



**2021
Annual General
Meeting**

July 7, 2021
Riva del Garda, ITA

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

ANT, ARG, AUT, AZE, BEL, BER, BRA, CAY, CHI, COL, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, ECU, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GRE, HKG, HUN, IND, ISR, ISV, ITA, JPN, LAT, MEX, MLT, MOM, NED, NOR, PER, POL, POR, PUR, RSA, RUS, SGP, SLO, SRB, SWE, THA, TUR, UAE, URG, USA
PROXY – GER, OMA, PAK, SRI

Executive Committee

Kevin Whitcraft, President (KW)
Carmen Casco, VP Europe (CC)
Sigrid Beckmann, VP Americas (SB)
Ricardo Navarro, Chair, Regatta Committee (RN)
Olive Parker, Chair, Technical Committee (OP)

Fiona Kidd, Secretary General (FK)

Remote:

Ajay Narang, VP Africa, Asia & Oceania (AN)
S.V. Balachander, Treasurer (SVB)

1. Election of Chairman of the Meeting

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

2. Approval of the 2020 AGM Minutes

Decision: The 2019 AGM Minutes were approved.

3. Consider any matters arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes not covered in the Agenda.

There were no matters arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes.

4. President's Report

Kevin Whitcraft, President presented his report on the past year.

The COVID global pandemic has been the greatest disruptor to Optimist sailing and activity over the past year. For the first time ever, the only IODA event that took place was the 2020 Europeans in Portoroz, Slovenia in October. All other events were either postponed or cancelled in 2020.

2021 is proving to be a better year with our IODA Continental and World Championship events all going forward as planned albeit with travel restrictions for many countries. COVID has added complexity to the logistics of planning and delivery of our events. The industry is in recovery, and we are seeing a trend in the increase in activity in Optimist Sailing globally. IODA is also trending financially upwards, with sales of plaques & sail labels of pre-COVID levels at about 75%.

The goals that IODA will be focusing on in 2022 are to engage more with our members to better understand their needs and determine how to serve them better. In addition, we need to focus more on building relationships and partnerships to increase revenue sources for IODA.

Recently we have been focussing our efforts on sustainability by introducing our new ROPE Program (Recycled Optimist Parts and Equipment Program) and will be working to develop this program further in 2022 across the organization. We have also significantly reduced the use of paper in our IODA Events by introducing the Paperless Measurement System and Sailors accounts. All communication is online.

We also will be re-introducing our Coach's and Sailor Clinics in 2022, as we anticipate the COVID travel restrictions will be reduced somewhat, and gatherings of people will be expanded.

And finally, we want to continue to deliver 'best of class' IODA Championships to all our Members.

The challenges over the coming year that IODA will be facing is the uncertainty of COVID19 on travel and the logistics for events. We also continue to have challenges of attracting girls into the class and retaining them. Finding ways to promote girls in the Optimist Class and the sport is an issue that IODA will continue to address through new education and awareness programs.

The Financial stability of IODA is also challenging as it is very much tied to the health of the industry, so looking at new streams of revenue for IODA will be important.

And finally, maintaining the One Design nature of the Optimist Class is an ongoing challenge. With over 30+ builders globally, ensuring that all Optimist produced are as equal as possible so that we can meet our main objective of the class to "provide racing for young people at low cost".

5. Vice President's Reports – VP (Africa, Asia & Oceania), VP (Americas), VP (Europe)

a) Ajay Narang, VP Africa Asia & Oceania presented his report.

Throughout the Optimist community, sailing programmes, events and initiatives are starting to take place more and more frequently now, as parents and young sailors around the world begin to overcome the challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is clear to see, however, that many of our members and sailors still face issues and challenges to get back on the water. I am certain that going forward, the international sailing events which feature the Optimist Class hosted at Bahrain, Oman, Abu Dhabi, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, S Korea, Japan, China, Seychelles, S Africa, Australia and New Zealand will once again be back on the radar and at IODA, we will focus on supporting the Optimist community.

