

OK Dinghy International Association Press Release
2009 OK Dinghy World Championship Kalmar, Sweden
Monday 27th July 2009

Race 3

Race 3 started promptly at 11:05 in sunshine and a light breeze, though dark clouds soon appeared, with the wind increasing and backing, necessitating the windward mark to be moved 30° to port for the second beat. The short choppy waves also became more pronounced. Thomas Hansson-Mild (SWE), Jorgen Lindhardtzen (DEN) and Karl Purdie (NZL) chose the pin end to start. Those that hit the left corner came out well ahead of those on the starboard side of the course, for example Gavin Waldron (GBR) tacked round the windward mark in 15th place, well ahead of many of the front runners. Purdie built an impressive lead on the two reaches, with Hansson-Mild and Lindhardtzen close behind. These three held their positions up the next beat, but an impressively sailed downwind leg by Hansson-Mild saw him overtake Purdie, with a boat length separating each at the leeward mark. Hansson-Mild and Lindhardtzen remained on the port side of the course, with Purdie tacking to the starboard side. At the finish, it was Purdie who got the gun.

- 1st Karl Purdie NZL
- 2nd Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE
- 3rd Jorgen Lindhardtzen DEN
- 4th Andre Blasse
- 5th Greg Wilcox NZL
- 6th Gunter Arndt GER
- 7th Bartosz Radocy POL
- 8th Terry Curtis GBR
- 9th Mogens Johansen DEN
- 10th Oliver Gronholz GER

Race 4

The breeze had freshened for the start of the fourth race, with some roguish one metre waves appearing to catch the unwary OK Dinghy sailor. Once again the fleet got away at the first attempt, with individual recalls for a couple of sailors. Whereas port paid on the first beat of race 3, it was the starboard course side sailors who benefited in race 4. Thomas Hansson-Mild (SWE) was first to the windward mark, with Jorgen Lindhardtzen (DEN) Karl Purdie (NZL) and Nick Craig (GBR) close behind. There was little place changing to the finish, by which time Hansson-Mild had built a substantial lead on his competitors. The fresh breeze and waves provided optimal conditions for superb surfing conditions for all the competitors who came off the water exhilarated by the day's racing.

- 1st Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE
- 2nd Karl Purdie NZL
- 3rd Jorgen Lindhardtzen DEN
- 4th Nick Craig GBR
- 5th Andre Blasse AUS
- 6th Greg Wilcox NZL
- 7th Christian Olesen DEN
- 8th Gunter Arndt GER
- 9th Terry Curtis GBR

10th Pawel Pawlaczzyk

Day 2 reflections

Thomas Hansson-Mild commented that he grew up in an OK, so he is pleased with his performance to date (two firsts and currently lying 2nd overall) – but there are still six races to go! Living in Umea, 11,000km and a two day drive north of Kalmar, Thomas explained how he is able to train when so far from the other OK Dinghies. “I do a lot of cross-country skiing in winter as I have to wait for the ice breakers to clear the sea before I can start sailing again, probably a month after most have started to sail. There are plenty of icebergs to dodge, but I just get used to it! I am very fortunate that there is a very narrow stretch of water between Sweden and Finland at Umea. Here there are always big waves created by wind or current so I can practise my reaching and down wind techniques. I am able to increase my lead on Purdie on these legs. Fortunately Anders Widding has been an excellent training partner this year so I can also practise beating, though Purdie slowly reels me in on the beat. I have copied Peter Milne, who in 1999 used a four purchase mainsheet, to overcome my tennis elbow, it still, however gives me enough control for downwind sailing. We are fortunate to have a coach and a support boat this year, which has improved the confidence of the Swedish sailors, knowing there is spare equipment available should we need it.”

Event website: www.kalmarraceweek.se

Class website: www.okdia.org

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