



## MINUTES

of the  
2018 IODA Annual General Meeting  
Atlantica Miramare Beach Hotel, Limassol, Cyprus  
September 3, 2018

### Attendees:

ANG, ANT, ARG, AUS, AUT, AZE, BEL, BER, BRA, CAN, CAY, CHI, CHN, CRO, CYP, CZE, DEN, ECU, ESP, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, HKG, HUN, IND, IRL, ISR, ISV, ITA, JPN, LAT, MAC, MAR, MEX, MLT, MON, MOZ, NED, NOR, NZL, OMA, PER, POL, POR, PUR, RSA, SEY, SGP, SLO, SMR, SRB, SUI, SWE, THA, TUN, TUR, UAE, UKR, URU, USA

### Proxies:

All Votes - ALG, BRN, CPV, EGY, INA, IVB, LTU, MAS, MNE, MRI, MYA, PAK, ROU, TAN  
2020 Worlds Only – PAR, SRI  
2020 South Americans Only – PAR  
Elections – COL, PAR

### Executive Committee

Kevin Whitcraft, President (KW)  
S.V. Balachander, Treasurer (SVB)  
Carmen Casco, VP Europe (CC)  
Nuno Gomes, VP Africa, Asia & Oceania (NG)  
Ricardo Navarro, Chair, Regatta Committee (RN)  
Claudio Zon, Chair, Technical Committee (CZ)

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

### Absent:

Luis Velasco, VP Americas (LV)

## 1. Election of Chairman of the Meeting

### Decision

*Kevin Whitcraft was unanimously elected as the Chair of the Annual General Meeting.*

## 2. **Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes**

The Minutes were circulated in May to all IODA members. No errors or omissions were received by the Secretariat.

### **Decision**

*Moved by SMR and seconded by LAT, the 2017 AGM Minutes were unanimously approved.*

## 3. **President's Report**

Kevin Whitcraft presented his report since his election as President at the 2017 AGM in Thailand.

In the past year, IODA has worked in two primary areas: Governance; and Financial Controls and Operational Policy. A third party independent investigation was undertaken as per motion 12b) of the 2017 AGM. It was distributed to Members with a number of recommendations.

Announced at the 2017 AGM, IODA has updated its logo, which was rolled out across the organization during the year. All IODA events in 2017 used an IODA microsite. This has now centralized all information on each IODA event with the goal of helping our members, sailors and coaches have better access to information.

IODA welcomed three new builders into the family this past year with Naaix (Aix & Mos al) (ESP), One Plus (CHN), and Nilo Dinghies (ARG).

One of the issues facing IODA are declining plaque sails. This is in part because the Optimist second hand market is very strong and that the boats hold their value, but it is also partly due to boats that are being sold without plaques. This is an area that IODA will be addressing in the future.

The governance of the Class needs to improve to gain the trust of our members and stakeholders as well as improve our image. IODA needs to also look at automation and technology to help with work flows and the technical aspects of IODA to help us maintain the one design nature of the class.

As a result, IODA has implemented a Conflict of Interest Policy for all staff and elected members, as well as a proper reporting and approval structure with the Executive, and the technical Committees. In addition, the Executive Committee is working to improve communication and moving issues forward by holding more regular meetings throughout the year.

The President's personal objectives are to: improve communication between all stakeholders in the Optimist Class and implement change; ensure the Optimist is the pre-eminent boat for youth in the world; expand the Optimist globally and assist in grass roots development and to develop a dynamic cost effective entry level strategy; and finally to engage with builders, World Sailing, sailmakers, suppliers, and future classes to help IODA grow and market the Optimist with the view to secure a major sponsor for the class.

The following actions have been initiated and will roll out in the coming year: the IODA Executive Committee will engage with stakeholders in the Optimist Class; IODA will be more transparent by keeping members better informed; and the IODA Executive Committee will improve the atmosphere within the class to one of mutual respect and trust.