We are focussing now on delivering an outstanding IODA Asian and Oceanian Championship later this year at Thailand. It will be a challenging Championship within the ongoing COVID-19 environment, but the IODA team and the Organising Committee are committed to hosting them in a safe and fair environment.

Last year we introduced a series of webinars focussed on promoting greater accessibility to the sport for female participants and introduced many first-time sailors to the sport. The legacy of these webinars is already evident, with an encouraging sign of increased female membership within some clubs in Asia and Africa. We intend to continue such webinars going forward.

We would also like to thank South Africa for coming forward to host the 2022 IODA African

Championship and hope to see not only the sailors from Africa but other continents also to be part of this event. We wish them all the very best and a successful championship in 2022.

It is a pity that we have not been able to meet face to face for so long, but I have enjoyed engaging with you via our social media channels. It is important that our dialogue works two ways so we can work together to grow the beautiful sport we all love

b) **Sigrid Beckmann, VP Americas** presented her report.

Due to COVID 19, the two 2020 IODA Championships in the Americas did not take place. The South Americans in Mar del Plata were cancelled/postponed only 5 days prior to the start of the championship as COVID was taking hold on Argentina. This was despite many teams already enroute to the event.

The 2020 North American Championship that was to be held in Cancun, MEX was cancelled as hotels in the region were closing.

The 2021 North American Championships, the first event in the IODA calendar took place in Riveria Nayarit, Mexico, May 29th to June 5th. 113 sailors from 12 countries participated. A strong team from the USA swept the podium in both the fleet and team racing championships.

The 2020 Mar del Plata, ARG event will be taking place this year from November 6-13th thanks to the cooperation of our Member from Brazil who at the 2020 AGM, proposed that their championship in Rio de Janeiro slated for 2021 be moved to October 7-15, 2022, so that the Mar del Plata event could take place in 2021.

The upcoming and ongoing areas of focus for IODA in the Americas is sustainability, social responsibility, development in smaller countries, and the increase in female participation.

The IODA ROPE Program was successfully introduced at the 2021 North Americans whereby sailors donated items that were donated to local and regional Optimist programs. The development of the ROPE Program will be a major focus of the Americas in the coming year.

c) **Carmen Casco, VP Europe** presented her report.

COVID19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 European Championships that were to take place in Tallin, Estonia in June as the organizer was unable to host the championship.

IODA sent out a bid request to find an alternate host for the championship. The Executive Committee selected Portoroz, Slovenia to host the event on October 18th to 15th, 2020. Despite only having 4 months to plan the championship, the organizers at the Yacht Club Pirat did an outstanding job of hosting this event during strict COVID mitigation measures that had to be implemented. 269 sailors (113 girls and 156 boys) from 33 countries (3 non-Europe) attended the event.

The 2020 European Team Racing Championship that was to be held in Lago di Ledro, ITA in August was also cancelled due to COVID. The 2021 edition is scheduled to take place at the same venue from August 24th to 29th.

The 2021 European Championship was successfully completed this year. It was hosted and organized by El Puerto de Santa María Royal Yacht Club, in Cadiz, Spain. 272 sailors (155 boys & 116 girls) from 38 countries attended the event. Spectacular sailing conditions throughout the entire week of racing produced a new boy and girl 2021 European Champion.

6. Technical Committee Report

Olive Parker, the Technical Committee (TC) Chair presented her report.

Our Technical Committee comprises of Jean Luc from France, Alberto Pindozi from Italy and Bala from India with Conxa our Prototype Measurer in Spain. I am also grateful for the advice and guidance we receive from Curly Morris as our advisor.

We cannot do our job without our class measurers. We have 12 IODA class measurers throughout the world working with us at the events. We are developing measurers and it was our intention in 2021 to have training seminars at each of the IODA events, however, we had to pull this due to COVID. However, we will engage with our members and devise a training programme during the next 12 months to work with members and run seminars which will help with the understanding of our class rules at a more local level.

