

◀ ...AND THE BEER WAS COLD

**2017 OK DINGHY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
BARBADOS**

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2017 OK DINGHY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BARBADOS

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MICHAEL KURTZ, RICHARD PHILLIPS
AND ROBERT DEAVES**

WORDS BY ROBERT DEAVES





INTRODUCTION

NICK CRAIG, from Great Britain won a record fifth World title at the 2017 OK Dinghy World Championship in Barbados, in May, the first time the class had held a championship in the Caribbean. He dominated the conditions better than any of the other 80 sailors, showing incredible speed and an uncanny ability to find the best route to the top mark.

British sailors had never won the World title until in 2004, Jim Hunt finally won and made it look pretty easy. Since then, Craig had won four titles before taking some time out of the class. His last title was in 2011. Jim Hunt also returned to the class in 2015 and won his second world title in France, in 2016.

These two were among the favourites going into the 2017 World Championship. Craig had not been fast in practice and the lead up regattas in Europe while Hunt was the defending World Champion and had dominated early season regattas.

The showdown in Barbados was more one sided than expected, with few other sailors really getting a look in at the front. A group of sailors from New Zealand were largely in the running for third place, with Luke O'Connell, the 2014 runner-up ending up with the bronze medal.

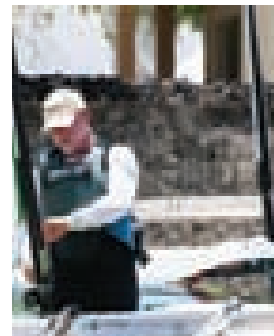
When the opportunity arose for the OK Dinghy class to hold its World Championship in the Caribbean, it was pretty much a unanimous vote in favour of sunshine, blue water sailing and the famous Caribbean hospitality. Three years and a lot of planning later, the OK Dinghy fleet descended on the island for two weeks of great racing, great camaraderie, some cold beers, and a little rum.

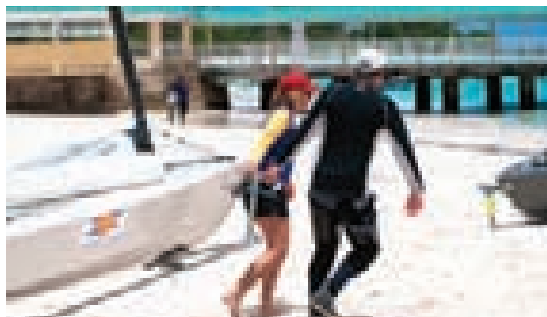
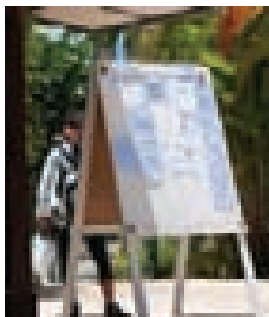
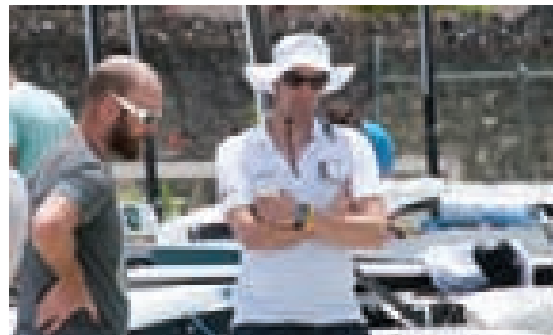
At the opening ceremony, a speech from the Minister of Tourism and International Transport, highlighted the importance of the event for Barbados, referring also to the Finn World Masters that was being held the following week. *"The word is out that Barbados is serious about sailing and its tourism package and it is fitting that 2017 has not one but two events."*

"We salute everyone for making this possible. We want to see the sailing community expand. Barbados has a history of seafaring so by developing a legacy of sailing events we think we can develop the sailing youth of Barbados."

The event was hosted by both the Barbados Yacht Club and the Barbados Cruising Club, located almost side by side on the south-western corner of Barbados in Carlisle Bay. The team that delivered the event was the same team that had organised the Fireball, 505 and more recently the GP14 World Championship. Craig had already been before and had learnt some valuable lessons from that trip, sailing the GP 14 World Championships in 2016.

