

OK Dinghy International Association Press Release
2009 OK Dinghy World Championship Kalmar, Sweden
Tuesday 28th July 2009

Race 5

The flatter water and lighter breeze was a welcome change to the previous two days of racing. The OK Dinghy races to the triangle, sausage, final beat format which suits this 52 year old design.

There was a general recall for the first start, but the second, still under blue peter, was successfully away with 3 individual recalls. The majority of the fleet started at the committee boat end, but some of the leaders opted for clearer air further along the line. At the windward mark Nick Craig (GBR) and Greg Wilcox (NZL) were clear ahead of Thomas Hansson-Mild (SWE), Jan-Erik Engholm (SWE), Terry Curtis (GBR) and Martin Zimmermann (GER). At the wing mark Craig had to give water to Wilcox who pulled away from the chasing pack. With a rising breeze, the fleet closed on the leading group up the beat, but Wilcox continued to increase his lead down the run. On the final beat Wilcox was chased by Hansson-Mild on the right side of the course, but the lead remained unchanged, with Wilcox winning his first race in this championship, with Hansson-Mild second and Antoni Pawlowski (POL) 3rd.

- 1st Greg Wilcox NZL
- 2nd Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE
- 3rd Antoni Pawlowski POL
- 4th Nick Craig GBR
- 5th Terry Curtis GBR
- 6th Jan-Erik Engholm SWE
- 7th Mogens Johansen DEN
- 8th Arne Lindermann GER
- 9th Martin Zimmermann GER
- 10th Bo-Staffan Andersson SWE

Race 4

With a dying wind, race six looked threatened for some time. However, with five already completed, there were sufficient races held for the World Championship series to be assured. As the countdown to the start began the wind increased to ensure a good race would be held, albeit in a shifting wind.

The black flag caught eight sailors from six countries on the second start. Bunched at the pin end in light airs, it took a long time for the competitors to sail into free air. Bo-Staffan Andersson (SWE), the most successful OK Dinghy World Champion ever, led the fleet on the first triangle, but as the wind picked up and veered for the second beat the heavier sailors slowly overhauled him as they sailed to the newly laid windward mark. With the increasing wind, a wave pattern built up that enabled Karl Purdie (NZL) and Jorgen Lindhardtzen (DEN) to surf into the lead at the leeward mark. Andre Blasse (AUS), the newly elected President of the OK Dinghy International Association, lying 7th at the leeward mark, sailed into 3rd position at the finish. Martin Zimmermann (GER), who needed three stitches in his index finger after a washing up accident on Sunday, was able to sail to his potential today, finishing 4th.

- 1st Karl Purdie NZL
- 2nd Jorgen Lindhardtzen DEN
- 3rd Andre Blasse AUS
- 4th Martin Zimmermann GER
- 5th Bo-Staffan Andersson SWE
- 6th Nick Craig GBR
- 7th Soenke Behrens GER
- 8th Jan-Erik Engholm SWE
- 9th Ralf Tietje GER
- 10th Ulf Dagerbrant SWE

On completion of the sixth race, the discard could now take effect. Two of the top ten sailors are carrying an OCS, so the series is still wide open.

Overall positions

- 1st Karl Purdie NZL
- 2nd Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE
- 3rd Jorgen Lindhardtzen DEN
- 4th Andre Blasse AUS
- 5th Nick Craig GBR
- 6th Greg Wilcox NZL
- 7th Terry Curtis GBR
- 8th Antoni Pawlowski POL
- 9th Martin Zimmermann GER
- 10th Bo-Staffan Andersson SWE

A President retires

Greg Wilcox retired as President of the OK Dinghy International Association last night, handing over to Andre Blasse, who will be in post for four years. He finished in fitting style by winning race 5. Talking to him after, he reflected upon his success. "I had a good start and sailed up the middle of the course with Craig. We were equally matched for speed on the first reach, but as inside boat, I had the advantage and managed to sail away from him. On the second beat we again were playing the shifts in the middle of the course, with Craig gaining on me initially. I felt I was faster on the run and pulled away from Craig. I opted to turn on the starboard leeward gate mark and covered Hansson-Mild up the beat. This side paid as Craig, who tacked on the port buoy could only manage 4th at the finish".

"It has been a privilege to be President of OKDIA. During my four year term we have introduced the 'Hall of Fame', which recognises the input of those who developed the class in its early days and celebrates the successes of all the great sailors who have and are still sailing the OK Dinghy today".

"We have seen a significant increase in the number of new boats being built in the last four years, which has stimulated the second hand boat market and encouraged many new faces to experience the joys of sailing an OK Dinghy". Current World Champion, Karl Purdie, said "It was the reason I moved into OKs, as Wilcox, World Champion in 2002, was the role model I was looking for to improve my sailing." Wilcox added "The Committee has also undertaken a thorough review of the rules to make sure the OK Dinghy keeps up with modern trends. I am now handing over the Presidency to Andre Blasse, who, I know, will make an excellent President as he is as keen as me to see the continuing success of the OK Dinghy world wide."

Event website: www.kalmarraceweek.se

Class website: www.okdia.org

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