The President will be focusing on four key actions over the coming year: Focus on the future, Communication; Marketing & PR; and Engage the Stakeholders.

#### **4. Vice President's Reports**

- a) Nuno Gomes VP, Africa, Asia & Oceania, presented an overview of the activities that took since the 2017 AGM.

The 2017 African Championships was held in Montazah Water Sports, Alexandria, EGY from June 29 to July 6th for about 50 sailors. The 2017 Asian & Oceanian Championship was held at the Hong Kong Yacht Club's Middle Island facilities in Hong Kong where 131 sailors participated. Both events were a success with excellent sailing conditions and organizational standards.

Three site visits were held for future 2019 IODA events in the region to assess the readiness of each organization. In October 2017, a site visit was conducted for the 2018 African Championship in Mozambique, in March 2018 there was a site visit to the 2018 Asians in Myanmar, and finally in July 2018 there was a site visit to the 2019 African Championships in Seychelles. All events are confirmed and planning is going well.

Development of Optimist sailing in the regions of Africa, Asian and Oceania are very important to IODA and in the growth of sailing in the region. IODA held a Coaches' Clinic in TAN in June 2018. Coaches from four countries attended (EGY, KEN, RSA, TAN). The clinic was well received, and the attendees gained a lot of experience and knowledge. IODA was not able to coordinate a clinic in the Asia region although there are a number of interested members who have a need for such an initiative.

Training of IODA technical officials in both Race Management and Measurement is also an IODA priority and this is best done at the IODA events wherever possible. The 2018 Africans and Asian & Oceanian events are being used to develop those skills.

- b) Carmen Casco, VP Europe presented a report of the past year activities. Following the election to office at the 2017 AGM, Carmen visited the European Team Racing Championship. It is a special and low-key event that is very sailor friendly. The equal gender, two boys and two girls worked very well for the teams.

The European Championship was held in Bourgas, Bulgaria July 30 to August 6th and was an excellent regatta, almost the same in size as the worlds with 261 boats. The event had great sailing conditions each day and was well organized both on and off the water.

Development in Europe is equally as important than other parts of the world. Although two clinics were planned in Slovakia in 2018, only one took place in March 2018. The clinic led by Zdzislaw 'Zizi' Staniul was a huge success.

The VP Europe's priorities over the coming year are to: work to improve communication; improve the reputation of IODA; and focus more on the sailors. As a result, the VP is planning on visiting as many events as possible to talk with our IODA members and sailors to better understand their issues and needs.

- c) Luis Velasco, VP Americas was not present at the meeting as he had resigned from IODA. Kevin Whitcraft presented the report on his behalf.

The 2018 South American Championship was held in Montevideo, URU, March 25 to April 1st. There were 170 sailors in attendance making it one of the largest South Americans ever. The 2018 North American Championships was held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on June 24 to July 1st with 149 sailors participating. A follow-up report for the South Americans to the Team Leaders was very helpful in providing feedback on our event. This is an initiative that should be continued.

The 2019 South American Championship is to take place in Algarrobo, Chile from April 6 to 13 and the 2019 North Americans is to take place in Nassau, Bahamas in September 27 to Oct 4. Although the 2019 North Americans has only just recently been awarded, they are well organized and planning is on track. A site visit will be organized in the fall.

Many of the South American Members have requested to change in the program of both events in the Americas. Due to the large distances that everyone must travel and the predominance of light wind in most venues, there is a need to add another day to the program to provide some flexibility in the racing schedule. In most years, there is not enough wind to complete the Team Racing or the Championship itself.

The 2020 South Americans will take place in Mar del Plata, Argentina in March 21 to 29<sup>th</sup> and there is no venue yet for the 2020 North Americans as there were no bidders this year.

There have been two development coach's clinics in the past year. The first was held in Montevideo, URU in December 2017 with 50 sailors and 10 coaches and the other was held in Colombia in July, where 15 sailors and 12 coaches took part. Both were extremely successful. A third coach's clinic is scheduled to take place in Cayman Islands in October 2018.