Our objectives this year were many, however, due to COVID19 these were restricted unfortunately. But now, together with the Regatta Committee, we have developed the technology to move our paperless systems that we introduced last year to run the measurement part of events totally paperless. Our paperless measurement system now accepts PDF of sail certs and measurement books linked to sailors which has greatly helped with contact for COVID, more environment friendly, certainly more efficient for measurers and sailors alike. We are continuing to develop this process. With travelling opening up we have been able to attend at some builder's factories, meet new builders and help them with the class rules.

We carried out fundamental measurement this year at Europeans in Spain and here in Italy. This is extremely important for the class to enable us to check boats and ensuring builders are complying with our class rules. We thank the sailors and teams for cooperating with us to do this job. We will be planning for fundamental measurement checks to be carried out at all our non-charter events next year.

We at the Technical Committee are responsible for ensuring builders are complying with class rules. Again, due to the inability to travel we have not been able to visit many builders, but now travel is opening up our plan over the next few months is to visit builders, continue our plan for inspections for builders that have not been visited.

We have carried out two inspections since October 2021, visited 2 new builders and one new builder has been approved.

We had a great meeting with Builders worldwide in January 2021, the first builders meeting and together with the builders we are planning for the future of the class. Together with the builders we are looking at different materials for boat building, both cheaper, sustainability, keep costs down and make it easier for builders worldwide.

As a committee, we are constantly reviewing class rules and assisting our members with queries about the class rules. We are writing interpretation of class rules document to help the understanding of the rules and we will use IODA social media outlets to share this information with the members. Our focus will continue to develop the class rules going forward.

We have reviewed our measurement templates, and this is a work in progress. We strive to keep the cost down and that applies to our templates and traveling to events and the templates are now lighter and easier to transport and also easier to work with.

Thanks to Susan Elliott Beatty for her continuous support with regards to the paperless measurement system and support throughout the year and to Fiona Kidd our General Secretary for

her constant support.

7. Regatta Committee Report

Ricardo Navarro, the Regatta Committee Chair presented his report.

The IODA Regatta Committee includes members that are top level World Sailing Race and Jury Officials. Together we enjoy an excellent professional working atmosphere, and this has enabled us to achieve many of our goals over recent years. Each year IODA Regatta Committee is responsible for running 1 World Championship, 5 Continental Championships in each region, 5 Team Racing Championships, and 2 Nations Cup Championships with the participation of over 1,000 sailors worldwide.

Since 2017 when the IODA event microsites were initially launched, we have continued to improve the existing platform to better support our championships and enrich the Member's experience of the IODA events, with the intention of providing a better experience for the sailors. In recent years, along with the microsites we have introduced the Smart Phone APP, the Scoring Integration Package, the Accreditation Package, and we worked together with IODA Technical Committee to create a paperless measurement system that is fully integrated with the event entries in the microsite platform. No matter what country we are in, a standard delivery is assured, with all technology specially designed for Optimist Class specifications. All services are provided to the IODA Event Organisers along with the support of the Regatta Committee, thereby eliminating their concerns about the key areas of the championship management. Most importantly, the technological improvements mean that IODA events can run anywhere in the world at the same consistent level.

The requirement to make our events safe for management of Covid 19 gave us the incentive at the beginning of this year to take the final steps toward making IODA events completely digital by eliminating all paper Race Office forms. At the 2021 Optimist North Americans we introduced the "Sailor Account" through which the sailors can submit their protest forms, equipment change requests, score reviews and questions directly to the appropriate Regatta Official using their smart phone. We hope that your sailors and coaches are enjoying using this product and we are committed to continuing to develop it going forward to make it even better. This product not only complies with the WS risk mitigation protocols for managing Covid 19, it also aligns with the objectives of the Class for clean environment and sustainability by considerably reducing the volume of traditional paper waste. In addition, the race records are available in perpetuity on the event microsites, the access to which IODA will never remove from the web.

