

NZIODA

2025 AGM Minutes

2000 hrs. Wednesday 2nd April (Zoom).

Facilitator: Matt Harker (President)

Note Taker: Barry Davies

Committee Present: Matt Harker, Barry Davies, Paul Blundell, Francis de Jager, Matt Dunn, Doug Sommerville, Chris Xiong, Tony Robb, Simon Briscoe, Wayne Holdt.

Attendees: Sarah Nicholl, Bob Witham, James Wells, Sophie Handley, Paula Satterthwaite, Nigel Soper, Noeline Soper, Dan Foster, Paula Turner, Jack Bao, Dean Barker, Brent Wilson, Nick Stead.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the previous AGM:

The 2024 Minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Barry moved that these minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous AGM.

Seconded by Paul Blundell. Carried.

The President's Report:

Dear Members

I'd like to begin by thanking all our families, sailors, coaches, and volunteers for another exceptional year in the Optimist sailing community.

Over the past season, we've completed an exciting and busy calendar of events across the country. These included the InterIslander, the South Island Traveller Series, the Kohi Girls Regatta, the Sir Peter Blake Regatta, the Auckland Champs, The North and South Island Champs, Team Racing, the Team Selection Trial, and the Auckland Winter Sprint Series. Our clinics—such as the May Teams Clinic and the regional North and South Island Clinics—continued to offer fantastic development opportunities for our sailors.

As always, our national committee seeks to balance two key goals: fostering competitive excellence and international representation on one hand, and growing a deep, inclusive, and enjoyable experience for young sailors on the other.

In terms of international competition, it has been a remarkable year. Our sailors have proudly represented New Zealand at IODA events around the world. In 2024, the Optimist World Championship was held in Argentina, and we had strong representation at the

European Championship in Italy. North American Championships in Puerto Rico and the Asian and Oceanian Championship in Hong Kong. Our Development Team's planned trip to New Caledonia was relocated to Australia, where they competed successfully and gained valuable experience.

We have teams selected for upcoming regattas including the 2025 Optimist Worlds in Slovenia, the Europeans in Turkey, and the North American Championships (TBC). We also continue to support cultural and friendship-based international events such as the International Friendship Regatta in Japan, the cultural exchange in Qingdao and the Renaissance Junior Gold Cup in Bermuda, with strong Kiwi representation confirmed again for 2025.

Domestically, we've also made strides to grow participation and engagement. This year, we introduced several changes to Green Fleet with a renewed focus on fun, safety, and skills development. We've adapted the Green Fleet race format to be shorter, provide more variety and fun, making it less intimidating for newcomers and helping to reduce the time and financial commitments required from parents. We're working to make the transition from Learn-to-Sail to competitive sailing smoother and more rewarding.

I'd like to give special thanks to Veronica and Sarah for their tireless work in building and maintaining strong organisational infrastructure. Their efforts continue to strengthen NZIODA's foundation and ensure knowledge and systems are carried forward each year.

I'd also like to sincerely thank the OWNZ Trust for their ongoing support—both financially and in spirit— which has made so much of our development work possible.

A special mention and heartfelt thanks go to Barry for his outstanding service as NZIODA Secretary. Barry is retiring this year, and his contribution over many years has been instrumental in keeping the association running smoothly. We are incredibly grateful for everything he has done behind the scenes to support our sailors and volunteers.

We'll continue working to communicate the value of NZIODA membership more clearly and to find ways to streamline processes for families and clubs.

On the committee front, I would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. I warmly welcome any new members joining us tonight and extend heartfelt thanks to those who are stepping down. We continue to encourage regional and gender diversity on the committee, and I welcome anyone interested in contributing to reach out after the meeting.

In closing, I want to recognise the incredible work of our coaching community, whose efforts are essential in supporting our sailors both on and off the water. And finally, thank you again to our sailors and their families—your passion and commitment are the heartbeat of NZIODA.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead, with Nationals just around the corner and a full calendar of clinics, regattas, and international events to come.

Kind regards,

Matt Harker President – NZIODA

The Treasurer's Report:

The Profit & Loss statement and the Balance Sheet were made available prior to the meeting.

Chris reported that financially, we have maintained a stable and healthy state and finished up with a nett profit of just over \$29K. There are \$8.2K of membership fees still outstanding but with our National Championships next week, most of these fees should be settled.