Training of officials is important as well in the region. IODA hosted a very successful Measurement Training Seminar that took place prior to and during the 2018 South American Championship in Montevideo, URU. Measurers from URU, ARG, ECU and CHI took part.

Working with other youth classes beyond the Optimist is an important strategy in the region to keep kids in sailing. Work has begun to try and integrate and plan how this can happen in the future. It is also important that IODA finds ways to keep girls sailing not only in the Optimist but in sailing in general.

## **5. Technical Committee Report**

Claudio Zon, the Chairman of the Technical Committee presented the Technical Committee Report.

IODA currently has seven International Measurers that work with the Optimist Class and five that are in training or are working on their IM status.

To increase the number of Optimist Measurers, the Technical Committee introduced a Measurement Training Program this past year. A measurement seminar took place prior to and during the 2018 South American Championship in Montevideo, URU. Twelve participants from BRA, CHI, URU, ARG, ECU passed the test and practiced their skills during the measurement days. Diego Freiria and Claudio Zon were the instructors.

A second seminar has been organized at the 2018 Asian & Oceanian Championship under Curly Morris, former chair of the Technical Committee. A third seminar is planned for the 2018 African Championship in MOZ. There is also a Wooden Boat Measurement seminar being planned with Curly Morris.

Regarding measurement at IODA Events, the Technical Committee has instituted at the world championship in 2017 and 2018, both mandatory charter events, pre-measurement of the hulls. This has enabled the boats to be distributed earlier to the competitors and reduced the amount of measurement of equipment and sails considerably. The TC would like to continue with pre-measurement going forward in the future.

The TC would like to introduce paperless measurement at IODA events. This initiative is waiting for budget approval.

Over the past year, IODA approved the moulds of three new builders, Naaix (ESP), One Plus (CHN) and Nilo Dinghies (ARG).

In addition, over the last year there were numerous visits to builders by the IODA Prototype Measurer – 7 visits in total to either measure prototypes or check moulds.

The TC is studying the use of some electronic /RFID systems for the registration of hulls and equipment.

The EC would like to use the technical portal on the IODA Website as a communication tool for builders, suppliers to allow Q & A on technical issues.

The TC would like to allow Digital Numbers in the class. To make such a change, a new class rule needs to be created and approved at next year's AGM. World Sailing then needs to approve the rule and upon application from IODA to grant the use of digital numbers under Appendix G5.

And finally, the TC is looking into moving away from paper Registration Books towards some sort of digital record in the future.

## **6. Regatta Committee Report**

Ricardo Navarro, the Chairman of the Regatta Committee presented the report on the activities of the Regatta Committee over the past year.

The Regatta Committee had to work with one less member this past year with David Campbell James resigning due to personal reasons. With three candidates running for the committee at the 2018 AGM, the committee will be back up to full capacity.

Regarding events, in this period IODA ran 1 World Championship, 5 Continentals, 5 more team racing continentals and 2 Nations Cups with participation of more than 1,000 sailors.

They also continue with the Microsite implementation across all events. This year they tested the SAILTi scoring system and now it is ready to be implemented in the next IODA event. The next step is to develop an APP for smartphones. This application will make it possible for users to follow the events on their mobile phone, inclusive of tracking, results, and news, but also with new functionality for competitors in terms of notifications of protest hearings and notices posted on the official notice board, scoring reviews, weather forecasts etc.

On the race official side, despite budget limitations, it was possible to continue with the Race Officer Development Program by sending one national race officer to the Asian Championship. For the next period, the program will continue, and the focus will be to promote officers from areas identified as “underserved”, like Africa, Asia, Oceania, Caribbean and Middle East.

