

# A pretty OK season 2018 comes to end

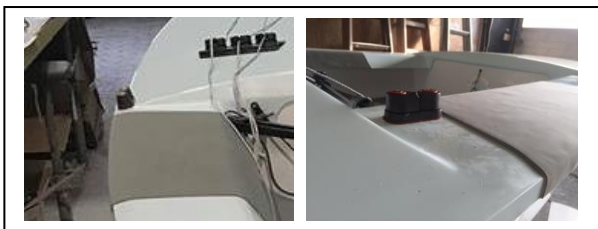
This year has been a very special year in many ways. How you can almost win nothing at all and still come out feeling as a winner?! How that is possible I like to share with you in this seasons summary.

Well, this year started out as good as last year when Vejle Yacht Service offered me to test the new updated OK-Dinghy the coming season. So I went to pick it up and it looked really fresh. Some of the details they had upgraded was a move of the traveller position a bit forward. Reason; the further forward you can hike the better pointing and better balanced boat you get. Also makes you hike better since less pain by not hitting the often very hard traveller and that saves energy and thereby sail better.



Another thing they changed was the clamcleat for the mainsheet.

In order to be able to sit further forward we changed the position from at the hikingdeck to a place just in front of it. It's important to make sure you don't angle it in a way that the mainsheet can



get caught on the opposite cleat going on the downwind which is somewhat very bad and can lead to unwanted swimsessions 😊 This was a very good change and now you don't have to sit on the clamcleat in order to come forward in the boat. Very good and much more comfortable.

Some of you also know that I seldom cleat the mainsheet and instead always hold it with the result that my tennis elbows got so many syndromes nowadays that not only tennis as a sport will cover it anymore 😊 I drive instead with a four to one mainsheet system which makes me stronger and allows me to continue sail with the mainsheet unlocked with the benefit of being much more in sync with the conditions and the drive of the boat. Especially on the reach and downwind in heavy winds I feel that I can work in harmony with the waves. The only time it's a bit harder is rounding up or easing in light winds. But I can live with that when the upsides are so many more.

## Preseason

This year's winter was pretty cold with the season starting a bit later than normal. First event was the OneDesignCenterCup in early April and I tested there not only the new boat but also a new sail with more luffround and less broadseaming in order to find some extra groove in the chop when needed. I won that regatta with series 1,1,2,7,1. Everything felt really good and since the Swedish fleet is constantly improving and the competition gets stronger it felt nice to get an early good start.

After a week or two training it was time to head back to Denmark for the second time this year but this time to enter the Lundeborg OK dinghy regatta with 50 boats on the line and a great bunch of good sailors. The winds were ultralight and first day we only managed one race so ended up 2:nd using the new designed sail. Went for the right side as less current and some more pressure. Second day didn't look any better with very little winds and almost unsailable conditions. The raceofficers managed to squeeze in two races and me finishing 9th in the first of the day and in the second I was lying 4th when I decided to call it for the day and start to head back to Sweden after a weekend that basically gave nothing more than some sun. Love sailing in Denmark and love the friendly Lundeborg having won there multiple times but with this conditions giving the right side so much favour with the current and barely sailable winds I thought I had it for the day.



### J70 in Spain

Next regatta was pretty special as a friend of mine living in Switzerland, Fredrik Hedlund, invited me to his J70 in Vigo, Spain for a weekend regatta. Fantastic days with fantastic company. I must say that I am enjoying the contrast from sailing a one-person dinghy to the keeler and the dynamics of sailing with others. You can always pick up things from others and the day you say that you are fully learned you start to go backwards. The results could have been better but the improvements so much better and this time the limoncello stayed closed for most of the event 😊



### OK racing in Sweden

Back in Sweden and off to Nynäshamn and the second event of the One Design Center Cup. Jonas Börjesson wins the regatta in very difficult waters. Warm springlike weather with light winds where the wind came in fluky parts where Jonas really showed good speed and sailed focused. Me ending 2:nd overall after having trouble finding the right speed in those conditions. Tested around with different setups, rigs and sails. Although the downwind pace was very good and happy with that. Could tell that there are a lot more Swedish sailors who are up to speed and you can't take anything for granted.



