



OPTIMIST SAILING SOUTH AFRICA

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2016 Optimist Class of South Africa Annual General Meeting Theewaterskloof Sports Club, 15 Dec 2016 @ 6pm

1. **Welcome**-Andre welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for their support.
2. **Apologies** -Karen Slater, Paul Tyler
3. **Attendance**-Gavin Ashwell, Beth Jansen Van Vuuren, Mark Hawksworth, Tracey Bowman, Jeanne Stanley, Kobus & Gill Petzer, Sean and Merrill Fennessy, Charlie Hills, Brett Weddell, Roger Lucas, Anna Tomlinson, Lisa Burger, David Booth, Ricahrd Weiderhold, Lars Kessel, Jill Tyler, Cobus Carstens, Henri Burger, Anton Nel, Stefan & Stefania Falcon, Fabrizio Fruet, Dave Mackinnon, Duncan Ross. Exco- Andre Wollheim, Craig Leslie, Cal Tomlinson, Shellee Nel.
4. **Presidents Report** as attached.
5. **Managers Report**- Craig Leslie- Craig had nothing to add other than congratulate the sailors who participated in the International competitions on their commitment and dedication.
6. **Regional report**-
 - a. **WC- Cal Tomlinson**. Thanks to KZN fro hosting the WC sailors at their provincials. There are no changes to the WC Oppie Committee for the new year. Cal – Chairperson. Gavin Ashwell, Paul Tyler, Karen Slater-Secretary and SAS coordinator. The 3 clubs ZVYC, MAC and HYC have active fleets and have hosted grand slam events with an average of 15 boats in A and B fleets. Currently no oppies at IYC Stefan and Stefania have been facilitating training for beginners at ZVYC, Axel at MAC, Cal at HYC. Race Ahead coaches have been working with sailors across the region and are available to coach optimists. Challenges for the class in the region are that the SAS accredited centres don't seem to be growing the class. A trend towards over coaching. There is no transformation and no funding sources. Congratulations to Matt Ashwell who was awarded his WC colours and the Rob Meek Trophy for his achievements this season. SASWC once again arranged the exchange with the Chinese for optimist sailors to participate internationally.

- i. Going forward the committee is working to have a more coordinated –combined club calendar.
 - ii. Need to encourage more participation at club level.
 - iii. More structured off season training and implement a WC squad system
 - iv. Encourage the members to use to the new website more.
 - v. Work to get the boats out of peoples garages and available to new sailors.
 - b. **KZN – Tracey Bowman.** Sailing centre at PYC has impacted on Optimist sailing by encouraging sailors to go to the RS Tera and then on to keelboats. Fleets at Richards Bay, Midmar and PYC are small with very few sailors coming into the sport at optimist level. The Optimists made class at their KZN thanks to WC sailors who travelled.
 - c. **EC – Brett Weddell.** Roger Lucas has been asked to take up the role of Oppie rep in the region. Some sail training has been taking place with Morgan Griffiths at ABYC and Darryl Garner at Redhouse. Club boats are in available at both and they are also working on transformation.
 - d. **NR – Shellee Nel,** Oppies in the NR have had a small growth spurt with a number of new families joining Pretoria Sailing club and purchasing boats. The optimists made class at our provincials with 19 entries. 2017 provincials will be at the vaal in September at LDYC. We were very proud to have 4 sailors participate in the Africans. These sailors have really raised the level of sailing in our region and are helping mentor the new sailors. NR has a large development program running at VLC with the support of local government dept of Sport. There 86 children in sailing of which aprox 30 are at optimist level already participating in club events. NR has set up a schools league which is an event once a month where the schools race against each other in course racing and team racing. The event is also broken up into age groups like other school sports. We’ve introduced some fun event including a round the Island race at the vaal for Juniors and a holiday camp out.
7. **Technical-** Nothing to report other than Sail Number and positioning notice to Sail makers from IODA.
8. **Coaches report-**Shellee Nel /Claire Walker. Claire has been coaching some individuals on request. There has also been training at the different venues facilitated by the clubs and active members. Some of the Africans team members that were available attended a clinic in Durban over the August long weekend. The offshore training benefited them a lot in Angola. There was a short clinic before the nationals which a number of sailors attended in preparation for the Nationals. There have been some challenges in facilitation national inclusive clinics because of time restraints on the sailors, the private and government school holidays don’t