Chris then moved that the Financial Report be accepted. Seconded by Barry. Carried.

The Registrar's Report:

Stock Sail labels: 10

Boats registered in last 12 months: 9

(Boats registered 2024 = 10, 2023 =12, 2022 = 25 and 2021 = 11)

Change of ownership: 12

I would have liked to have seen more change of ownerships.

The new form for Replacement Measurement Certificate or Change of Ownership for boats 10 years or older has dramatically reduced the number of replacement books I have had to order from IODA Canada. It is more efficient and much cheaper for the parents and is working well from my point of view.

If the Club Opti reps could add to their information packs the need to keep the Registration Books in a safe place and that if you are purchasing a second hand Opti make sure you get the Registration Book and you update your details as the new owner with the NZIODA Registrar.

I am happy to continue as Registrar.

Kathie Elliott

Motions to be Considered:

Motion 1: That the New Zealand International Optimist Association Inc. be re-registered as an Incorporated Society (as required under the recently introduced "2022 Act").

Proposed by Matt. Seconded by Paul. Carried

Motion 2. That the 2025 NZIODA Constitution (amended to comply with requirements of the "2022 Act") be approved.

The revised constitution had been submitted to the NZIODA Committee in January for consultation and feedback. Following this, the new draft constitution was circulated to the membership prior to this AGM.

Acceptance of the new constitution proposed by Matt. Seconded by Paul. Carried

Election of Committee Members:

Current President seeking re-election – Matt Harker - RAYC

Nominated by Barry Davies Seconded by Simon Briscoe Carried

Nomination for Secretary - Sarah Nicholl – Charteris Bay Yacht Club

Nominated by Matt Harker Seconded by Barry Davies Carried

Current Treasurer seeking re-election - Chris Xiong – RAYC

Proposed by Barry Davies Seconded by Tony Robb Carried

Current Members of General Committee seeking re-election

Paul Blundell – CBYC

Francis de Jager – NSC

Tony Robb – QCYC

Michael Shirley – KYC

Doug Sommerville – Howick Sailing Club

Wayne Holdt – New Plymouth Yacht Club

Sam Mackay - Yachting New Zealand

Simon Briscoe – Murrays Bay Sailing Club

Proposed by Barry Davies Seconded by Matt Harker Carried

New nomination for General Committee - James Wells – Glendowie Boating Club

Nominated by Andrew Wills Seconded by Sophie Handley. Carried

Nomination for Life Membership

Nomination has been submitted by Bob Witham for Geoff Shapland to be made a Life Member. Geoff's nomination was approved and endorsed by the NZIODA committee at their March meeting.

Bob then spoke of Geoff's tireless work as a volunteer for NZIODA measuring boats and equipment for many young sailors over many years. Bob related how Geoff was always the first to step up when needed, and worked away quietly to get the tasks completed. A most deserving candidate for the honor of Life Member status. Carried

General Business:

1. Paul expressed his gratitude to Barry for his work in the role of Secretary for the past few years. Also, recognition to other committee members who are serving whilst no longer having a child active in the Class. Special thanks to Matt serving as an excellent President for our association after his son has moved on from the class.
2. Dean Barker criticised the format of the recent selection trials to choose the teams to contest the 2025 IODA international regattas.
 - His view was that NZIODA has taken a backward step with this year's format of a just a 3-day selection regatta. With a limited number of days, there is a chance that the best sailors may not be chosen.
 - He was upset that parents and coaches in support boats were confined to a restricted area downwind of the race course.
 - Believes the entrant numbers at North Island Champs and the InterIslander are declining due to their non-ranking status.

Matt responded, reminding everyone that the committee had spent many hours trying to find a resolution to an issue caused by the timing of this year's IODA regatta calendar. Selecting teams at our April Nationals would have left insufficient time to organise the travelling teams.

3. Noeline questioned the \$750 admin fee charged to each sailor chosen for the Worlds Team and believes this is excessive. She would like the committee to review this charge. Matt assured Noeline that this will be given consideration.
4. Matt advised those present that the NZIODA Committee is currently working to support Yachting New Zealand's policies, programs and philosophies. Two YNZ staff members, Sam Mackay and Wayne Holdt are both active members of our committee.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.