*Enjoying good sailing and friends!*

This year the Nordic Championships were held in my homeclub, SS Kaparen, Gottskär. I also ran that event as projectleader and even if some of you manage to deal with many things at the same time I can highly recommend you not to do that, at least if you like to perform as well. Finishing 5th at the Nordics and the whole OK-fleet also learned the hard way that there was a new guy in town....Fredrik Lööf had rejoined the class from over 30 years away from the class. You might think he was a bit rusty having not sailed the OK for so many years but for some reason the time off had he filled with 6 full professional olympic campaigns in the Finn and Star resulting with two bronze and one gold medal plus numerous of other worlds and european titles. For some reason that might have helped keeping him up to date 😊 Do I have to mention that he won the Nordics as well.

## Kieler Woche

Next big regatta was the Kieler Woche. The classic international event where I managed to sync some quality time with my daughter who sails the 29:er at the Swedish National Sailing Gymnasium. The



*29:er sailing Maja having breakfast at Kiel in the H-boat of Peit.*

whole school of 29:er- and Lasersailors where there for a trainingcamp some days before the regatta. This was good excersize with lots of boathandling drills. Living in the H-boat of Norbert "Peit" Petraush is always a nice tradition, thanks Peit for lending it to Maja this time, the young coming generation 😊 Sailingwise it was a testregatta in mind and that is important to remember when summarising. Day one was a special race with the wind swinging 180 degrees but lying 2:nd when they cancelled and couldnt get any races in at all. Day two, had a new rig/sailconcept up that just had arrived to Kiel. Plan was to manage to test it during the training week with the kids but it didnt show up until second day of Kiel. It was the dutch Ceilidith mast and a new sail called the KAP2 wich is

a Kiwidesigned North. 3,2,15, DNF. Day three same rig/sail combo and a good day with 1, 1, 3 giving me a fourth place overall going in for the last day. Day 4 tested to switch back to the old mast and the custom sail that I used earlier this season. Had a blackflag in the first race and together with the DNF from earlier, me felt for packing after a long week of both training and racing so headed back home. All worked well and it gave me some good really wibes for the coming championships ahead!

## OK Worlds

The worlds in Warnemunde was one of this years to major championships together with the Europeans later in sept. A fleet of 120 boats had come to the beatiful sea resort in northern Germany. This venue always provides you with nice weather, lots of wind and big waves. Perfectly made up for a great regatta with lots of big names, both pros and semipros making it a hard regatta. I had the new material and felt that the sail/rig/boat combination was really good setup. The Delfs hullshape is loving the conditions here and I had good speed throughout the championships never finishing outside top 8 and with many podium finishes. My series was 3,2,8,4,2,4,3,3 wich was good enough to claim 5th at this years worlds wich I was pretty happy with given the competition. Winner was Andre Budzien in front of Lööf and Jan Kurfelt in third. Charlie Cumbley fourth.



*Worlds finishing 5th of 120 boats. Just behind the pros 😊 Living in my tent, with my kids and wife and just having a great time 😊*

## Back on Swedish waters

Home again for some training and managed a small regatta at local waters, a good tune up for the coming Swedish nationals. In terms of actual results, the nationals can only go either according to



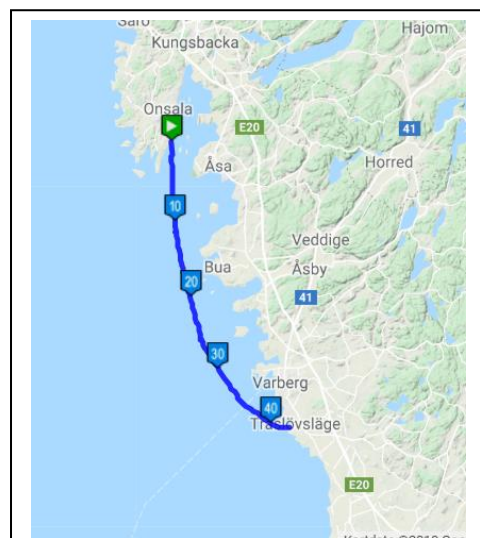
*Boy I am short when I stand next to these guys!*

plan or worse. Having won it 13 times the only possible outcome when referring to going as plan equals to win and all other places is worse gives you have kind of narrowed it down to a very small space for error. Given the fact that the 30 year fulltime pro of Fredrik Lööf enters, former olympian Mats Caap, the double european champion Bo Petersen together with world champion and long time class sailor and friend Greg Wilcox enters together with a constantly growing fleet of swedes we all know that this will be a tough championship to win this time. Having said that I found that noone of these is in any means are impossible to beat just saying its gonna be tough and if you're about to win, you might aswell win it when it's as tough as it can be!