The main priority for the activities of the IODA Regatta Committee is always the safety and security of the participants at the championships. The global pandemic of Covid 19 created immense challenges in this area that we are all familiar with. Last summer IODA Regatta Committee immediately focused on establishing risk mitigation protocols for management of Covid 19 for the IODA future championships. With the great success of the 2020 Optimist Europeans in Slovenia last October, the first IODA event held during the pandemic, we were able to demonstrate that it is possible to deliver a successful sailing event for 269 sailors and 34 countries and be Covid 19 free. Our objective is to continue to refine and develop our safe protocols as required. This year we have successfully run a 2021 Optimist North Americans in Mexico, a 2021 Optimist Europeans in Spain and now we are here in Italy. We still look forward to four events in the calendar for 2021. Sailors have been able to return to the water, enjoy their sport and meet their international friends. This is our objective.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the IODA Regatta Committee for their continuous dedication and efforts toward improving the Class for the sailors: Andres Perez (ESP), Ilker Bayindir (TUR), and Elena Papazoglou (CYP). I would like to especially thank, on behalf of all members of Regatta Committee, Susan Elliot Beatty, the IODA Regatta Secretary, for her continuous

hard work on all of the IODA Regatta Committee initiatives. Thank you also to Fiona Kidd, the Secretary General of IODA for her continued support.

8. Annual Audited Accounts

S.V. Balachander, Treasurer presented the 2020 Annual Report.

I would like to present to you IODA's financials as on December 31, 2020.

Total Sales was \$175,761 which is a reduction of 50% compared to that of 2019. Total expenses for year ending 2020 were \$222,037 compared to \$378,308 for 2019. Loss for the year was \$24,847 compared to a loss of \$59,907 in 2019.

The IODA Executive Committee anticipated a potential reduction in revenue during its mid-year meeting in January 2020 based on news reports of an impending pandemic. Hence, we had prepared a contingency budget if we had a significant reduction in revenue. This plan was executed resulting in a net loss of \$24,847.

Cash balance as of December 31, 2020, was \$363,127 compared to \$365,886 for 2019 with a total cash burn of only \$2,739. Major expense for IODA is its secretarial expense which accounted for about 50% of total expense in 2020. 2020 was a difficult year from an operating perspective as we had to manage the process of postponement and eventual cancellation of IODA regattas except for the Europeans.

I would like to place on record my appreciation for the great work done by IODA Secretariat in managing the uncertainty due to Covid-19. 2020 was a challenging year both from an operating and financial perspective. However, due to Executive Committee foresight and planning we were able to contain our losses to a minimum. We expect 2021 to be better than 2020 however, we are not planning for a return to normalcy as far as IODA revenues are concerned.

Decision: The 2020 Audited Annual Report was approved.

a) S.V. Balachander stated that IODA was planning on a breakeven budget in 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 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*

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

Decision: *Approved.*

c) The current Plaque Fee is \$50 USD each. The recommendation is to change the fee to \$60USD effective immediately

Decision: *Approved.*

d) The current Annual IODA Subscription Fee is \$350 USD. The recommendation is \$450 USD.

Decision: *Approved*

e) Introduce a Spar Label Fee paid by the manufacturer of \$5USD for each of the mast, boom, and sprit effective January 1, 2022.

Decision: *Approved*

f) Introduce a Foil Label Fee paid for by the manufacturer of \$5USD for each of the rudder and daggerboard effective January 1, 2022.