Regarding the RC documentation review program, only the Race Management Manual is still to be completed. It is expected to be completed at the next Regatta Committee Meeting in February 2019. In addition, due to requests from coaches, the RC intends to put in place recommended safety requirements for coach boats. The goal is to provide organizers a list of minimum requirements for coach boats to increase the safety level, as we consider coaches one of most valuable resources in terms of competitor safety.

RN thanked the members of his committee, Andre Peres (ESP) and Ilker Bayindir (TUR) for their hard work and time donated to the Optimist Class. He also thanked Susan Elliot Beatty, the Regatta Secretary and Fiona Kidd, Secretary General for their support to the Regatta Committee

## **7. Annual Audited Accounts**

- a) The IODA Treasurer, S.V. Balachander presented the 2017 Annual Report. The Treasurer reported that IODA had a loss of 73K due to higher spending in the area of development for the class. The 2017 Budget was forecasted to have a \$50K deficit that did not include depreciation. The 2017 Financial Statement are consistent with the budget for the year and were on target. Although overall revenues were about the same as 2016, expenses were considerably higher(\$50K) due to increase in travel and event costs.

### **Decision**

*Moved by AUS and seconded by ANG , the 2017 Annual Report was approved.*

- b) S.V. Balachander reviewed the 2018 Budget. He is forecasting break-even 2018 Financial Statements, but without taking into consideration depreciation. Spending on Tracking has been reduced to 2 events. Other costs and expenditures are being managed closely.

## **8. Fixing the following year’s annual subscriptions from its members, the organizing authority championships fees, and the fees from sales of sail labels.**

S.V. Balachander proposed that there are no changes in the IODA annual subscription in 2019 and will remain at \$350US. As agreed at the 2016 AGM, the championship fee is to increase from \$35 to \$50US per sailor and adult registered for all 2019 events. Sail Label fees will remain at \$10 each.

**Decision:** The Members unanimously supported the proposal. *The proposal is Approved.*

## 9. Proposals from the Executive Committee

- c) Proposal 18-01 and 18-02 Conditions for the Optimist World Championship and Continental Championship from the Executive Committee regarding bone fide resident sailors that make up more than 50% of a team.

**Decision**

*Proposals 18-01 and 18-02 were unanimously approved.*

- d) Proposal 18-03 Conditions for the Optimist World Championship regarding a new trophy for the Optimist Nations Cup (Jacobsen Trophy).

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-03 was unanimously approved.*

- e) Proposals 18-04 and 18-05 Conditions for the Optimist World and Continental Championship regarding for mandatory charter events, the charter boats shall be no more than 12 months old

**Decision**

*Proposals 18-04 and 18-05 were approved.*

- f) Proposal 18-06 Conditions for the Optimist World Championship regarding mandatory charter boats when the World Championship is held in Europe.

**Decision**

*Proposals 18 - 06 and 17-07 was not approved.*

- g) Proposals 18-07 Conditions for the Optimist European Continental Championship regarding mandatory charter boats not required, unless agreed to by the IODA Executive. **Note: The change was made in the Continental Championship Conditions.**

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-07 was approved.*

- h) Proposal 18-08 Conditions for the Optimist North American Championship regarding the awarding of the trophy for the Nations Cup Team Racing Championship.

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-08 was approved.*

- i) Proposal 18-09, 18-10, 18-11, 18-12 Conditions for the Optimist South American, North American, Asian/Oceanian, African Championships regarding the fleet system that is being used.

**Decision**

*Proposals 18-09, 18-10, 18-11, 18-12 were approved.*

- j) Proposal 18-13, Conditions for the Optimist South American Championship clarifying the terminology used in the Optimist Nations Cup.

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-13 was approved.*

- k) Proposal 18-14 Conditions for the Optimist Asian/Oceania Championships clarifying the wording in 6.2 Prizes.

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-14 was approved.*

- l) Proposals 18-15 and 18-16 Conditions for the Optimist Asian & Oceania Championship clarifying wording regarding prizes for fleets.