Other contenders included teams from New Zealand, Australia and



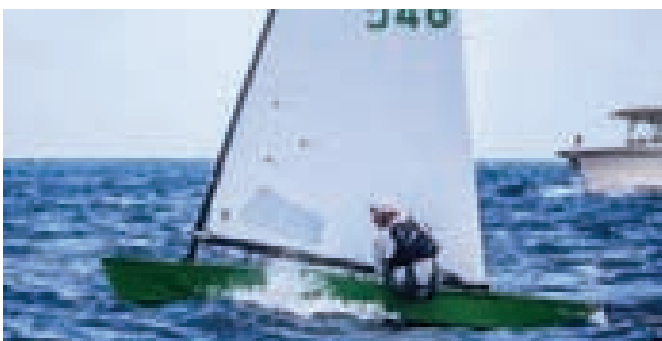


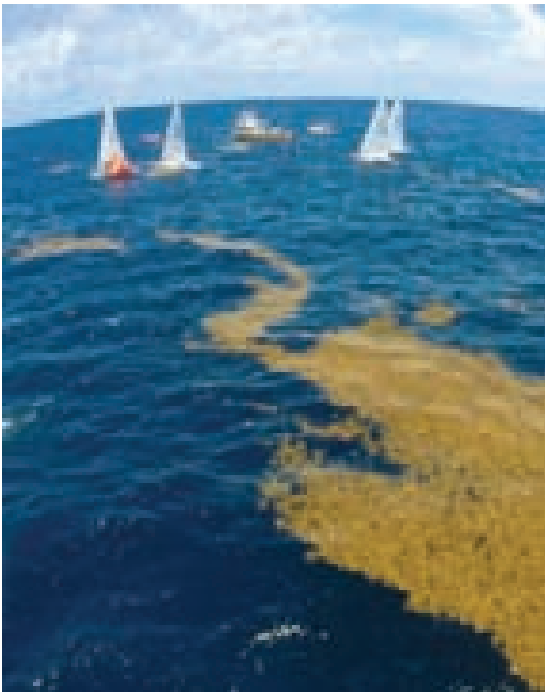
3 • DAY ONE



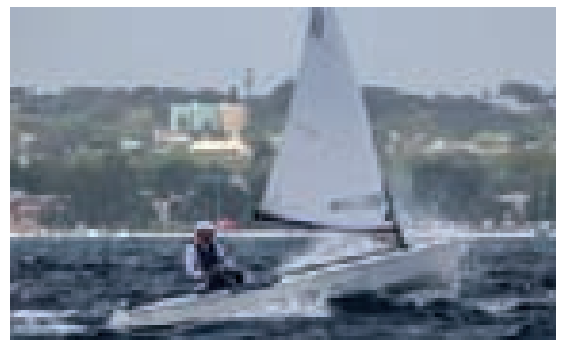


4 • DAY TWO



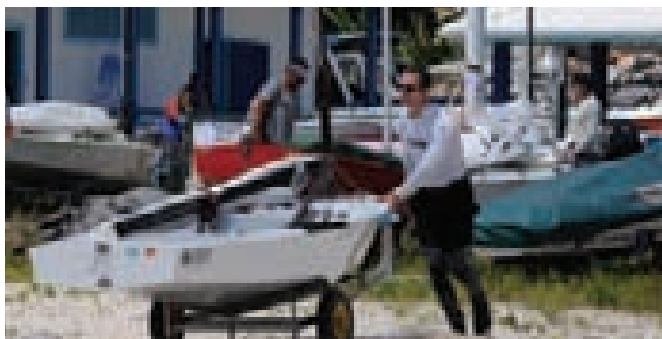


