

## **The OK Dinghy.**

The OK Dinghy is one of those classic designs that has survived the test of time and remains to this day one of the most widespread international dinghies with a loyal worldwide following. This popular 4.0m long single-hander is sailed in over twenty countries across the world, with large fleets in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, France and India, with some growth in Asia and the occasional flourish in America and Canada.

The origins of the OK Dinghy date back to a design commissioned from Knud Olsen of Denmark in 1957, with the class name adopted from the reverse initials of the designer. Over the years it has adapted successfully to the changing technologies in construction and rig materials. It carries a mainsail of 8 square metres, set off a rotating un-stayed mast (same concept as the Olympic Finn, just a bit smaller and more manageable), with a bare hull weight of 72kgs. The versatility of the design and rig allow for a broad range of body weights and body shapes to compete successfully at the highest level, with optimal crew weight in the range 70 to 110kgs.

As single-handed dinghies go the OK has much to offer – relatively inexpensive to campaign, simple to rig and maintain, durable and seaworthy, yet demanding enough to test the skills of any accomplished sailor. Like many classes it has its own particular idiosyncrasies, but these tend to enhance the character and spirit of those who race them, and the camaraderie at any major regatta is always self-evident, whether it be a state, national or world championship.

The class was established in Australia in 1961, with the first Australian Championship sailed at Melbourne in 1962-63. The class is currently sailed in Melbourne, country Victoria, Adelaide, Southport QLD and in NSW, where they sail from Drummoyne S.C., Wangi Amateur S.C. on the western shore of Lake Macquarie and Big River Sailing Club, Clarence River, Harwood, NSW, as well as traveling to compete at various venues throughout the state and interstate.

The World Championship for the class is raced annually, usually 3 consecutive years in the Northern Hemisphere and every fourth year in the Southern Hemisphere where New Zealand and Australia share the honour by rotation once every 8 years. The 2002 worlds were held in Napier New Zealand; 2003 Goa, India; 2004 Parkstone, UK; 2005 Skaelskor, Denmark; 2006

Belmont, Australia; 2007 Leba, Poland; 2008 Warnemunde, Germany; 2009 Kalmar, Sweden; 2010 Wellington, New Zealand; 2011 Largs, Scotland; 2012 the 50th OK World C'ship at Vallensbaek, Denmark; 2013 Pattaya, Thailand; 2014 Melbourne, Australia; 2015 Puck, Poland; 2016 Quiberon, France; 2017, Barbados, Caribbean; 2018 Warnemunde, Germany; 2019 Auckland New Zealand.

Further class information can be obtained via the respective websites, namely:

International OK Association of Australia Inc. at <https://www.ok.org.au/>

OK Dinghy International Association at <http://okdia.org/>

-----