

**...AND THE BEER WAS FREE**



Published by Robert Deaves

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# AND THE BEER WAS FREE



**2019 SYMONITE DK DINGHY  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

**WAKATERE BOATING CLUB  
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

**PHOTOS AND WORDS  
BY ROBERT DEAVES**



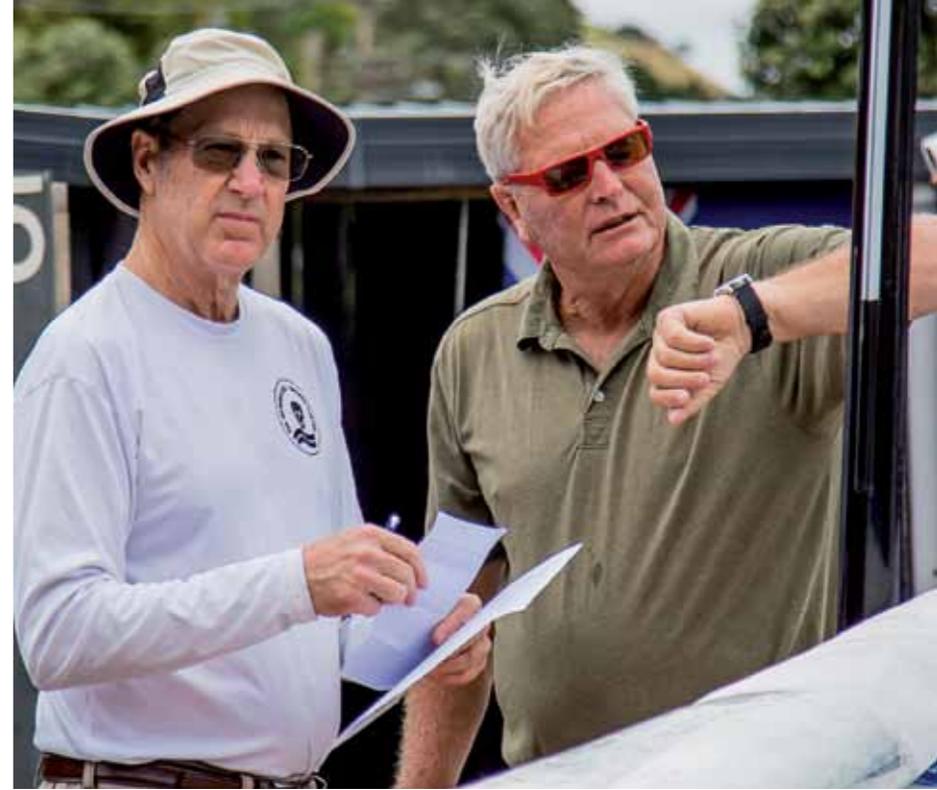
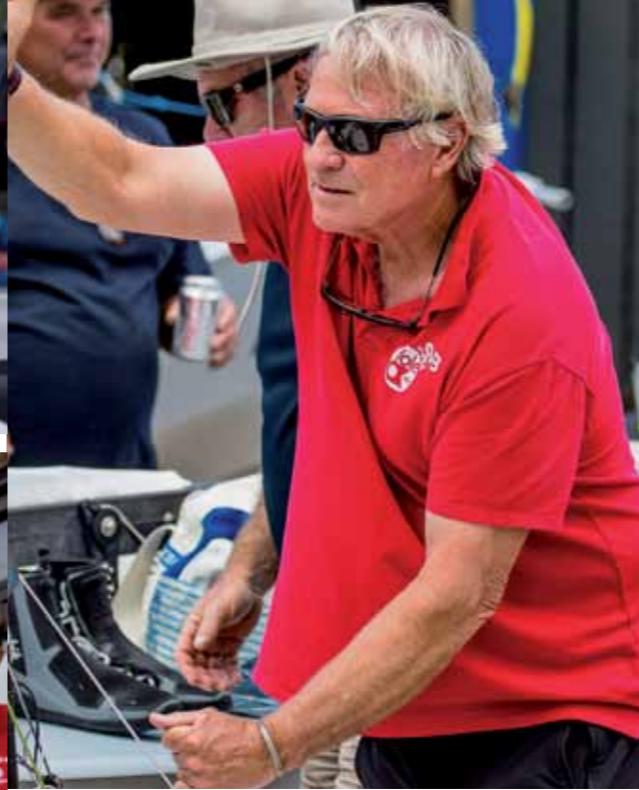
## **INTRODUCTION**

**The 2019 Symonite OK Dinghy World Championship held at Wakatere Boating Club, in Auckland, New Zealand, was the largest ever OK Dinghy event to be held outside Europe.**

Held from 7-15 February it attracted 111 entries from eight countries. The fleet was about as diverse and deep as any OK Dinghy fleet in recent years with former world champions, Olympic champions and America's Cup stars all mixing it up in the huge fleet. Some were sailing their first world championship, some were well past 20 editions. The age range of competitors was representative of the lifetime sport that is sailing, with sailors from 17 to 72 years old.

Dan Slater, from the home club, set a pace that few could match. He almost had the title sewn up with a race to spare but the fickleness of the breeze on the final day left everyone guessing as he fought against Fredrik Lööf right to the finish line in the final race. They crossed neck and neck, but the Wakatere sailor had done enough to take New Zealand's 13th OK Dinghy world title. Third place went to young Josh Armit, another three points back, also at his first OK Dinghy world championship.

Slater was attracted to the class because of the large numbers sailing each weekend at the club and took the traditional approach to begin his OK Dinghy career by building his own boat. In contrast, Lööf used a modern production boat, while Armit used a 35-year-old New Zealand built hull.









# DAY TWO

Monday 11 February







## TEAMS





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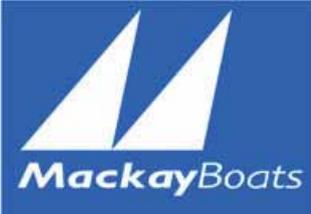
  
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