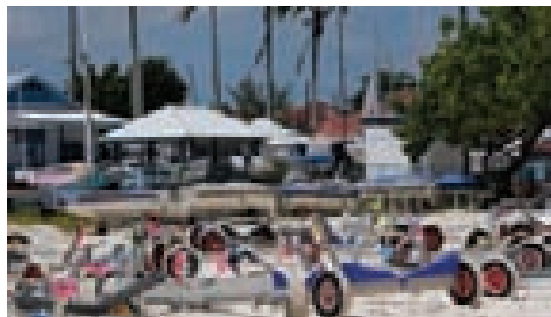
5 • DAY THREE

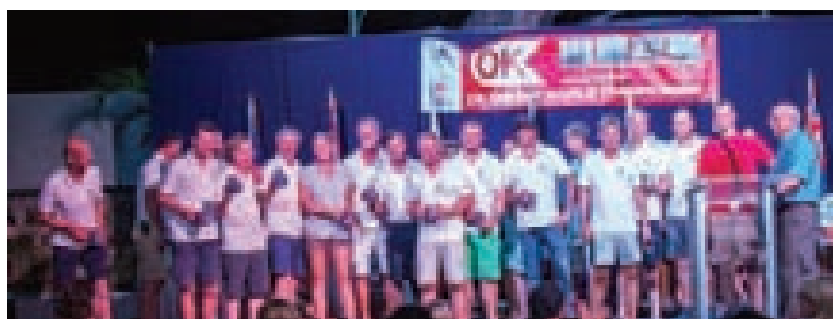
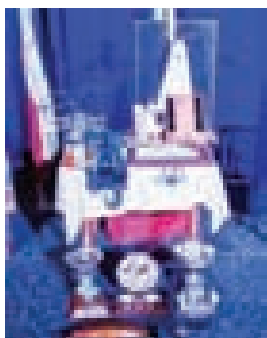


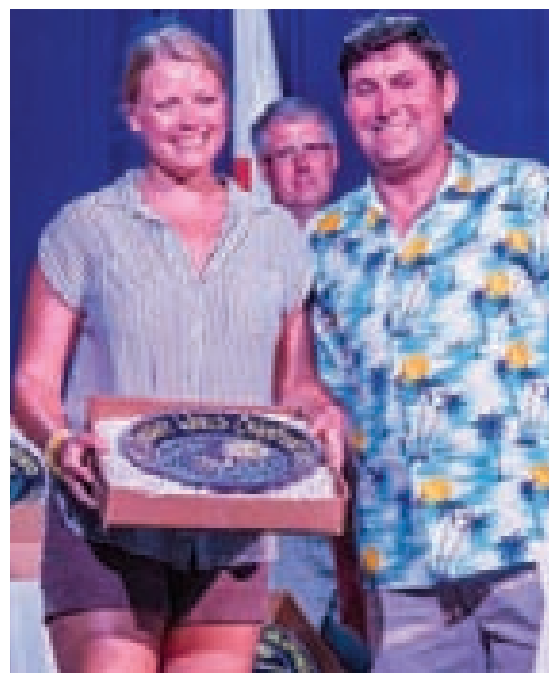
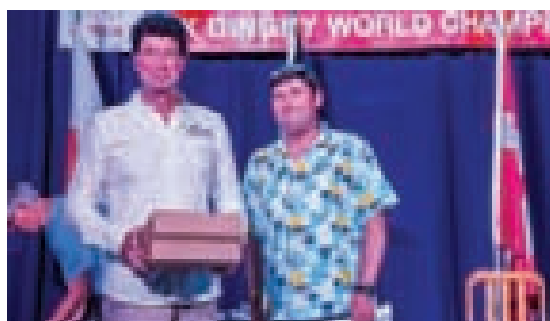
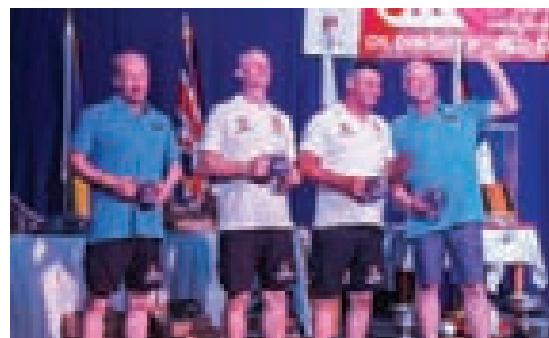


