



Association Sportive pour la Promotion de la Yole-OK (AspryOK)

2016 OK Dinghy World Championships
Saint Pierre de Quiberon 23-29 July



www.yoleok.org • 2016.okworlds.org

MEDIA RELEASE



THE EVENT

World Championship: 23–29 July

Organising Authority: Société des régates de Saint-Pierre de Quiberon in conjunction with the Ecole National de Voile Of Beg-Rohu, the Association Sportive pour la promotion de la Yole-OK and the OK Dinghy International Association

Racing area: On the Bay of Quiberon.

The Bay of Quiberon is one of the best sailing place in the France.



THE BOAT

The International OK Dinghy is a 4 meter single-handed racing dinghy, which has enjoyed strong international competition for more than 50 years.

The OK allows the skipper to have a mast and sail designed and built to their weight and sailing style; this gives almost anyone the opportunity, no matter their size, to be at the front of the fleet. This has led to very close racing over a wide wind range.

Most of the boats in the fleet will be all fibreglass, though wooden and composite boats are widely used. Boats are built worldwide and the class is lucky to have a number of quality professional boat builders at present.

THE COMPETITION

The OK Dinghy is one of the world's top amateur classes with a fascinating history going back to 1956. Today it is one of the most prestigious amateur dinghy sailing championships and still one of the hardest to win.

With places limited to around 90, competitors have to qualify in their own countries to be eligible to compete. The OK Dinghy is sailed in about 18 countries worldwide with the major fleets located in Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Sweden, Denmark and of course the UK. There are smaller fleets in the USA, Canada, India and Thailand.

Recent championships have been held in:

2015 Puck, Poland
2014 Melbourne, Australia
2013 Pattaya, Thailand
2012 Vallensbaeck, Denmark
2011 Largs, Great Britain
2010 Wellington, New Zealand
2009 Kalmar, Sweden
2008 Warnemunde, Germany
2007 Leba, Poland
2006 Belmont, Australia
2005 Skælskør, Denmark
2004 Parkstone, UK
2003 Goa, India
2002 Napier, New Zealand



THE CONTENDERS

The OK Dinghy attracts a wide range of sailors from 16 years old up to 65 years old and everything in between. There are world-class sailors who have won multiple championships across many classes, racing alongside top club sailors and long term class enthusiasts.



It is also a very close-knit class with sailors forming friendships over many decades of competition together. It is often referred to as a family as the sailors become friends for life. There are many family links with brothers, fathers and sons and even fathers and daughters competing against each other.

The social element is a very important part of the event. A mini highland games will be organised between countries, while the prize giving ceremony and dinner will be held at the National Sports Scotland Centre Inverclyde.

Past world champions include:

André Budzien, GER, 2015 and 2012
Matt Stechmann, NZL, 2014
Roger Blasse, AUS, 2013 and 1998
Nick Craig, GBR, 2011, 2005, 2006 and 2007
Karl Purdie, NZL, 2010 and 2008
Thomas Hansson-Mild, SWE, 2009
Jim Hunt, GBR 2004
Nitin Mongia, IND, 2003
Greg Wilcox, NZL, 2002

The class also has a history of producing sailors that go onto greater things such as the Olympics, America's Cup and round the world races. A lot of the world's top sailors sailed the OK Dinghy early in their career.

THE HISTORY

“Starting life in 1956, the OK Dinghy design was created by two Danes, Knud Olsen and Axel Damgaard. One was a sailor seeking an exciting new concept in sailing and the other was an

experienced designer and boatbuilder who knew how to put a concept onto paper. By their simple design, they have created a lasting family of sailors right across the world ...”

Probably the most famous person to ever step into an OK Dinghy was His Majesty the King of Thailand, King Bhumibol. His first interest in the class started in 1966 with the building of the first four boats in Thailand”.

(‘Completely OK’, Edited by Robert Deaves)



THE RACING

A series of 10 races is held to determine the world champion, normally two per day lasting up to 90 minutes each. The fleet will race in everything from 3 to 30 knots.

The National Championships will be used as a warm up and training event for many as well as attracting many UK sailors who failed to make the team for the World Championships.

Watch some OK racing here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjBATZ1eLV4&feature=player_detailpage

and here

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QjaJrfHtnUk&feature=player_embedded

and here

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsvQSpuhbgo&feature=related>

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

There will be a large marquee with a wooden floor for measuring and social functions.

Sunday 24 July: The opening ceremony with the provost (mayor) and pipe band sponsored by the local council.

Thursday 28 July: Dinner.

Friday 29 July: Prize giving dinner at the National Centre.



THE MEDIA

The International OK Dinghy Association provides a professional media platform through its website www.okdia.org. A modern new website gives the ability for users to subscribe to receive press releases directly.

Press releases and photos are also emailed every day of major championships to a wide mailing list, which includes a global mailing list covering most countries represented. These reports are welcomed and widely published on the largest sailing websites in the world, which have a readership numbering in the 100,000s, as well as in their own email newsletters.

For examples see:

<http://www.sail-world.com/UK/OK-Dinghy-World-Rankings---Nick-Craig-tops-rankings/78197> and

<http://www.sail-world.com/UK/OK-Dinghy-European-Championship-preview/72372>

There will also be facilities onshore for media activities, including free broadband access throughout the championships. In addition, a webcam will be set up so those 'back home' can see what is happening each day.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

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