

NZIODA

2024 AGM Minutes

2000 hrs. Wednesday 20th March (Zoom).

Facilitator: Matt Harker (President)

Note Taker: Barry Davies

Committee Present: Matt Harker, Barry Davies, Paul Blundell, Michael Shirley, Francis de Jager, Matt Dunn, Doug Sommerville, Chris Xiong, Tony Robb.

Apologies: Jim Turner, Kathie Elliott, Dean Barker.

Attendees: Sarah Nicholl (administrator), Nick Gaites, Jessica Batten, Scott Fyfe, Nick Stead, Simon Briscoe, Michaela Jesson.

Minutes of the previous AGM:

The 2023 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 Tony Robb. Carried.

President's Report:

Dear Members,

I wanted to start by thanking our families, sailors, and volunteers for an amazing sailing year.

As a community we have completed some incredible events, the InterIslander, the South Island Traveller Series, the North Island and South Island Camps, the Kohi Girls regatta, the Sir Peter Blake regatta, the Auckland Champs, the Auckland Winter Sprint Series and the upcoming Nationals. We have also hosted the North Island and South Island clinics and May Teams clinic.

An enormous amount of effort goes into organizing these events and I would like to again thank all the clubs, the families and volunteers that have made these many events so enjoyable and memorable for our sailors.

As a national committee we attempt to balance on one side the competitive aspects of the fleet and providing support to our top sailors to compete internationally, and on the other side our ambitions to cultivate a love of sailing in as many young people as possible in an environment that builds respect and friendship. We would like to grow the fleet, especially in the regions and with our female sailors, we also want to ensure sailors find their time in Optimists enjoyable with natural pathways to other sailing classes and hopefully a lifelong interest in sailing.

In the first area I am happy to report that NZ Optimist sailors have successfully participated in a number of international regattas over the last year, and we have a strong development pipeline for our up and coming young sailors. Our competitive sailors have participated in IODA events in Spain, Greece and Abu Dhabi as well as the Renaissance Junior Gold Cup in Bermuda. The Development Teams attended the Noumea Ludik Cup Championship in October. We have had sailors attend

regattas where the emphasis has been on making new friends and having fun on the water which included the Polynesian Regatta in Tahiti and the International Friendship Regatta in Japan.

Our challenge as a committee is how to better support the second area of bringing more sailors into the fleet and ensuring they stay sailing post our fleet. To this end we continue to work on providing great guidance materials and improve the diversity of perspectives around our committee table. I personally believe we need to consider how to make the sport less financially and time onerous for new parents. This may mean shorter regattas and shorter races with more focus on the fun.

As I mentioned last year an important ongoing workstream of the committee is improving the institutional knowledge and continuity beyond just the current committee members and I am very happy with the progress that our two tireless admin staff, Veronica and Sarah have made in building a robust document library and world class set of educational resources on our website. In addition to thanking Sarah and Veronica, I would also like to thank the OWNZ trust which has provided significant financial support to these endeavors.

I would also like to thank the many coaches around the country headed up by Sam Mackay and the enormous efforts they have put into supporting our sailors. As an association we recognize supporting our coaches is key to supporting our sailors.

I am also pleased to report that our membership has grown by 84 members this year to date. We currently have registered 98 in green fleet, 113 in open and 24 in white fleet.

I would like to welcome Chris Xiong (RAYC), Matt Dunn (WBC) and Doug Sommerville (HSC) who have joined our committee this year. I would also like to thank Nick Gaites (MBSC) who resigned from the committee earlier this year and Jim Turner (MBSC) who is resigning this evening for their considerable service both on the committee and to the fleet. We are also currently looking for more regional members, preferably female, for the committee. Please contact me after the meeting if interested.

In closing, we have a busy year ahead (including the upcoming nationals), so I wish everyone smooth sailing.

Kinds Regards
Matt Harker
President – NZIODA

Financial Report:

The Profit & Loss statement and the Balance sheet were made available at the meeting.

Matt announced that Chris Xiong (RAYC) has agreed to be the NZIODA Treasurer going forward. He then reported a good result for the year with a nett profit of \$27,483 compared with a loss of \$3,917 the year before.

Matt did warn, that although we are in a robust position, we do take on considerable risk due to the necessity of having to pay large deposits for entry to international regattas often months prior to the event depending on the venue and the time of the year.

Matt moved that the Financial Report be accepted, Seconded by Barry. Carried.

Registrar's Report:

Stock Sail labels: 10

Boats registered this year: 10

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

Change of ownership: 8

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 secondhand boat 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

Matt made the observation that with only 10 new boats registered this past year, it is understandable why there are no commercial operators or Optimist dealers willing to charter boats out to visiting sailors.

Election of Officers and Members of the Committee:

1. New nominations for General Committee

Matt Dunn – Wakatere Boating Club

Doug Sommerville – Howick Sailing Club

Chris Xiong – Royal Akarana Yacht Club

Nominated by Matt Harker, Seconded by Barry Davies. Carried

2. Nomination for President

Matt Harker – Royal Akarana Yacht Club

Nominated by Barry Davies, Seconded by Chris Xiong. Carried

3. Nomination for Secretary

Barry Davies – Howick Sailing Club

Nominated by Matt Harker, Seconded by Chris Xiong. Carried

4. Nomination for Treasurer

Chris Xiong – Royal Akarana Yacht Club

Nominated by Matt Harker, Seconded by Barry Davies. Carried

5. Current Members of General Committee

Paul Blundell – CBYC

Francis de Jager – NSC

Tony Robb – QCYC

Michael Shirley – KYC

Nominated by Matt Harker, Seconded by Barry Davies. Carried

Current committee member Jim Turner advised prior to the meeting that he was standing down. He nominated Simon Briscoe (MBSC) as his replacement. Seconded by Matt. Carried. Simon will also look after the OWNZ boats.

The committee thanks Jim for his amazing work looking after the OWNZ boats.

General Business:

- Ranking regattas. Paul raised the issue of ranking regattas. He noted that at the 2023 AGM, considerable discussion was followed by the decision for three ranking regattas (including the Nationals) with two to count. Much negative has been received since then so this needs to be for a future discussion.
- Charter Boats. Tony reminded everyone just how difficult it is to offer charter boats to overseas sailors who wish to attend our nationals especially when they are being held outside of the Auckland region (any available spare boats are usually only found in Auckland).
- It was agreed that NZIODA will continue to support the sailors from New Caledonia (due to our close relationship) and that they should be offered use of the OWNZ boats for our Nationals.
- Race Officers. Nick reported issues with the PRO at the InterIslander failing to observe basic IODA rules. He commented that there did not appear to be a good relationship between the RO and the NZIODA representative. He suggested the committee needs to focus on this for future ranking regattas.

Paul responded that steps will be taken to address this for the Nationals. Jim has had two meetings with RO Harold Bennett and they will meet again prior to the regatta. He also reminded the meeting that the venue for this year's Nationals (QCYC at Picton) has challenged with the time it takes to get from the shore to the race area and back.

- OWNZ Boats. Jessica, after helping loading the boats for the nationals, reflected on the significant amount of work required to sort out moving the boats to Picton and the significant amount of work that Jim has put into looking after them. Committee agree it is an onerous task for volunteers from the committee to maintain these boats (and the trailer). Tony assures us the fleet is all complete at this time.
- Nationals. Tony reported, that with entries closing tonight, the final numbers are, 96 Open Fleet, 42 Green Fleet and 12 White Fleet.
- Nick congratulated Matt on doing the great job he is doing serving as President of

NZIODA.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 2030 hrs.