



**2020  
Annual General  
Meeting**

October 22, 2020  
Portoroz, Slovenia

## Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

ALG, ANG, ANT, ARG, AUS, AUT, AZE, BAH, BEL, BER, BIZ, CAN, CAY, CHI, CHN, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, EGY, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, HKG, HUN, IND, ISR, ISV, ITA, IVB, KOR, KUW, LAT, MEX, MLT, MYA, MED, NOR, OMA, PAK, PER, POL, POR, QAT, SEY, SGP, SLO, SMR, SRB, SRI, SUI, SWE, TAN, THA, TTO, TUR, UAE, UKR, URG, USA

### Executive Committee

Kevin Whitcraft, President (KW)  
S.V. Balachander, Treasurer (SVB)  
Carmen Casco, VP Europe (CC)  
Sigrid Beckmann, VP Americas (SB)  
Ajay Narang, VP Africa, Asia & Oceania (AN)  
Ricardo Navarro, Chair, Regatta Committee (RN)  
Olive Parker, Chair, Technical Committee (OP)

Fiona Kidd, Secretary General (FK)  
Susan Elliot Beatty, Regatta Secretary (SEB)

### 1. Election of Chairman of the Meeting

Moved by THA and seconded by OMA to elect Kevin Whitcraft as Chair of the Meeting.

**Decision:** *Kevin Whitcraft was selected as the Chair of the Annual General Meeting.*

### 2. Approval of the 2019 AGM Minutes

Moved by GBR and seconded by PAK to approve the 2019 AGM Minutes.

**Decision:** *The 2019 AGM Minutes were approved.*

### 3. Consider any matters arising from the 2019 AGM Minutes not covered in the Agenda.

There were no matters arising from the 2019 AGM Minutes.

### 4. President's Report

**Kevin Whitcraft, President** presented his report on the past year. 2020 has been a difficult year for all due to COVID and unfortunately has greatly affected all our IODA members and our ability to properly fulfill the objectives of IODA.

The IODA office has continued operating and the Executive Committee and professional staff have continued to tirelessly work within various Covid limitations to support the stakeholders of IODA – members, sailors, sail makers, builders, parents, coaches, amongst others.

As you're all aware organizers have had to cancel various Championships over the period of 2020. IODA has worked within our rules and have tried to move events around to accommodate those events that were first postponed and then cancelled. We tried to find alternative venues when

possible while keeping the main focus on ensuring the health and safety of our members and sailors. As such we had to end up cancelling most the Championships. The Europeans in Slovenia is the only IODA event so far this year. We followed a strict program at this event and using the World Sailing COVID Guidelines to help us navigate through the challenges of hosting a sailing event.

IODA increased our communication to our Members and stakeholders throughout the year with Monthly Newsletters, Member Messages and Announcements, and Surveys for Members, Builders, and event attendees for their feedback with the view of improving IODA's work for members and all stakeholders.

We continued to modernize and improve efficiencies with the updating of features in our event microsites as well as introducing the Paperless Measurement System at our events and the introduction of the mobile APP.

IODA invested last year in strengthening our builder relationships through increased dialogue and builder feedback. A total of eight builder inspections were completed last year to ensure the integrity of our one-design class. We also approved the moulds of three new builders.

The development of Optimist sailing is a major goal for IODA. Late in 2019 IODA signed a partnership agreement with ASAF to produce coaching clinics together over the next 4 years. Unfortunately, COVID 19 has not allowed us to implement the clinics this year.

Sustainability and Social Responsibility are values that the Optimist Class feel very strongly about. This year IODA launched a co-branded version of the World Sailing Sustainability Education Program consisting of 6 topics to our members. Our members also generously responded to the devastating effects on the host nation of the 2019 North American Championship in Nassau, BAH from hurricane Dorian. Many of the Bahamas participants in the championship lost everything. Several Members generously donated boats and McLaughlin Boat Works stepped up to help out in a major way.

Providing a safe environment for our Opti sailors is also an area that IODA feels strongly about. This past year IODA Launched its' "Code of Conduct" for sailors, volunteers, event organizers, coaches, and parents. Keeping the Opti environment safe and inclusive is a continuing focus of IODA. Not only is this the right action for all our sailors but also essential to keeping and increasing numbers of girls in the sport, another very important focus of IODA.

Delivering our IODA Events with a very high standard is a fundamental cornerstone of IODA. Providing the best possible services and consistency for our World and Continental Championship from year to year is very important to the class. We implemented event surveys to obtain the feedback we need to improve our event delivery. The introduction of the Mobile App was a major accomplishment, which has extended our reach to our members, families, fans and friends around the globe during our IODA Events.

