
| 8.          | Gijs Pelt Netherlands         | 5           |
| 9.          | Pablo Santurde del Arco Spain | 6           |
| 10.         | Maksim Sheremitev Russia      | 7           |
| 11.         | Lars Bekker Netherlands       | 8           |
| 12.         | Teddy Hale U.S.A.             |             |
| 13.         | Jackson Benvenuti U.S.A.      |             |
| 14.         | Ed Powys G. Britain           | 9           |
| 15.         | Luka Mratovic Croatia         | 10          |
| 16.         | Jose Fructuoso Pérez Spain    | 11          |
| 17.         | Luca Dubbini Italy            | 12          |
| 18.         | James Murdock G. Britain      | 13          |
| 19.         | David Omedes Requena Spain    | 14          |
| 20.         | Waturu Murayama Japan         |             |

## *European Championship - Girls*

| <i>Open</i> |                              | <i>Euro</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.          | Mateja Petronijevic Croatia  | 1           |
| 2.          | Marieke Jongens Netherlands  | 2           |
| 3.          | Stine Päper Germany          | 3           |
| 4.          | Andrea Borges Brasil         |             |
| 5.          | Ana Larrea Martínez Spain    | 4           |
| 6.          | Agueda Suria Palop Spain     | 5           |
| 7.          | Cecile Guitierrez France     | 6           |
| 8.          | Marina Peñate Lebail Spain   | 7           |
| 9.          | Tea Simunov Croatia          | 8           |
| 10.         | Mandy Mulder Netherlands     | 9           |
| 11.         | Nagisa Yamada Japan          |             |
| 12.         | María Pía Benavides Peru     |             |
| 13.         | Bruna Mello Brasil           |             |
| 14.         | Laura Gómez Direra Spain     | 10          |
| 15.         | Hannah Mills G. Britain      | 11          |
| 16.         | Sarah Mease U.S.A.           |             |
| 17.         | Victoria Travascio Argentina |             |
| 18.         | Lina Bergstrand Sweden       | 12          |
| 19.         | Zuzanna Hanke Poland         | 13          |
| 20.         | Tania Zimmermann Peru        |             |

## *The second home*

Europe was the second home of the Optimist when it was imported to Denmark and modified.

For over twenty years Scandinavian sailors dominated, winning fourteen of the first twenty Worlds 1962-1982. But when GRP and mass-production arrived the rest of Europe became competitive with fourteen countries winning gold over the next 20 years.

The changes in Eastern Europe have brought a big increase in international participation and improving results, especially from the “new” Croatia, Liechtenstein and Vatican City are now the only countries without Optimists!

## *IODA Europeans*

The European Championship was established in 1983 when the Worlds was in Brasil.

## *Regattas*

The European regatta programme is huge. Some of those which attract the highest foreign entries are Braassemmermeer and Garda at Easter, the Dutch Open, the Tomis Trophy in Romania, Flanders Youth Week and Carentec in Brittany. Team-racing highlights are the Rizotti in Venice and the Europa Cup in Berlin. And then there is the Christmas programme . . . .

## *European Builders*

Every major (100+ boats) national market except Germany now has its own Optimist builder. 23 builders in 17 countries supply over 2,000 boats a year and most sailors can buy direct from the producer. This also means that government-funded orders, which are increasingly important, can be placed “at home”.

# South America



## XXIX South American Championship

| <i>Open</i>            | <i>S. American</i> |    |
|------------------------|--------------------|----|
| 1. Sime Fantela        | Croatia            |    |
| 2. Bernardo Luz        | Brasil             | 1  |
| 3. Igor Marenic        | Croatia            |    |
| 4. Jonatan Calvet      | Argentina          | 2  |
| 5. Thomas Sumner       | Brasil             | 3  |
| 6. Matheus Dellagnelo  | Brasil             | 4  |
| 7. Joaquín Razzetto    | Peru               | 5  |
| 8. Henrique Haddad     | Brasil             | 6  |
| 9. Bojan Ive           | Croatia            |    |
| 10. Manuel Bologna     | Argentina          | 7  |
| 11. Lucas Calabrese    | Argentina          | 8  |
| 12. Jesse Kirkland     | Bermuda            |    |
| 13. Sergio V.-Meyer    | Peru               | 9  |
| 14. Nicolas Stefani    | Uruguay            | 10 |
| 15. Cullen Shaughnessy | U.S.A.             |    |

### *Girls*

|                         |           |   |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|
| 1. Mateja Petronijevic  | Croatia   |   |
| 2. Maria Agustina Torre | Argentina | 1 |
| 3. Andrea Borges        | Brasil    | 2 |
| 4. Mercedes Travascio   | Argentina | 3 |
| 5. Maria Pía Benavides  | Peru      | 4 |

### *Team-Racing*

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Argentina 1 | 3. Argentina 2 |
| 2. Brasil 1    | 4. Peru 1      |

### *Ideal conditions*

With both Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro having strong sailing traditions, the Optimist arrived early in South America and the continental championship dates from 1973.

### *Spreading the word*

Uruguay and Chile were not far behind and were followed by all the Latin American countries, who regularly attend the IODA South American Championship at Easter. There are even Optimists up at 3000m on Lake Titicaca in Bolivia.

### *Argentina and others*

Just as in Optimist terms the 70s belonged to Scandinavia, the 90s belonged to Argentina. Five individual and four team-racing World golds plus a monopoly on the South American championship is an impressive record which looks set to continue into the new millennium. But for the second year in succession the individual South American championship went to their old rivals Brasil.

Peru took the World team-racing title for three successive years 1997-1999 - within ten years of first entering the event - and organised a superb South American Championship this year at the new venue of Paracas.

### *Four builders*

South America now has four builders to satisfy the growing continental market, two in Argentina and two in Brasil.

# Africa

## *First African Championship*

For the first time in the history of the Optimist an IODA African Championship was held in Alexandria, Egypt.

The new event received magnificent support. Seven African member countries participated:

**Algeria**  
**Egypt**  
**Morocco**  
**Seychelles**  
**South Africa**  
**Tunisia**  
**Zimbabwe**

together with visiting teams from Singapore and United Arab Emirates.

## *Free entry for first-timers*

Seychelles, as first time participants in an IODA event, were sponsored by IODA with free accommodation, meals, entry and charter boats.

For the second IODA African Championship, to be held in Morocco in 2002 a similar offer is open to first time participants.

## *Indian Ocean Growth?*

While there are long-term hopes of expanding Optimists on the African continent, the most immediate prospect is the islands of the Indian Ocean.

It is hoped that a significant fleet will be established shortly in Mauritius.

**Free boats under the IODA “6 for 5” scheme are available to any country seeking to establish a fleet.**



## *IODA African Championship*

| <i>Open</i> |                     | <i>African</i> |   |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| 1.          | Colin Cheng Xinru   | Singapore      |   |
| 2.          | Abdallah Lalaoui    | Algeria        | 1 |
| 3.          | Abdelhamid Ziani    | Algeria        | 2 |
| 4.          | Tayan Bourai        | Algeria        | 3 |
| 5.          | Dawn Liu Xiaodan    | Singapore      |   |
| 6.          | Christopher Joubert | South Africa   | 4 |
| 7.          | Jackson Ho Guo Wei  | Singapore      |   |
| 8.          | Carla Dyer          | South Africa   | 5 |
| 9.          | Mahdi Khemals       | Tunisia        | 6 |
| 10.         | Alexander McClarty  | South Africa   | 7 |

## *Girls*

|    |                  |              |   |
|----|------------------|--------------|---|
| 1. | Dawn Liu Xiaodan | Singapore    |   |
| 2. | Carla Dyer       | South Africa | 1 |
| 3. | Philippa Baer    | South Africa | 2 |
| 4. | Rachel Cruz      | Zimbabwe     | 3 |
| 5. | Dina Ramadan     | Egypt        | 4 |



# Oceania



Results of the IODA Oceanian  
Championship will be found at  
[www.optiworld.org/01oceanians.html](http://www.optiworld.org/01oceanians.html)  
from mid-October



## *Distances in paradise*

While sailing is as perfect in Oceania as in the Caribbean, distances are huge and until now only New Zealand and Tahiti regularly travelled outside the region. However an IODA Oceanian Championship has now been created and it is hoped that the event (and an IODA subsidy towards buying the charter boats afterwards) will increase the fleets in islands.

## *Oceanian Championship*

As this yearbook goes to press we do not have the results of the 3rd. IODA Oceanian Championship to be held in Tahiti in mid-October. But the record entry includes teams from

**American Samoa**

**Australia**

**Cook Islands**

**Fiji**

**New Caledonia (FRA)**

**New Zealand**

**Solomon Islands**

**Tahiti**

A coach-training course, subsidised by the World Youth Sailing Trust will be conducted before the event.

## *Australia - at last?*

While there is a good Optimist fleet in the clubs of Western Australia, the east coast has long been the one area of the sailing world without Optimists, probably because of a large number of locally-built boat designs.

However the experience of the Sydney Olympics where they saw ex-Optimists scoop most of the medals may lead to a change of opinion and to a local Optimist builder.

# After the Optimist



## **The Golden Book: ex-Optimist Olympic medallists**

*Ben Ainslie (GBR )*

*Iain Percy (GBR )*

*Robert Scheidt (BRA)*

*Kristine Roug (DEN)*

*Evgeniy Braslovec (UKR)*

*Jochen Schümann (GER)*

*Linda Andersen (NOR)*

*Francisco Sanchez (ESP)*

*Allison Jolly (USA)*

*Domingo Manrique (ESP)*

*Margriet Matthijsse (NED)*

*Yumiko Shige (JPN)*

*Georgiy Shayduka (RUS)*

*Morgan Reeser (USA)*

*James Brady (USA)*

*Javier Conte (ARG)*

*Rene Schwall (GER)*

*Frederik Lööf (SWE)*

*Julia Trotman (USA)*

*Thomas Johanson (FIN)*

*Belinda Stowell (AUS)*

*Mateusz Kusnierewicz (POL)*

*Teresa Zabell (ESP)*

*Fernando Leon (ESP)*

*José Maria v.d. Ploeg (ESP)*

*Jordi Calafat (ESP)*

*Patricia Guerra (ESP)*

*Luis Doreste (ESP)*

*Nicholas Henard (FRA)*

*Sebastian Godefroid (BEL)*

*Hans Wallen (SWE)*

*Natalia Via Dufresne (ESP)*

*Paul Foerster(USA)*

*Peer Moberg (NOR)*

*Juan de la Fuente (ARG)*

*Serena Amato (ARG)*

*Hugo Rocha (POR)*

*Tonu & Tomas Tuniste (EST)*

## **A lifetime sport**

Sailing is a lifetime sport where those aged 8 to 80 are practising the same skills. One of the tasks of the Optimist Class is to provide the sailors of the future.

Many will be content to sail at club or national level. But for those with the desire and talent the Optimist is the introduction to the world of competitive international racing.

## **Fairytales can happen**

Siren Sundby, pictured left, was Optimist European champion for two year in succession and in 1997 was 10th and best girl at our Worlds.

Just 38 months later she was the youngest sailor at the Sydney Olympics and a year later won gold at the ISAF World Youth Championship.

## **50% of the Olympic fleet**

At the Sydney Olympics over 50% of all dinghy helms were former Optimist sailors: of these over 70% had sailed in IODA World and continental championships.

## **Feeding the youth Classes**

The 'post-Optimist' classes are flourishing. Three new types of boat specifically designed for ex-Optimists have recently been approved by the International Sailing Federation and this year's meeting sees a call for all adult classes to be allowed to run Under-18 World Championships. And in these Classes sailors are increasingly coming from "newer" sailing countries . . . .

***The success of the Optimist is the future of sailing!***

**[www.optiworld.org/ioda-oldboys.html](http://www.optiworld.org/ioda-oldboys.html)**

# IODA

## **Growing like grass**

*To the sailing world the Optimist is like grass: such a universal phenomenon that one scarcely notices it! The Optimist exists . . . . and that is all one can say.*

## **but it is not as simple as that . . .**

*IODA, the International Optimist Dinghy Association, has, especially in the last 10-15 years, worked hard to nurture that universal phenomenon and to create from the grass a well-maintained, level lawn - a lawn fit for young people to play on.*

## **The One-Design project**

*Ten years ago the Optimist was going down the slope of so many great ideas. It no longer offered a 'level playing field'. Boats from some builders were faster than others or were believed to be so; 80% of the hulls at major events came from just two builders and the price was spiralling upwards.*

*For three years IODA worked to re-introduce the one-design principle. Today the result is boats so similar to each other that 19 builders were represented in the top 60 at last year's Worlds and Europeans. As a result local builders supply local markets. And boats cost at least 30% less than in 1990.*

## **Enlarging the Optimist World**

*In 1989 when we started to keep full records 49 countries were members of IODA and 38 sent teams to the four IODA events. Today IODA has 99 national members and 72 countries participated in such events.*

## **Keeping it "child-friendly"**

*Competition yes, but competition tailored to the needs of our young sailors. Commercialism, nationalism, and discredited educational theories have all threatened the Optimist.*

*IODA works for the benefit through sailing of the young people of the world.*

*We hope that these pages have shown how.*

## **President:**

**René Kluin (NED)**

## **Vice-Presidents:**

**Norman Jenkins (ARG)**

**David Booth (RSA)**

**Hans-Peter Bak (DEN)**

## **Technical Committee:**

**Hans Thijsse (RSA) - chairman**

**Tom Hale (USA)**

**Luis Horta Morages I.M. (ESP)**

**Nuno Reis I.M. (POR)**

## **Regatta Committee:**

**Kenneth Andreasen (USA) - chairman**

**Michel Barbier (FRA)**

**Luis Chiapparro (URU)**

**Nazli Imre (TUR)**

## **International Measurers:**

**Jean-Luc Gauthier I.M. (FRA)**

**David Harte I.M. (IRL)**

**Yoshihiro Ishibashi I.M. (JPN)**

**Ms. Hyo-Kyung Jang I.M. (KOR)**

**Paolo Luciani I.M. (ITA)**

**Luis Horta Moragas I.M. (ESP)**

**Dr. Curly Morris I.M. (IRL)**

**Nuno Reis I.M. (POR)**

**Ralph Sjöholm I.M. (FIN)**

## **Members of Honour:**

**Viggo Jacobsen (President of Honour)**

**Lars Wallin**

**Edith Jacobsen**

**Nigel Ringrose**

**Erik C. Hansen**

**Al Chandler**

**Jens Andersen**

**Beppy Bruzzone**

**Fred Kats**

**Helen Mary Wilkes**

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