

Report from the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

It doesn't seem long since I was writing the report for the last AGM in Lyme Regis! Once again I can report a quiet year. Most of the work continues to be answering questions from sailors to clarify some rules and in doing so considering whether any rule can be worded more clearly.

During the World Championship in Lyme Regis a technical meeting was held with almost 20 people in attendance. As a result of those discussions there are some proposals for class rule changes at the 2024 AGM.

The main discussion was about creating a register of manufacturers. This was considered useful as OKDIA can better coordinate technical services and help to the manufacturers.

Of the subjects discussed the use of electronic equipment is one that appears more and more and we need to come up with a rule that is both workable and enforceable. It is now common practice to have online notice boards and communication and so all classes need to address the situation when every sailor in the boat park has to have a mobile phone to hand, and often with no place to safely store them while they are afloat.

The same applies for GPS capable watches and cameras. The proposal at the AGM is the start of a process to have more control over wearable and portable electronic equipment

After many years of permitting laminated sails to be made on an individually approved basis the technical meeting proposed the removal of this rule. The rule was put in place to gather information about new materials but over the years only about 10 such sails have been made (officially). The sailmakers also do not see a problem with the supply of Dacron so there is no urgency to introduce new materials.

Late in 2023 the Technical Committee email system was updated as part of the change over to the new website. This was achieved successfully.

There are no nominations for new members and no members leaving this year.

Alistair Deaves
Chair OKDIA Technical Committee
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