Challenges that face the class in the immediate future is COVID 19 and how it could possibly disrupt our IODA events again in 2021. We have only been able to host one IODA championship this year so far. COVID 19 has had a devastating effect on the industry and builders are not producing many boats and sail makers are also experiencing a low demand in new sails. As a result, our revenues are down considerably in 2020, so we are trying to do more with less. We are hopeful that the battle with COVID will subside in 2021 and that Optimist activity will stabilize, more Opti sailors will be on the water in all our member countries.

5. **Vice President's Reports – VP (Africa, Asia & Oceania), VP (Americas), VP (Europe)**
  - a) **Ajay Narang, VP Africa Asia & Oceania** presented his report that covered the major

activities in the region. The 2019 African Championships were held in Mahe, Seychelles, Aug 25 to Sept 1st. There were 42 sailors representing 8 nations. Angola dominated the championships with 7 sailors finishing in the top 10 and the winner of the African Team Racing Championship.

The 2019 Asian & Oceanian Championships was held in Mussanah Sport City in Oman Sept 30th to Oct 7th. 141 sailors from 21 nations participated. THA won gold and silver and the bronze went to BRA. THA won the gold in the Asian & Oceanian Team Racing Championship following by OMA in silver and the first time on the podium at the championship. They were followed by CHN in the bronze position. It was an excellent championship and very well organized.

The Asia Sailing Federation (ASAF) held their Annual General Meeting at this event, so it was a fantastic gathering of both sailors and sailing administrators together. IODA and ASAF signed a Partnership Agreement to jointly organize clinics for Coaches in the region, that are aimed at providing technical training & promoting best practices amongst coaches. Unfortunately, COVID 19 has halted the implementation of the clinics this year.

IODA hosted its first Webinar on September 27th called "Promoting Girls in Sailing" that was targeted to the Asian and African Region. Elena Papazoglou, the Chair of the World Sailing Women's Forum, and a member of the IODA Regatta Committee was the guest expert at the webinar. Over 53 registered from all over the world.

b) **Sigrid Beckmann, VP Americas** presented her report. The 2019 South American Championship was held in Algarrobo Chile, April 6-13th. There were 169 sailors (116 boys and 53 girls) from 17 countries in attendance. Two major accomplishments of the event were the launching of the IODA APP and the first time using the Paperless Measurement system. The event was very well organized.

The North American Championship was held on September 27th to Oct 4th in Nassau. Bahamas. It was a unique event because a week or so before it started the island was hit by a category 5 Hurricane, Dorian, that destroyed the northern islands. Many people lost their homes. A great joint effort from all the teams and organizers donated items, money, and gear to help out those Optimist sailors from the northern islands who lost everything. 169 sailors from 20 countries attended the championship.

The 2020 South American Championship was postponed just days to the start of the championship in March. The championship remains postponed at this point.

Unfortunately, the 2020 North American Championship in Cancun, Mexico was cancelled due to COVID 2019. We will be back in Mexico in 2021 at Riviera Nayarit, May 29 to June 5th.

Going forward, SB would like IODA to focus on sustainability, social responsibility, development, and support of smaller countries and increasing female participation. IODA has made sustainability and the environment a focus. IODA partnered with World Sailing by presenting a co-branded version of the Sustainability Education.

Programme to our members. All the images were replaced by images by Matias Capizzano. Many clubs and Members are implementing the education program.

IODA is a socially responsible class that encourages diversity and promotes girls in sailing. Sigrid presented a program 'Optis for Optimism' that IODA worked with our member from CAY after the hurricane Dorian devastated parts of Nassau. Through fundraising efforts, 7 boats were donated by Canada, Cayman Islands, Mexico, Switzerland, and USA 2 boats. Sigrid thanked Spencer Wiberley of

McLaughlin Boat Works for his support and to Donna Graham, from Cayman Islands for leading and organizing the initiative.

c) **Carmen Casco, VP Europe** presented her report on the region. Connection and communication are an important part of her work. CC is trying to visit many regattas in Europe so that she can connect with the sailors, coaches, organizers etc.

The 2019 European Championships was held in Crozon-Morgat, France June 22 to the 29th. The 2019 European Team Racing Championship was held separately in Lago di Ledro, in August 20 to 25th.