**Decision**

*Proposals 18-15 and 18-16 were approved.*

- m) Proposal 18-17 Condition for the Optimist Continental Championship regarding adding an additional deputy measurer to a championship if required.

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-17 was approved.*

- n) Proposals 18-18, 18-19 Condition for the Optimist World and Continental Championship regarding providing flexibility in the time and location for meals for members of the International Jury.

**Decision**

*Proposals 18-18 and 18-19 were approved.*

- o) Proposal 18-20 Article 9 Regatta Committee regarding the Regatta Secretary role and responsibilities.

**Decision**

*Proposal 18-20 was approved.*

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

- a) Proposal 018-TC01 changing Class Rule 3.2.6 Fittings to clarify the situation regarding the wearing of a timing device.

**Decision**

*Proposal 018-TC01 was unanimously approved.*

## **11. Proposals from Members**

- a) Proposal 18-01M Article 5 regarding the type of representation in the Organization

**Decision**

*Moved by FRA and seconded by ESP, the proposal was not approved.*



- b) Proposal 18-02 M Article 3 Membership & Article 13 Annual General Meeting regarding the elimination of Proxies.

**Decision**

*Moved by SUI and seconded by AUT, the proposal was not approved.*

- c) Proposal 18-03 M Article 13 Annual General Meeting regarding the nationality of an official representative

**Decision**

*Moved by BEL and seconded by NED, the proposal was not approved.*

- d) Proposal 18-04 M Conditions for the Optimist North American Championship regarding the increase in ISV sailors that can participate in the event.

**Decision**

*Proposal was approved.*

- e) Proposal 18-05 M Article 7 regarding an additional member of the Executive Committee from Asia.

**Decision**

*Moved by THA and seconded by QAT the proposal was not approved.*

## **12. Confirm the Venue for the 2019 Optimist World Championship**

Karl James, the official country representative from Antigua spoke to the AGM regarding the 2019 World Championship. The venue of the championship will be the Antigua Yacht Club in Antigua. The dates of the championship are confirmed to be from July 6 – 16, 2019 and the sailor entry fee and adult entry fee are also confirmed at \$850 USD. It is a mandatory charter event, with boats supplied by McLaughlin(USA) and Martecna (ARG). The cost of the charter boats are confirmed at \$580 each.

**Decision:**

*The Antigua Yacht Club, in Antigua & Barbuda was unanimously confirmed as the venue for the 2019 Optimist World Championship.*

## **13. Select the Venue for the 2020 Optimist World Championship**

Bids from ARG, CHN, ITA, and TUR were presented to the Members on August 31, 2018. The following venue was selected.

**Decision**

*Riva del Garda, Italy was elected as the host venue for the 2020 Optimist World Championships. The dates of the World Championship are July 1 to 11, 2020.*

#### **14. Confirm the Venues for the IODA Continental Championships 2018**

**The following IODA Championships were unanimously confirmed:**

- i) 2019 European Championship – Centre Nautique de Crozon-Morgat, Port de Plaisance, Crozon FRA, NED, June 22 – 29th
- ii) 2019 Asian & Oceanian Championship – Oman Sail, Mussanah Sport City, September 30 to October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- iii) 2019 African Championship – Victoria, Mahe, SEY, August 25 to September 1
- iv) 2019 South American Championship – Algarrobo, Chile, April 6 – 13<sup>th</sup>.
- v) 2019 North American Championship – Nassau Yacht Club, Montagu Bay, BAH, Sept 27-October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- vi) 2019 European Team Racing Championships – Lago di Ledro, ITA, August 20 to 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **15. Select the Venues for the IODA Continental Championships 2020**

**Bids from EST, HUN, POL, and TUR were presented on August 30<sup>th</sup> and after voting, the following IODA event was selected:**

2020 European Championship – Kalev Yacht Club, Tallinn, EST, July 25 to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The following IODA events were uncontested and selected:**

- i) 2020 African Championship – Hammamet, TUN, September 6 to 13th
- ii) 2020 Asian & Oceanian Championship, Trincomalee, SRI (first two weeks of August).
- i) 2020 European Team Racing Championship - Lago di Ledro, ITA, (last week of August).
- ii) 2020 South American Championship – Club Nautico Mar del Plata, Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, ATG – March 21 to March 29, 2020

**Note:**

*IODA did not receive a bid to host the 2020 Optimist North American Championship.*

#### **16. Information from World Sailing Meetings**

Fiona Kidd, Secretary General, presented the report on World Sailing.