Decision: *Approved*

10. Proposals from the Executive Committee

a) **Proposal 021-EC01** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Continental Championship from the Executive Committee to remove reference to male gender bias “He” and “Chairman” and ensure the current practice to maintain consistency between events.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC01 was approved.*

b) **Proposal 021-EC02** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist World Championship from the Executive Committee to remove any reference to male gender bias and ensure the current practice to maintain consistency between events.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC02 was approved.*

c) **Proposal 020-EC03** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist European Team Racing Championship from the Executive Committee clarifying the supply of equipment to provide flexibility at the time of the bid process.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC03 was approved.*

d) **Proposal 021-EC04** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist European Championship from the Executive Committee to match the wording with that in other championships and clarify that the defending Champions (one boy and one girl) will not be included in the gender requirement.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC04 was approved.*

e) **Proposal 021-EC05** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist European Team Racing Championship from the Executive Committee to match the wording with that of the European Championship Condition 7.1 (c) and correct the grammar.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC05 was approved.*

f) **Proposal 021-EC06** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Continental Championships from the Executive Committee to be consistent with the current practice. The IODA PRO is a Member of the IODA Regatta Committee to best represent the Race Management Policies of the Class and create standardization for the Organiser’s event RC.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC06 was approved.*

g) **Proposal 021-EC07** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist World Championship from the Executive Committee to be consistent with the current practice that the IODA PRO and CR are Members of the IODA Regatta Committee and to best represent the Race Management Policies of the Class, creating standardization for the Organiser’s event RC

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC07 was approved.*

h) **Proposal 021-EC08** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Continental Championship from the Executive Committee to make available for event organisers the fully integrated IODA event management package and its updates, bringing the technical aspect of the event in line with the most recent RRS and IODA Class Rules and Policies.

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC08 was approved.*

i) **Proposal 021-EC09** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist World Championship from the Executive Committee to make available for event organisers the fully integrated IODA event management package and its updates, bringing the technical aspect of the event in line with the most recent RRS and IODA Class Rules and Policies

Decision: *Proposal 021-EC09 was approved.*

- j) **Proposal 021-EC10** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Continental Championship from the Executive Committee to make the site visit(s) for Continental Championships consistent with those for the World Championship and to make sure that the Organiser is only required to provide economy travel.
Decision: *Proposal 021-EC10 was approved.*
- k) **Proposal 021-EC11** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Continental Championship from the Executive Committee to better facilitate a logistical plan for the event organisers for all the technical persons except for the IODA Executive Committee representative, and to limit travel costs to economy rates.
Decision: *Proposal 021-EC11 was approved.*
- l) **Proposal 021-EC12** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Continental Championship from the Executive Committee to clarify the responsibilities of IODA at no extra cost to the Organiser.
Decision: *Proposal 021-EC12 was approved.*
- m) **Proposal 020-EC13** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship from the Executive Committee to clarify the process in current practice regarding entry of sailors from Non-Asian or Oceanian Members.
Decision: *Proposal 021-EC13 was approved.*
- n) **Proposal 020-EC14** – Change in the Condition of the Optimist African Championship from the Executive Committee to clarify the process in practice regarding entry of sailors from Non-African Members into the championship.
Decision: *Proposal 021-EC14 was approved.*
- o) **Proposal 020-EC15** – Change in the Articles of Association from the Executive Committee to allow for the Annual General Meeting to be electronic under extraordinary circumstances.
Decision: *Proposal 021-EC15 was approved.*

11. Proposals to Amend the Class Rules

- a) **Proposal 021-TC01** – To change CR 3.5.3.4 – some booms over the years do not have this band so to permit the choice of the band.
Decision: *Proposal 021-TC01 was approved.*
- b) **Proposal 021-TC02** – To change Class Rule 3.1.1 to remove the words or other exotic materials as Class Rule 1.1 Note states: in deciding whether an item is permitted it should be noted that, in a One-Design Class, unless the rules specifically state that something is permitted it shall be assumed to be prohibited.
Decision: *Proposal 021-TC02 was approved.*
- c) **Proposal 021-TC03** - To change CR 2.7.3.1 – to change the position of the identification number of the mould for the hull from the forward face of the forward transom to the aft transom for new approved moulds from 1st January 2022.
Decision: *Proposal 021-TC03 was approved.*
- d) **Proposal 021-TC04** – Class Rule 6.3.3.10: To change that the batten pocket patch must be the same colour as the body of the sail. The class rule assumes the body of the sail to be white, but all colours are permitted.
Decision: *Proposal 021-TC04 was approved.*