A total of 50 countries participated in the 2019 Europeans with 36 countries coming from Europe. There were 293 competitors with 143 boys and 100 girls. The event has grown from 2018 both in numbers of countries and sailors. It was a strong year for the Italians taking the top boy and girl at the championship.

At the 2019 Worlds in Antigua there were 65 nations participating with 32 countries from Europe. Of the total 259 sailors, 109 boys and 17 girls were from Europe. This is a decrease from 2018 when the Worlds was held in Cyprus. The 2019 Optimist World Champion was Marco Gradoni from Italy and the top girl was Maria Perello from Spain.

The 2019 European Team Racing Championships had 16 countries attending with Italy taking the top spot followed by Poland in second and Spain in third.

The plans for 2020, COVID 19 has forced plans for a coaching clinic in Ukraine to move it to next year. The goal is to keep connected through the European 'What's App Group' until 2021 when the events will start again.

## **6. Technical Committee Report**

**Olive Parker, the Technical Committee (TC) Chair** presented her report. Despite COVID 19, the Technical Committee was a working committee throughout the year. They are developing measurers around the world and their intention is to train more measurers at IODA events.

The TC has worked with the Regatta Committee on the implementation of uploading PDF copies of the certifications at events that make it easier and supports the paperless measurement process. This also supported the COVID risk mitigation protocols at the event by eliminating the contact between sailors and measurers.

The TC is constantly reviewing the class rules and with the interpretation of the rules on a regular basis.

In 2019, IODA inspected eight builders, some of which had not been inspected in over 5 years. IODA has approved 3 new boat builders in 2019. Exo Boat in Slovenia, Barcos Cuerdo in Argentina, and MarineLab (DB Marine) in Italy. IODA will be introducing a revised builder's agreement in the future.

The TC is in the process of redesigning the measurement templates that will reduce the costs for event organizers as they can be transported to each event. The templates are now lighter and easier to transport and easier to work with.

In early 2020, IODA communicated with the builders via a survey and hope to meet with the builders more regularly and have discussion with the builders on the development of the Optimist going forward.

The TC will continue with the development of the Paperless Measurement System so that there will be no more paper used at our events in the future.

## 7. Regatta Committee Report

**Ricardo Navarro, the Regatta Committee Chair** presented his report. There is a good working atmosphere in their committee which allows them to achieve many of their goals. Each year they run 6 fleet racing events plus 7 team racing championships. Since the introduction of the event microsites in 2017, the Regatta Committee continues to develop and improve the technology for our events each year.

Following last year, the introduction of the scoring package and the mobile APP, all IODA events are now 95% digital. This year, in partnership with the Technical Committee, they integrated the measurement certificates into the registration system. In 2021, the RC will eliminate all paper from all IODA Events and will be 100% green.

Over the past few months, the Regatta Committee has been reviewing all the Race Management policy documents and manuals to align with the new Racing Rules of Sailing for the period 2021 to 2024. In 2021, IODA will introduce a new Event Manual with the main purpose of helping organizers prepare for IODA Events in the future. The RC has just completed the IODA Team Racing Manual that will be posted on the IODA Website soon.

In 2021, the RC will continue to support new race officers at IODA events. The RC will also focus on increasing the participation of more girls in Opti Sailing.

In 2021, the RC will introduce a new history section on the website dedicated to the Optimist Boat and Optimist Events throughout the last 60 years.

## 8. Annual Audited Accounts

a) **S.V. Balachander, Treasurer** presented the 2019 Annual Report. Increases in revenue from 2018 was the result of the increase in sail labels fees that was approved in 2019 and implemented on August 1, 2019 as well as the increase in IODA fees for participants at IODA events.

Most of the expenses were in line as expected, however, there were some accounting adjustments that were made on the advice of the auditors that have resulted in a greater loss on the year than expected.

**Decision:** The 2019 Audited Annual Report was approved.

b) S.V. Balachander stated that IODA was planning on a breakeven budget in 2020. However, since COVID 19, we are running at about 50% in revenue in the sale of sail labels and plaques. As a result, our finances are stressed. Although IODA has some fixed overhead costs, we are reducing costs as much as possible during the year particularly in travel. As a result, as of Sept 30<sup>th</sup> we are expecting about a 50K loss on the year. We are anticipating that in the final quarter there will be an uptake on sales activity as we move towards 2021.

## 9. Fixing the following year's annual subscriptions from its members, the organizing authority championships fees, and the price of sail labels.

a) The current Annual IODA Subscription Fee is \$350 USD. The recommendation is to maintain the same.

