



President's Report

The current IODA Executive Committee has been in office since the last AGM held in Bodrum, Turkey.

This year is an important milestone year for the Class with it being the 50th anniversary of the recognition of the class and the 60th anniversary of the World Championships.

Looking back on the last twelve months it has been a busy year coming back to normalcy. The Class is starting to thrive again as evidenced by the number of boat plaques and sail buttons we're providing to builders and partners. IODA has continued to provide world class championships on the continental and world levels fulfilling our aim to ensure a superior environment of competitive sailing while yet ensuring we are inclusive for all our members and youth sailors.

The reports of the Continental Vice Presidents provide a more comprehensive commentary on the championships.

The work of the Regatta and Technical Committee's to uphold standards and the one design concept of the class have addressed the objectives.

On the financial side the class is stronger as outlined in the financial report with another profit for the year.

During the last year and into 2022 we have started some major new initiatives including :

- Adding to our already strong 101 members are six new/returning members of Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Iran, Tajikistan, Venezuela and Panama.
- A fully digital measurement system and database for boats, sails, foils and spars. This project is started and anticipated for completion by the end of 2023. The goal is to have a better system of labeling and identification for Optimists and an improved database. This project will not immediately eliminate hard copy measurement books, plaques and sail labels but will enhance the current system. The goal is to integrate builders and suppliers of Optimist components (boats, sails, foils and spars) database with the new RFID database.
- IODA has started discussions with play e sailing to ensure the class is engaged in this new area of interaction with sailors and members. Playesailing is present with terminals at the 2023 World Championships.

We continue to have areas of concern where improvement is necessary. Tracking is one such are which we're still not satisfied with and are continuing to consider our options. The performance of Trac Trac at some events has not been ideal.

The IODA Excom decided to bring in a third party to assist in accounting review which has greatly speeded up our monthly financial reports and annual audit. Actually saving us money in

addition to time on the annual audit. We have decided to take this to another level moving forward and outsourcing the full book keeping and accounting function away from the secretariat. What hasn't been great is that we have not found a Treasurer to assist in financial oversight. As such I have taken on this role for now.

The Executive Committee has taken the decision to restructure the secretariat of the class as outlined in a memo to members. More information and progress will be forthcoming to members as this structural change takes place.

As we look ahead with the recent difficult years of covid behind us, and with more solid financials, it is the goal of IODA to start engaging more with members. The first initiative being the Development program for coaches which is available to all members in partnership with IODA. IODA is finalizing the Development program and will roll out with courses in the final quarter of the year with IODA funding the bulk of expenses to bring world class coaches and the curriculum to our members and assist in growing the coaches in various geography's. A special focus will also be women training women coaches.

What the IODA Excom is hoping to do more of is further engagement with our members and stakeholders. We seek your guidance input and advice on where you want to see the class moving.

We hope to spend more time growing the sport of sailing and specifically the Optimist class while improving how we manage the one design aspects of the class.

The IODA team is tasked as well to consider sustainability in our areas of interaction with communities.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Continental Vice Presidents, the Regatta and Technical Committee Chairman, the Secretary General and Regatta Secretary for the jobs they've done these last twelve months.

A special word of thanks goes to Ricardo Navarro who has served IODA for the last twelve years as a volunteer. He has been a wise advisor to myself and a person who has given his time passionately to ensure our key stakeholders the youth sailors in Optimist are having the experience of a lifetime and enjoying the sport of sailing. He is an encyclopedia of knowledge on the history and operations of the class. IODA would not be in the strong position it is today without Ricardo. His commitment, diligence and role as a driving force has contributed immensely to the Optimist Class' success. I am certain he will continue to be a resource and champion of the Optimist class.

I look forward to the continued feedback and encouragement from members as to how we can make IODA better.

Kevin Whitcraft
President