The windprognosis promised heavy winds and so it was. Friday was cancelled due to the high winds and on Saturday the prognosis had also lots of wind in sight together with thunder and lightning. I choose to use my old soft rig from 2009 with a Quantumsail in order to stur things up a bit. That mast performs quite different from other rigs and could very much be a

weapon in heavy conditions. Unfortunately the wind dropped when we got out to the racearea and together with thunders we only managed to get three races in with me finishing 2,5,2 leaving me 2:nd overall after Lööf who once again won since Sundays racing was cancelled also due to high winds. Great camaradship among us sailors when the weather kept us ashore.

By the way, one thing that was pretty cool were that me and three other sailors from the homeclub sailed down to the regatta. It took 3hours of pure downwind in 15-20knots of wind. It was lots of fun and good prep for the rough seas outside Träslövsläge.



Assume 3hours of constant reach to the nationals!

## Keeler events

August and next big OK event is Europeans in Bandol in late september. That opens up for some big boat sailing with former round the world sailor Anders Dahlsjö on his Dominant 105 and the team of Lady Godiva. It's a great bunch of local sailors who really sails well and It's always a pleasure sailing with them. This time I was called in as tactician for the inland parts before heading out to sea and the race is called "Tjörn Runt". First time for me and the high winds of last weekends nationals seemed to have parked making the regatta a challenging one for even experienced sailors. We crushed the others and won by 6 minutes giving us the victory!

After some weeks of work and not so much actual sailing I did another event with the team of Lady Godiva sailing the regatta "Sista Chansen" wich we also managed to win! Great!!



*Great team onboard Lady Godiva!*

## Europeans in Bandol

Now we're getting closer to the last and for me main event for the season the Europeans i Bandol, France. Having won pretty much everything in the OK I still have the gold at a Europeans on the bucket list. Got a couple of silvers but not yet the golden shiny one 😊 So this was by all means the highpoint of this year being also sutiable in the end of the sesaon and far away down in the mediterrian wich whom I've never sailed in yet, all together making it of somewhat extra special.

Unfortunately I managed to catch a cold just before leaving for France. The acheivement that is required to win a championships is tremendous and adding a cold is not really helping and can affect the sailing, so this was a very irritating moment and took much bad energy from the effort ahead. So with fever and coughing I felt quite bad and not in the mood for sailing at all but thanks to a very understanding wife who had experience mancold before I managed to survive 😊



*Good start at the Euros in Bandol*

Sailing started and first day was really windy and we sailed inside the bay just outside the clubhouse. I started off the championship with 3,1 and found myself in the lead after day one. The 3rd in first race could have been better if I had'nt fail just before the bottommark when I dropped the mainsheet and had to do a granny and lost some grounds to end up third. Used the KAP1 North.

Going home after day one totally dead after the effort and the cold. This affected me directly the day after leaving me with a 7,16 at day two. The wind had dropped and we we sailed the races on the outer course. I could not keep up the

same concentration and with fever and the summer heat I sailed pretty bad and did some bad decissions in both races. At one stage I was lying third rounding for the last beat up and did not play the opposition behind and instead went left to try gain some more and lost down to 7th instead of covering a 3rd maybe ending up as 5th at worst. The second race the fever made me just tired and

felt never like I was in that race at all. Charlie won both races in style, especially as the conditions were much flukier than earlier and you really had to be on your toes to perform. Used the KAP2 North.