**Decision:** *Approved*

b) The current Championship Fee is \$50 USD for each sailor and adult for Continental and World Championships. The recommendation is to maintain the current fee.

**Decision:** *Approved*

c) The current Sail Label Fee is \$15 USD each. The recommendation is to maintain the current fee.

**Decision:** *Approved.*

d) The Current Plaque Fee is \$50 USD each. The recommendation is to maintain the current fee.

**Decision:** *Approved.*

## 10. Proposals from the Executive Committee

a) **Proposal 020-EC01** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist European Championship from the Executive Committee regarding the clarification of the wording of the condition which is currently ambiguous and to state clearly the actual current practice.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC01 was approved.*

b) **Proposal 020-EC02** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Team Racing Championship from the Executive Committee regarding how to calculate the ranking of the 16 Member Teams.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC02 was approved.*

c) **Proposal 020-EC03** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist North American Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the number of races required to constitute the championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC03 was approved.*

d) **Proposal 020-EC04** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist South American Championship from the Executive Committee to clarify the number of races to constitute the championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC-4 was approved.*

e) **Proposal 020-EC05** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the number of races required to constitute the championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC05 was approved.*

f) **Proposal 020-EC06** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist African Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the number of races required to constitute the championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC06 was approved.*

g) **Proposal 020-EC07** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist European Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the number of races to constitute the championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC07 was approved.*

h) **Proposal 020-EC08** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist World Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the reference to the series used in the qualifying and final series in the race documents.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC08 was approved.*

i) **Proposal 020-EC09** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist North American Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the qualification system of the Optimist North American Team Racing Championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC09 was approved.*

j) **Proposal 020-EC10** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist North American Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the qualification system of the Optimist North American Nations Cup.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC10 was approved.*

k) **Proposal 020-EC11** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist South American Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the qualification system of the Optimist South American Team Racing Championship (TRSAM).

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC11 was approved.*

l) **Proposal 020-EC12** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist South American Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the qualification system of the Optimist South American Nations Cup (NC).

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC12 was approved.*

m) **Proposal 020-EC13** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the qualification system of the Optimist Asian & Oceanian Team Racing Championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC13 was approved.*

n) **Proposal 020-EC14** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist African Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the qualification system of the Optimist African Team Racing Championship.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC14 was approved.*

o) **Proposal 020-EC15** – Change in the Articles of Association from the Executive Committee standardizing the date that the AGM Agenda is sent to the Members.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-E15 was approved.*

p) **Proposal 020-EC16** – Change in the Articles of Association from the Executive Committee standardizing the date that the Proposal for an alternation of the Articles and Championship Conditions are to be submitted for the AGM.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC16 was approved.*

q) **Proposal 020-EC17** – Change in the Articles of Association from the Executive Committee standardizing the date that the Proposals are an alteration to the Class Rules are to be submitted for the AGM.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC17 was approved.*

r) **Proposal 020-EC18** – Change in the Articles of Association from the Executive Committee adding the sale of spar and foil labels if required in the future.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC18 was approved.*

s) **Proposal 020-EC19** – Change in the Articles of Association from the Executive Committee providing the ability to sell spar and foil labels as required in the future.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-EC19 was approved.*

## **11. Proposals to Amend the Class Rules**

a) **Proposal 020-TC01** – Add Class Rule 3.2.6.1(m) from the IODA Technical Committee regarding the additional of an eye strap to the thwart in front of the mast hole.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-TC01 was approved.*

b) **Proposal 020-TC02** – Change Class Rule 3.5.2.12 from the IODA Technical Committee regarding the prohibition of sharp points on a wind indicator.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-TC02 was approved.*

c) **Proposal 020-TC03** - Change Class Rules 4.5 from the IODA Technical Committee regarding aligning with the World Sailing ERC.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-TC03 was approved.*

## 12. Proposals from Members

a) **Proposal 020-M01** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist North American Championship from the Member CAY to increase the permanent number of sailors CAY may enter to the championship from 4 to 6.

**Decision:** *Proposal 020-M01 was approved.*

## 13. Confirm the venue for the 2021 Optimist World Championship

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Member from TUR presented the following proposal that was seconded by ITA.

**Proposal:** *To grant the 2021 World Championships venue to Riva del Garda, Italy and move the 2022 World Championships venue to Bodrum, Turkey.*

**Decision:** *The motion from the floor by TUR and seconded by ITA was approved.*

**Decision:** *The 2021 World Championship will take place in Riva del Garda, ITA June 30 to July 11<sup>th</sup>*

## 14. Select the venue for the 2022 Optimist World Championship

IODA received two bids to host the 2022 Optimist World Championship from Hong Kong and China.