The 2017 Worlds Sailing Conference was held in Puerto Vallarta, MEX, November 4-12<sup>th</sup>.

As a World Sailing Class, IODA is governed under World Sailing Regulation 10 and is a member of the World Classes Committee. The Secretary General, Fiona Kidd represented the Optimist Class at this meeting. The main items that were discussed were the Anti-Monopoly and Anti-Trust issue regarding Olympic classes that are manufacturer controlled. Since IODA works on a multi-builder model with over 30 builders worldwide, this does not really affect us, although we need to be aware of its ramifications. Other issues discussed at this meeting were the definition of continents, which suggested North and South America should be one continent. IODA opposed this submission as we are organized into North and South Continents within the class and for our events.

The increase in the number of serious sailing accidents over the past few years, World Sailing is taking the safety issue very seriously. There is a new web-based incident reporting system that ALL classes must use. It is now in the World Sailing Regulations. All classes are required to report safety and health incidents through this portal. A Sailor Safety Equipment Working Party is reviewing different aspects of safety equipment including lifejackets.

Sustainability was also an item that was discussed at the meeting with the introduction of the World Sailing Sustainability Commission that is focusing on key areas of technical standards, events, venues & facilities, training and participation.

The interests of IODA are well represented at World Sailing by the following people:

Ricardo Navarro (Chair, Technical Committee) – Chair, Regional Games Committee

Andres Perez (Member, Regatta Committee) – Chair, International Judges Committee  
Member, Race Officials Committee

Fiona Kidd – (Secretary General), WS Classes Committee representing IODA  
Member, Events Committee

Peter Barclay (IODA Past President) – Chair, Team Racing Sub Committee

Curly Morris (IODA Measurer & Former Chair TC) - WS Classes Representative on Equipment Rules Subcommittee

The 2018 World Sailing Meeting will take place on October 28, 2018 in Sarasota FL.

## **17. Election of Members of the Executive Committee (Article 7)**

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

- a) Sigrid Beckman, (MEX), nominated by MEX and seconded by CAY was elected as Vice President, Americas
- b) Ajay Narang, (IND), nominated by INA and seconded by OMA elected as Vice President, Africa, Asia, and Oceania.

## **18. Election of Members of the Technical Committee (Article 8)**

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

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

## **19. Election of Members of the Regatta Committee (Article 9)**

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

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

## **20. Election of the Auditor (Article 14).**

Treasurer, S.V Balachander proposed to continue with Beierholm located in Aalborg, DEN as the auditors for the International Optimist Dinghy Association for the Fiscal Year 2018.

### **Decision**

*The proposal to elect Beierholm, Aalborg, DEN as the auditors for IODA for Fiscal Year 2018 was unanimously approved.*

## **21. Any Other Business**

- a) A discussion regarding the discrepancy of accommodation at the 2018 World Championships took place. Some members felt that their accommodation and food was substandard (1\*), while others were lucky with 4\* accommodation. All teams were charged the same fee. This was a change to what was presented last year at the AGM when the event was confirmed by the Members.

### **Decision:**

*IODA would review the situation and make changes in this regard for future events.*

- b) The independent report on the internal investigation of Carla Stanley last year was completed as requested by the Members at the 2017 AGM. David Kellett of Australia was the author of the report. It was distributed along with notes from Nuno Gomes and Luis Velasco to the Members in August, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.