Third day and hungry again for a revenge I managed to pull out some really good races and swept clean scores by winning both races 1,1!! Same course, same winddirection but higher winds and more stabile conditions. Winning receipe was good starts and good pace upwind as downwind. Pretty basic sailing but just being fast. The Delfs in these conditions is a wonderful boat and the planing comes early on the downwind and upwind the big bow is not a hinder when the waves are big and separated. Went to bed with my ever so still blooming cold lying first overall going in for the last day of racing.



*Having good downwind speed is a keyfactor*

Fourth and last day and a big day! Me, Charlie and Lööf were all three a bit infront of the rest but anything could still happen. First racewin of the day to Charlie who made it interesting as me finishing 4th ahead of Lööf who finished 6th. Going in for the last race of the championships we all realised that it was going to be an exciting last race as I had a 16th to count if I were to fuck up something and Lööf had an 8th to count and Charlie a 10th, so none of us had no winning of starting a matchrace against any of us, so far racing. I was on equal points with Charlie and Lööf some 4 points behind. The course were on a new place again and this time we had some land on the left and quite shifty conditions on the course making the course a bit chancefull in the first race. My prep before the race and the previous experience of the race before made me wanna start towards the left side and I had Charlie sitting above me further to the boat and Lööf working towards the pin I felt




*Tight all into the last race at Bandol, France*

pretty ok with my position given the fact that I rather take an ok start in clear wind a bit further up the line with the possibility to tack early and be able to direct working the warm winds falling down who made it shifty with big pressuredifferences than starting further down risking the chance of being caught on someones starboard and not being able to tack and I didnt want to be over risking a bdf having my 16th in mind. With those calculations I started the race and could execute the plan and tacked directly over to port tack and so did Charlie and over my shoulder I could see

the fleet from the left side also tacking most of the bunch. That was basically the last time I tacked that race as a change in the wind blew through and gave us a new permanent winddirection leaving us without any options than to stick on port and just realise in that moment that the chances were lost. The rest of the race was a sit through hoping for something but as the fleets standard is to high there are not many passinglines to come back to ecspecially if the course had become somewhat sqeewed. Hats off for Lööf claiming his third title this season that could have very easily been his fourth if he had knowned that Kurfeldt was BFD in the last race of the worlds earlier this year.

So finished third overall and took the bronze as I finished 11th in that race and had to count that. At first I was really disappointed but after a while you come to turns with things and realise that ending up at the podium is ok as there is only space enough for three and I'm being one of them.



<b>1</b>	SWE	69	LÖÖF Fredrik	<b>21.00</b>	29.00	<b>1</b>	8	4	5	2	2	6	<b>1</b>	CSSS
						<b>1.0</b>	<del>8.0</del>	4.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	6.0	<b>1.0</b>	
<b>2</b>	GBR	6	CUMBLEY Charlie	<b>27.00</b>	42.00	2	10	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	4	8	<b>1</b>	<del>15</del>	WARSASHSC
						2.0	10.0	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	4.0	8.0	<b>1.0</b>	<del>15.0</del>	
<b>3</b>	SWE	100	HANSSON-MILD Thomas	<b>28.00</b>	44.00	3	<b>1</b>	7	<del>16</del>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	4	11	UMSS
						3.0	<b>1.0</b>	7.0	<del>16.0</del>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	4.0	11.0	

Thanks!

This regatta was the last for this year and the rest of the season is pretty much training and some local regattas and lots of work to save for new trips and fun stuff!

Big thanks for you who managed to read all this nerdyniess! I have not have timed to spell all the grammar as I am too old to bother so I hope all the english guys and girls have had a good time laughing at all the grammarmistakes and spellar fuckups!

Huge thanks to Annelie, my wife and kids Maja and Carl who all keep up with me when I'm all OK.

Thanks to my work who let's me mix a good work, life balance and to all my clubmates and other OK friends who is excellent sparringpartners.

Thanks also to Vejle Yacht Service for making a great boat, North for making fast sails, KARUN glasses, my club and to OneDesignCenter and Kullaviks Båtvarv for helping me out when I need it.

Do you have questions about sailing the OK or need coaching or curious about more feel free to contact me at [thomas@ssf.se](mailto:thomas@ssf.se) or call me at +46 70 301 27 97