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- correspond and the cost involved in getting across the country. All levels of the coaching plan need to be addressed, which aspects Optimist National will focus on and which the regional committees need to facilitate. The Coaching rep will take this forward.
9. **Treasurer's report**- Presented by Gavin Ashwell for Paul Tyler as at 31st Oct 2016. R 23 506.54 was employed. Expenses included annual IODA fee, Website refurbishment, Hand book, and Claire's travel and International transactions. Challenges were missed deadlines for payments, too many points of contact, unallocated payments. Going forward Paul would like to see payment dead lines met and single payments made. Market link account opening balance R 344 624.32 and closing balance R 349 029.60.
 10. **2017 Membership**-Proposal is to increase the fee to R 375.00. As the annual IODA membership fee will also increase. Membership numbers are up from last year's number to 51. Majority voted in favor of the increase. The questioned whether the class would review a different fee for development athletes and the response was that funding should be applied for from the federation to cover these costs. Proposals need to be made for a family fee structure to be tabled at the next AGM.
 11. **Exco proposals** -none
 12. **Membership proposals**- Henry Burger- Raised concerns regarding core issues
 - a. In summary a lack of communication from the national class directly to members
 - b. No accurate database
 - c. No communication regarding the President stepping down at the beginning of the term and the committee co-opting Andre Wollheim to act as president.
 - d. Secretary is not be running the class.
 - e. Constitutional requirement for the AGM notice were not met.
 - f. No exco minutes for the year sent to the membership. Lack of governance and the committee have not done their jobs. All communication should be done directly to every member and no through the regional representative.

Proposal was made by Henry Burger and seconded by Cobus Carstens-that the exco minutes emailed directly to membership monthly or alternately quarterly was put to the vote. Majority voted Quarterly.

Henry reiterated the necessity for an audit trail of decisions.

13. **2017 Nationals venue and Dates-** The rotation will be to SAS KZN for Youth Nationals but a venue and dates have not been decided.
14. **Provincial racing calendar** – WC provincials will be held over Easter and will include the Selection event. Other regions need to finalize their calendars urgently. African Championship have been moved forward by a day 26th of June to the 6th July, Alexandria, Egypt. 2017 Optimist Worlds, 11 July -21 July, Pattaya, Thailand.
15. **IODA report** – none
16. **Afcon Report-** Nuno Gomez from Angola is the new chairperson for the Asia and Africa.
17. **International report-**
 - a. 2016 Optimist Worlds – Vilamora, Portugal. Alex Falcon was our only sailor who took up opportunity to participate at the Worlds. He was supported by his grand parents and was included in the Italian team logistics. Without their help his participation would not have been possible.
 - b. 2016 optimist Africans- Luanda, Angola. A team of 7 sailors including 2 girls participated. The event was well run with favorable condition of warm water and sea breeze. The event was hosted by Club naval de Luanda on the bay of Luanda. Accommodation was at a municipal conference venue with a 40 min commute by bus with a Police escort to the venue each day. Team South Africa came home with 2nd overall Mat Ashwell and 2nd Girl Chiara Fruet. Everyone agreed that the life experience was invaluable. It is also important for the sport of sailing to be dominant in a continental championship.
18. **Election of the 2017 office bearer's-**
 - a. President- Nomination for Andre Wollheim. Accepted by majority vote
 - b. Manager – Nomination received for Craig Leslie. Accepted by majority
 - c. Treasurer- Nomination received for Paul Tyler. Accepted by majority.
 - d. Secretary- Two nominations received. Lisa Burger and Shellee Nel. Vote was as follows 4 to Lisa Burger and 18 to Shellee Nel.
 - e. Technical rep- There were no nominations received and the nomination from the floor was to nominate Axel Albert and if he decline for Henry Burger to take the position. The vote went 11 to Axel and 1 to Henry,
 - f. Coaching Rep. There were no nominations received. Nomination from the floor was for Cal Tomlinson to take up the position. The majority voted in favor.
19. **Appointment of an Auditor-** the class hasn't had the financials audited recently and the cost of an audit is something the class can't afford. A nomination for Grant Ekermans to audit the 2015-2016 -2017 financials. He Agreed.
20. **General**



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- a. Cobus Carstens. Raised concerns that there was support to grow participation at intermediate level. He would draw up a proposal for funding to be used for advertising and coaching/training clinics.
 - b. The committee called on the regions and members to make proposals that can be tabled to allocated some of the funding available,
21. The meeting s closed and Andre thanked everyone for their time.