- e) **Proposal 021-TC05** – Class Rule 3.3.1.4: To permit the serial number on the starboard side of the daggerboard and the manufacturers model names and/or logo on both sides of the daggerboard.
Decision: *Proposal 021-TC05 was approved.*
- f) **Proposal 021-TC06** – Class Rule 3.2.6.4. To state the backing plate for the mast step should be manufactured of metal (not Titanium) as this is not clear in the class rules.
Decision: *Proposal 021-TC06 was approved.*

12. Proposals from Members

- a) **Proposal 021-M01** – To remove the year of manufacture of the Daggerboard.
Decision: *Proposal 021-M01 was not approved.*
- b) **Proposal 021-M01 – To remove the year of manufacture of the Rudder.**
Decision: *Proposal 021-M02 was not approved.*

13. Confirm the venue for the 2022 Optimist World Championship

Decision: *Bodrum, Turkey, was confirmed as the host of the 2022 Optimist World Championship, July 4 - 14th, 2022.*

14. Select the venue for the 2023 Optimist World Championship

IODA received five bids to host the 2023 Optimist World Championship from **Korea, Oman, Russia Slovenia and Spain.**

Decision: *The bid from Club de Vela Ballena Alegre, SPAIN was selected as the host of the 2023 Optimist World Championship to be held June 11th to 21st.*

15. Confirm the venues for the IODA Continental Championships 2022

The following 2022 IODA Continental Championships were confirmed.

- European Championship, Sonderborg Yacht Club, DEN – July 30 to August 5th.
- European Team Racing Championship, Lago di Ledro, ITA – August 23 to 28th.
- South American Championship, Rio de Janeiro, BRA – October 7 to 14th
- Asians & Oceanian Championship, Yeosu, KOR – April 29 to May 6th

There was a late bid received by the Executive prior to the AGM from RSA to host the 2022 African Championship. The Executive Committee approved the bid.

Decision: *The bid from RSA to host the 2022 African Championship was confirmed.*

IODA has not received a bid to host the 2022 North American Championship.

16. Select the venues for the IODA Continental Championships 2023

- a) Two bids were submitted to host the 2023 Asian & Oceanian Championship from SRI and UAE.

Decision: Abu Dhabi, UAE was selected to host the 2023 Asian & Oceanian Championship from October 29th to November 4th.

- b) Five bids were submitted to host the 2023 European Championship from GRE, POR, RUS, SLO, & TUR.

Decision: The Nautical Club of Thessaloniki, GRE was selected as the host of the 2023 European Championship from July 15 to 23rd.

- c) The following 2023 Continental Championships were confirmed.:

- European Team Racing Championship, Lago di Ledro, ITA – last week of August.
- South American Championship, Lima, PERU.

17. Information from World Sailing Meetings

Fiona Kidd, Secretary General reported on the activities of World Sailing.

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

Election of two members for a two-year term

- a) **Olive Parker (IRL)** was nominated by IRL and seconded by FRA was elected as a member of the Technical Committee.
- b) **Vacant**

19. Election of members of the Regatta Committee (Article 9)

Election of two members for a two-year term

- a) **Ricardo Navarro (BRA)** was nominated by BRA and seconded by MEX was elected as a member of the Regatta Committee.
- b) **Andres Perez (ESP)** was nominated by ESP and seconded by CYP was elected as a member of the Regatta Committee.

20. 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 2021.

Decision: *The proposal to elect Beierholm, Aalborg, DEN as the auditors for IODA for Fiscal Year 2021 was approved.*

21. Any other business

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.