

**OK Dinghy International Association Press Release**  
**2009 OK Dinghy World Championship Kalmar, Sweden**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Race 7**

The sailors launched in blue skies and light winds, but all this was soon to change. By the time they had sailed across Kalmar Sound to the Oland shore, where the racing has taken place all week, dark clouds were gathering from the south. Open to the south, the waves in the Sound soon began to build.

Racing started promptly as usual in a light breeze. Today's start was clean away at the first attempt under the blue peter. Although there is always fierce competition on the favoured part of the line, there is sufficient space for all to get a good start. As usual, Bartosz Rakocy (POL) guarded his position at the pin end of the line with good boat handling skills. The majority of the sixty eight starters sailed the middle part of the course, though there were a few who banged both the left and right corners. By the windward mark Thomas Hansson-Mild (SWE) had built a good lead and, once again, he demonstrated an excellent reaching technique down the building waves. However, Karl Purdie (NZL), who has been overtaken by Hansson-Mild in the leader table today, said "I was catching Hansson-Mild on the reaches today and I am going faster downwind, but he has increased his upwind speed, so everything is equal now!" Lying second in the race as well, Purdie was being chased by Andre Blasse (AUS), Pawel Pawlaczyk (POL) and Greg Wilcox (NZL). Wilcox pulled up to fourth at the finish, otherwise the order remained unchanged.

1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE

2<sup>nd</sup> Karl Purdie NZL

3<sup>rd</sup> Andre Blasse AUS

4<sup>th</sup> Greg Wilcox NZL

5<sup>th</sup> Pawel Pawlaczyk POL

6<sup>th</sup> Jorgen Lindhardtzen DEN

7<sup>th</sup> Bo Teglers DEN

8<sup>th</sup> Bo-Staffan Andersson SWE

9<sup>th</sup> Nick Craig GBR

10<sup>th</sup> Bartosz Rakocy POL

**Race 8**

A moderate breeze had set in and the waves were quite pronounced, sufficient for the French competitors to say "we do not get wind and waves like this on the Seine in Paris!" A line-shy fleet had a clean start at the first attempt, the majority choosing the port side of the course. At the windward mark, the leaders had again broken free of the chasing pack, building a substantial lead on the many participating club sailors whose legs were beginning to tire in these demanding conditions. At the end of the triangle, Thomas Hansson-Mild (SWE) was in the lead again, though Karl Purdie (NZL) had taken back some of the lead he had at the windward mark. Andre Blasse (AUS) was again third, with Nick Craig (GBR) in fourth in front of Greg Wilcox (NZL). Jorgen Lindhardtzen (DEN) had moved up to fourth place by the time the fleet rounded the leeward mark again. Once again there were no place changes in the top four on the final beat.

1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE

2<sup>nd</sup> Karl Purdie NZL

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Andre Blasse AUS
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jorgen Lindhardtsen DEN
- 5<sup>th</sup> Pawel Pawlaczyk POL
- 6<sup>th</sup> Nick Craig GBR
- 7<sup>th</sup> Greg Wilcox NZL
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gunter Arndt GER
- 9<sup>th</sup> Christian Olesen DEN
- 10<sup>th</sup> Terry Curtis GBR

Today there was a change in the leader board, with Thomas Hansson-Mild (SWE) lying first overall after winning both races today.

### **Overall positions**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas Hansson-Mild SWE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Karl Purdie NZL
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jorgen Lindhardtsen DEN
- 4<sup>th</sup> Andre Blasse AUS
- 5<sup>th</sup> Greg Wilcox NZL
- 6<sup>th</sup> Nick Craig GBR
- 7<sup>th</sup> Terry Curtis GBR
- 8<sup>th</sup> Pawel Pawlaczyk POL
- 9<sup>th</sup> Martin Zimmermann GER
- 10<sup>th</sup> Antoni Pawlowski POL

### **The future of the OK Dinghy is in the hands of the youth sailors**

Andre Blasse, the new President of the OK Dinghy International Association, is a firm believer in the development of a rig which is suitable for the sailor who weighs less than the 80+kg. His country, Australia, is actively developing a Junior rig, comprising a reduced sail area, whose configuration does not alter the dynamics of the boat or its handling skills. Progress is such that he feels he will be in a position to present final measurements for approval at the next AGM in February 2010. The Junior fleet is already expanding as siblings and friends join in OK Dinghy sailing, preferring the individualism that can be injected into an OK Dinghy rather than the Laser style of sailing.

### **My first World Championship**

Richard Burton, at 18 years old, is experiencing his first World Championship, competing for the Junior trophy. "I have been dreaming about going to the Worlds for so long, it was nearly an anticlimax when I started sailing" he said. "I sail on a reservoir near Oxford, so I needed to learn how to sail in waves; Terry Curtis took me training at Weymouth so I could get in some practice". "Since I have been here, I feel my boat tuning and my boat handling have improved, the next step is to improve my equipment – a carbon mast would be nice".

I feel I am coping well racing in this big fleet, I look where the leaders are starting and try to find a place near them, it has worked on most occasions. I was 20<sup>th</sup> round the windward mark today, so I have got faster and faster upwind, but there are still a lot of boats in front of me when I finish". "At the beginning I was very inconsistent, but now I am finishing in around 40<sup>th</sup> place, which means I am 46<sup>th</sup> overall at the moment". "It is an amazing experience to go and talk to current and ex-world champions as they are all so helpful at offering tips on how I can improve my speed".

“I would love to go to new Zealand in 2010, but I may have to wait till 2011 for my next World Championship experience which will be in Largs, Scotland in 2011”.

### **Hall of Fame**

Two more names were added to the OK Dinghy Hall of Fame last night at the BBQ supper. Hans Elkjaer, the President of the Swedish national association, hosted the event at which Swedish sailor Bo-Staffan Andersson received his trophy in recognition of being the most successful OK Dinghy sailor ever – he won four World Championship titles in the late 80s and early 90s. Basil Crosby, who died in an air crash in the early 70s, was awarded a posthumous position in the Hall of Fame for his work in setting up the OK Dinghy International Association in the 1960s.

Event website: [www.kalmarraceweek.se](http://www.kalmarraceweek.se)

Class website: [www.okdia.org](http://www.okdia.org)

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