



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT AGM 2022

The IODA Technical Committee comprises of Jean Luc from France, Bala from India, Conxa our Prototype Measurer from Spain with Curly Morris as advisor, and myself Olive Parker, Chair of TC, from Ireland. With the support of Fiona Kidd, IODA Secretary General and Susan Elliott Beatty, Regatta Secretary, we have been able to promote the Optimist as the largest one design class in the world.

The IODA TC is responsible for ensuring the class is a One Design Class and also responsible to carry out measurement for World Championships and 5 Continental Championships, allowing us to carry out equipment inspections on close to 1000 boats each year, without taking into consideration any factory inspections.

The TC has been working alongside the Regatta Committee in implementing a paperless measurement system and together with the Secretary General we are proceeding to eliminate all paper in relation to all measurement books and certificates going into 2023 and beyond. We are now starting a process to digitize Registration and Measurement Books and Sail Measurement certs. We are also working with manufacturers of our equipment to streamline spars and foils and have more control in the manufacturing and the building processes of these components to ensure when a sailor buys a piece of equipment, they will know they are class legal.

Training measurers around the world for our class is an important project the TC is constantly trying to improve. Unfortunately, due to COVID this has proven slightly more difficult than we would have liked, however, we have a with the help of Sigrid, VP of America, a Measurement Seminar planned for NAMS in Bahamas, and we are planning with the help of Carmen, European VP, for a measurement seminar to take place in Europe and we will post more details on this social media in the coming weeks.

We cannot do our job without our class measurers and without these volunteers, for example as Ms. Jang (Korea) Ale Williman (URU) and John Gillard (ANT) who are all here at this event we could not possibly carry out measurement at events. Since the AGM last year, we have carried out equipment inspections on over 600 boats and equipment. By the end of the year, we will have inspected over 1000 boats and equipment.

Our Objectives this year due to COVID19 were restricted unfortunately. But, following fundamental measurement at events, we have carried out inspections at factories, 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 totally paperless measurement part at our events. Our system now accepts PDF of sail certs and measurement books linked to sailors which has greatly helped with contact for COVID, is more environment friendly, certainly more efficient for measurers and sailors alike. We are continuing to develop this process and we need to engage with the sailors, team leaders and associations to ensure we can eliminate unnecessary paper at our events as part of our “green” agenda.

With travelling opening up we have been able to attend at some builders’ factories, meet new builders and help with the development of our class.

We have also reviewed our templates and are reducing the cost of these and modernizing these to make them lighter for travel, which cuts down costs. We are constantly reviewing the class rules and are currently upgrading the sail plans.

We carried out fundamental measurement at events last year and we will do so again this year at the Europeans in Denmark. This is extremely important for the class to enable us to check builders and ensuring they are complying with our class rules. We thank the sailors and teams for cooperating with us to do this job.

Our Prototype Measurer has been busy this year with visits to 6 factories helping them to improve their moulds and approving 2 new builders to the class. We are currently working with two new builders in the hope that they will start production over the next few months.

We are working with some builders reviewing different materials for boat building with the hope we can build boats both cheaper, sustainably, keep costs down and make it easier for builders worldwide.

Thanks to Fiona Kidd our Secretary General for constant support and regular contact with our builders and equipment suppliers and Susan Elliot Beatty for her continuous support to the TC throughout the year.

Olive Parker

Technical Committee Chairperson

June 2022