6 • DAY FOUR









No	Sail No.	Helm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pnts
1	GBR 2195	Nick Craig	1	1	1	2	-3	1	1	1	2	10
2	GBR 11	Jim Hunt	2	3	4	-5	1	4	5	2	1	22
3	NZL 546	Luke O'Connell	3	2	2	4	(bfd)	17	3	8	3	42
4	NZL 545	Steve McDowell	4	16	8	-17	4	6	4	4	7	53
5	NZL 517	Paul Rhodes	5	9	5	6	6	3	14	7	-20	55
6	AUS 749	Roger Blasse	10	15	3	7	5	9	-22	3	4	56
7	NZL 551	Mark Perrow	20	4	7	3	2	(dsq)	2	14	12	64
8	GBR 2191	Chris Turner	6	8	-25	8	8	8	9	9	9	65
9	NZL 566	Greg Wilcox	9	10	-20	10	11	10	6	16	6	78
10	DEN 3	Jorgen Svendsen	19	14	14	1	23	5	8	12	(bfd)	96

11	POL 14	Pawel Pawlaczyk	100	46	GER 11	Rainer Pospiech	353
12	POL 1	Tomasz Gaj	115	47	NZL 568	Dean Coleman	353
13	NZL 567	Chris Fenwick	123	48	GER 8	Ronald Foest	363
14	DEN 1402	Bo Teglers Nielsen	127	49	DEN 1399	Christopher Joe Schubert	364
15	GER 778	Soenke Behrens	129	50	DEN 1407	Malte Pedersen	389
16	AUS 768	Mark Jackson	133	51	GER 22	Dirk Gericke	391
17	GER 772	Oliver Gronholz	133	52	NZL 564	Sefton Powrie	393
18	NZL 498	Jono Clough	138	53	GER 757	Falk Hagemann	409
19	DEN 1397	Henrik Kofoed-Larsen	146	54	GER 12	Stefan Rassau	411
20	NZL 523	Joe Porebski	161	55	AUS 736	Grant Wakefield	412
21	GER 5	Ralf Tietje	162	56	AUS 688	David Haseldine	419
22	AUS 754	Brent Williams	167	57	GER 767	Juliane Hofmann	429
23	GBR 10	Robert Deaves	168	58	GER 731	Thomas Glas	430
24	DEN 22	Ask Askholm	169	59	AUS 725	David Ketteridge	435
25	AUS 750	Peter Robinson	196	60	NZL 574	Philip Rzepecky	439
26	GER 803	Martin von Zimmermann	202	61	NZL 569	Phil Coveny	442
27	GER 775	Joerg Rademacher	213	62	AUS 767	Glenn Yates	449
28	NZL 575	Michael Wilde	213	63	GER 777	Nadine Tietje	463
29	NZL 531	Adrian Coulthard	222	64	GER 678	Heinz Ridder	474
30	NZL 536	Eric Rone	223	65	AUS 766	Robert Buchanan	486
31	AUS 719	Glenn Williams	231	66	FRA 1833	Fabien Capeilleres	499
32	NZL 571	Rob Hengst	244	67	POL 40	Robert Swiecki	499
33	GER 7	Andreas Pich	252	68	DEN 1458	Soren Sigurdsson	512
34	NZL 565	Simon Probert	277	69	SWE 55	Ulf Sahle	516
35	DEN 1335	Mogens Johansen	284	70	AUS 738	Kevin Knott	532
36	GBR 2163	Gavin Waldron	288	71	AUS 706	Erik Thompson	538
37	GER 75	Dirk Dame	295	72	GER 697	Joerg Posny	548
38	GBR 13	Alex Scoles	297	73	GBR 2116	Tim O'Leary	567
39	NZL 563	David Hoogenboom	299	74	AUS 716	David Swales	586
40	SWE 2791	Lennart Hansson	300	75	NZL 550	Tony Bierre	594
41	POL 19	Grzegorz Salamon	304	76	GER 539	Ulrich Borchers	609
42	GER 6	Fabian Gronholz	317	77	GER 788	Jessica Finke	609
43	DEN 1442	Peter Heide-Jorgensen	321	78	GBR 2058	Mary Reddyhoff	618
44	DEN 1481	Nils Troland	322	79	BAR 12159	Charlie Gloomeau	622
45	GBR 2176	Keith Byers	333	80	GBR 2159	Russell Ward	648

