

National Secretaries Meeting
August 6, 2011
Rungsted, Denmark

In Attendance: Luis Pessanha, Commodore; Don Bedford, Vice Commodore; Giorgio Brezich, Rules Committee Chairman; Zbignew Rakocy, European General Secretary; Gweneth Crook WH&O General Secretary; Birger Jansen, Norway; Dante Bianchi, Brazil; Harri Palm, Canada; Henning Sorensen, Denmark; Pancho Agusti, Argentina; Claus Carpelan, Finland; Cesar Travado & Pepe Pere, Spain.

The meeting was called to order by Commodore Luis Pessanha at 5:30pm.

A motion to accept the minutes from the 2009 National Secretaries meeting was made by Luis Pessanha, seconded by Harri Palm. Motion was passed unanimously.

A full report of all countries who submitted their reports ahead of time may be requested through the SCIRA office.

ARGENTINA:

- Slight increase in the number of boats
- Boats are now being built in the country for the first time in 20 years by RioTecna
- Proposed an Open World Championship
- Would like to see the Women's and the Worlds together
- Pancho and Vice Secretary Alex Juk are working hard to promote the class in South America
- Ecuador and Columbia are growing, next South American Championship is in Ecuador
- Proposed to increase the number of competitors for the World Juniors to 3 boats, also suggested having a mixed category
- Suggested a new category for the World Masters, Grand Grand Master

BRAZIL:

- The south and the north are struggling, Sao Paulo and Rio are doing well
- The south hosted a championship so the north east will host next year
- Worlds and Nationals in Rio in 2013
- Having trouble getting women involved they tend to go to the 420
- 4 days is too short for the World Championship, Brazil wants 6 days
- Thinking of the end of September for the Worlds, have the Juniors and the Seniors together and take 2 weeks
- 2013 National Championship will be in Rio the beginning of the year

Discussion ensued regarding the compressed schedule in Denmark for these Worlds. This is an exception for this year, so Denmark would be able to host the Championship. Sailors would prefer 2 races per day.

UNITED STATES:

- Some places doing well others not so well
- California has 2 fleets, Miami doing well, the med-west is growing
- They are spending time on promoting the Juniors and Women
- US could look more international

DENMARK:

- Numbers are very low in Denmark, cannot get youth to sail snipes
- National Federation supporting boats other than snipes
- Suggested that the SCIRA website be kept up to date

CANADA:

- Most of the sailing is in one fleet, do have some juniors, they have a junior program
- 17 boats and 36 members of SCIRA
- Attempting to start a fleet in Montreal
- Club has bought 3 snipes and any member can use them, this has worked well to get people into the class
- Working on a bid for the North Americans
- Canada asks the Central and South American Secretaries to lobby their Pan American Representatives to keep the Snipe in the Pan American Games

FINLAND:

- Stable in numbers
- Juniors are entering the class mainly from the Laser class
- Most of the boats are new #30,000 and higher
- Have a couple of Snipe sailors involved in the National Federation and hope to have some influence
- New fleet on the west coast

NORWAY:

- Europeans last year were successful
- Always have boats for loan and boats for sale
- Trouble with attracting juniors as it does not have trapeze etc.
- Asked that the class not change the weight of the boat
- Would like to have 6 races at the Masters not 5
- Expressed dissatisfaction with the new rules regarding the jib, asked that the class not change the rules so quickly

SPAIN:

- Spain is doing well 71 boats at the Nationals
- Most of the junior fleets are in the south
- Strong web communication and collaboration with youth clubs to host regattas, good communication with regional leaders

- Malaga working only with Opti, Laser and Snipe
- Spain putting together a bid for the 2015 Worlds to be held in Malaga

POLAND:

- Numbers are stable with a slight growth trend
- Polish Open sponsored every year by PrimaVera, 18 seniors and 16 juniors
- Hosted the Eastern Europeans
- Sailing in different regattas to boost interest in the class
- Starting to build boats in Poland, SCIRA happy and ready to help with any measurement questions

EUROPEAN SECRETARIES REPORT:

- See attached
- Russian boat builder had business burnt down
- Estonia close to Finland and the Finnish would love to sail regattas there

WH&O SECRETARIES REPORT:

- Vice Secretary Alex Juk is working hard on building the class in South America
- Secretary will be attending the North Americans and hopes to meet with the US National Secretary to discuss how SCIRA can assist the class there
- Canada is working on getting Canada to keep the Snipe in the Pan American Games

NEW BUSINESS:

- World Masters 2012 in Spain will be toward the end of September, the 20th in Malaga
- It is best to have the Women's and the Worlds at the same time due to a shortage of charter boats
- Idea suggested to get a sponsor for a container of Snipes for charter to go from big regatta to big regatta, this would be very beneficial for Europe
- 2016 Norway will bid for the World Masters
- Suggestion from the sailors to increase the jib cloth weight from 130 grams to 160/165 grams, this will be discussed at the Board meeting
- There have been problems with ISAF, Giorgio hopes they will be resolved, ISAF web site states that SCIRA has adopted an in house certification policy which SCIRA has not done
- ISAF does not want SCIRA to clarify our rules, says only ISAF can do this, ISAF told SCIRA to amend its web site
- Suggestion has been made to change some of the batten lengths
- Suggestion, idea only, to have a loose footed main, more modern and reduce cost of boom, discussion ensued
- Suggestion made to change measurement of boom and mast, get rid of stripes, only measure overall length of boom
- Suggestion to print sail number on the jib to identify who's boat it belongs to

- Request made to change number of boats allowed in the Juniors and the Senior World Championships, another proposed an open junior championship
- Seniors have a cut off date for entries, if all slots have not been filled then it could be opened to other interested
- Discussion regarding use of black flag
- Brazil, Norway and Finland asked that Board not decrease the weight of the boat
- National Secretaries requested that the Board not change the rules so quickly

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm