

Peter Barclay – President of the IODA

One of the reasons why the Optimist is and has been for many years, by far the largest Class for junior sailing and the sailing school for the world, is its consistency over the years and its adaptability to changing times.

Our boat looks very much as it looked 50 years ago, but things do change little by little in our boat and in our worldwide organization in order to ensure safe and fair high quality racing at low cost, and the continuing global promotion of sailing for young people.

Evolution happens in the Optimist Class as changes and adjustments are demanded by time and technology, but I.O.D.A. does take care that changes are introduced only after careful evaluation, thinking of all its possible effects for the present and for the future.



Measurers at work at the Europeans

Team China ~ World Team Racing Champions 2009

But changes do happen, and we have had some in the recent months. We have an improved website with a bright new look. We have given greater importance to team racing which is so attractive to our sailors. We changed our race course for team racing to make it even more challenging and attractive and most importantly, we have changed the format of our World Championships in order to provide team racing for 48 national teams instead only 16 as before.



Mimi Santos

The members of our Executive Committee, the governing body of I.O.D.A., also have to change; our Articles establish a limit on the years a person may serve in this body. This year our dearest Mimi Santos (POR), after many years of dedicated voluntary work for the Class as Vice President for Europe, reached this limit and we have had to let her go. As a sign of appreciation the recent Annual General Assembly of I.O.D.A. nominated Mimi as an honorary member of I.O.D.A.



Juhani Soini

The AGM elected Johani Soini from Finland (above), as the new Vice President for Europe. Johani has been involved in the Optimist Class and in junior sailing in his Country and we are very happy he has volunteered for this position in order to work for our class internationally.

So welcome Johani, and our deepest thanks to Mimi.