Due to the decision in Item 13, there was no election for the host of the 2022 Optimist World Championship

**Decision:** *The 2022 World Championship will take place in Bodrum, Turkey, on July 4 - 14<sup>th</sup>.*

## 15. Confirm the venues for the IODA Continental Championships 2021

Due to COVID 19, the member from BRA presented a proposal from the floor.

**Proposal:** *To grant the 2021 South American Championship venue to Mar del Plata, Argentina, and move the 2022 South American Championship venue to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

**Decision:** The proposal from the floor from BRA and seconded by ARG was approved.

The following 2021 IODA Continental Championships were confirmed.

- European Championship, Santa Maria, ESP – June 20-27<sup>th</sup>
- European Team Racing Championship, Lago di Ledro, ITA – late August.

- North America Championship, Riviera Nayarit, MEX – May 29 - June 5th
- South American Championship, Mar del Plata, ARG – November 6 - 13<sup>th</sup>
- Asians & Oceanian Championship, Pattaya, THA – November 6 – 13th

## 16. Select the venues for the IODA Continental Championships 2022

Two bids were submitted to host the 2022 Asian & Oceanian Championship from KOR and UAE.

**Decision:** KOR was selected as the host of the 2022 Asian & Oceanian Championship to take place in Yeosu on April 25 to May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The following 2022 Continental Championships were confirmed.:

- European Championship, Sondenborg, DEN – June 25 - July 2 or July 30 - August 6th
- European Team Racing Championship, Lago di Ledro, ITA – last week of August.
- South American Championship, Rio de Janeiro, BRA – October 2022

## 17. Information from World Sailing Meetings

**Fiona Kidd, Secretary General** reported on the activities of World Sailing. Due to COVID in 2020 the activity in World Sailing has been limited. Many of the WS Events have been cancelled and the postponing of the Olympics has caused many challenges. In early 2020, the WS Medical Commission was very quick to produce a set of guidelines on how to host an event during the pandemic which was the basis of the IODA COVID risk mitigation protocols that were implemented at the 2020 Europeans. The guidelines were also shared with our members and available on the IODA Website. 2020 is also a year of elections for the President and Board Members at World Sailing, so unfortunately most of the activity has been around the election process.

IODA continues to be well represented at World Sailing with several members of IODA in key positions in the technical and race management aspects of the sport. Fiona Kidd represents the Optimist Class at the WS Classes Committee and ensures that the Class is compliant with WS Regulation 10 which are the rules that govern an International Class.

The highlight for the class at World Sailing occurred in November 2019 when Optimist sailor Marco Gradoni (ITA) was awarded the prestigious World Sailor of the Year Award for his accomplishments on winning three Optimist World Championships and numerous other titles in 2019.

## 18. Election of members of the Executive Committee (Article 7)

### *Election of two members for a two-year term*

- a) **Sigrid Beckman (MEX)** was nominated by MEX and seconded by CHI was elected as Vice President, Americas
- b) **Ajay Narang (IND)** was nominated by IND and seconded by MAS was elected as Vice President, Africa, Asia & Oceania

## 19. Election of members of the Technical Committee (Article 8)

### *Election of two members for a two-year term*

- a) **S.V. Balachander (IND)** was nominated by IND and seconded by THA was elected as a member of the Technical Committee.
- b) **Jean-Luc Gauthier (FRA)** was nominated by SUJ and seconded by FRA was elected as a member of the Technical Committee.

**20. Election of members of the Regatta Committee (Article 9)**

***Election of two members for a two-year term***

- a) **Ilker Bayindir (TUR)** was nominated by TUR and seconded by MYA was elected as a member of the Regatta Committee.
- b) **Elena Papazoglou (CYP)** was nominated by CYP and seconded by ISR was elected as a member of the Regatta Committee.

**21. Election of the Auditor (Article 14).**

S.V. Balachander, Treasurer, proposed that IODA continue with Beierholm located in Aalborg, DEN as the auditors for the International Optimist Dinghy Association for the Fiscal Year 2020.

**Decision:** *The proposal to elect Beierholm, Aalborg, DEN as the auditors for IODA for Fiscal Year 2020 was approved.*

**22. Any other business**

There was no other business.

Meeting Adjourned at 18:15 UTC +2 (CEST)