

SCIRA European National Secretaries Meeting

August 12, 2012

Club Nautico Cervia

Cervia, Italy

European National Secretary Zbigniew Rakocy called the meeting to order at 10:14am and welcomed everyone and explained a quorum was reached with 8 countries represented. The meeting was attended by European General Secretary Zbigniew Racoky (POL), SCIRA Secretary Pietro Fantoni (ITA), National Secretary Andrea Piazza (ITA), and representatives from NOR - Ulrik Sandvik; BEL - Bart Janssens; FIN- Jukka Kotisala; POR - Miguel Graca; ESP - Cesar Travado and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl.

Minutes from 2010 were discussed as distributed from the Oslo meeting. The minutes were approved with a minor change.

Country Reports

Norway: Snipe activity in Norway past two years

Unfortunately the activity in the Norwegian fleets has declined over the past two years. It's hard to say for sure what the reason is. It seems to be a similar situation for several other classes as well. The only class clearly increasing is the F18 catamaran class. It seems like people have less and less time to use on sailing, work and family consumes a lot of time. At the moment there are only 2-3 fleets in Norway with good activity: Snarøya (Oslo), Stavanger (west coast), and Bergen (west coast) is being rebuilt after several years with decreasing activity. In Bergen snipes have been spread out on two different locations, now they have agreed to gather in one place which will hopefully boost activity.

The number of boats in weekend regattas has been steadily decreasing, but regattas on workday evenings are still strong with good participation. In Oslo 20-25 snipes race every wednesday, and Stavanger are not far behind in number of boats with their tuesday races. In Norwegian Nationals we have been used to 50-60 boats, but this year and last year only 30-35 boats.

In all three fleets mentioned Snipe clinics for new sailors/snipes on sailors that are already racing sailors, and students/student sailing associations. Both this year and last year we had a snipe in the yearly (and only) in house boat show in Oslo.

In Norway we have a norwegian nationals in sailing for women. This championship can be held in different classes, but has for many years now been held in the snipe and 2012 is no different. For the championship to be a official norwegian nationals we need at least 15 boats attending.

Portugal: 30 decals were sold and 19 boats were at the Nationals and first qualifications. Only 9 boats showed up at the recent event and the economy is to blame. Portugal having difficulties over the past year with the Federation and the internal problems but SCIRA is working them out.

Italy: **2011**

4 national regattas (for the qualification and Ranking List), National championship (+ junior and ladies), master and south European championships + district championships and local regattas.

Above these events local regattas have registered a good participation, as well as the "classical" appointments such as Trofeo Tamburini, Trofeo Lisa Rochelli, Vacanze Romane, Piada trophy, Criterium di Primavera, German open and others, despite this regattas did no enter the RL qualifying system.

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2012

4 national regattas (for the qualification and Ranking List), National championship (+ junior and ladies), master, European + junior EU championships + “classical” regattas (see above), district championships and local regattas. In January 2012 a new national secretary has been appointed. Also some regional delegates and fleet captains have changed, bringing new enthusiasm (and sailors) in the class. The numbers are still wealthy, with **129** registered boats and **301** members. (up to August 1st).

As suggested by the Commodore, we are stressing the importance of the widest possible involvement of all sailors in the decisions of class with regular communications (on the website) about new ideas and proposals for the sailing activity and the organization of the association. Many sailors desire to reduce the number of qualifying regattas in order to save money and give the maximum possible weight to the local activity, so to keep the high numbers the Italian class has, despite the difficult economic period we are all passing through.

All the regions have maintained the average number of sailors with some new entries. The regional championships are registering a good nr. of boats (from 12-15 of the smallest fleet, up to an average nr of 20-22 boats in the areas of Rome, Caldonazzo and Romagna, where we have the biggest fleets), while the National regattas have registered an average 35-40 boats. In the past 3-4 years the boats participating to national regattas were more, about 50-60, but the general crisis has reduced the travelling of sailors and also for this reason the desire is that to stress local activity and reduce national regattas. The closed international events are not so well accepted by some sailors and the idea to have them open could be well accepted. This would bring to international events more boats, and bigger numbers are a vitally important element to find sponsors and give visibility to the snipe class.

The site of the class has been changed with a restyling and a new webmaster, registering important numbers with a total number of visits in the first 6 months of 2012 almost the same as that of the whole 2011. By August 1st the new site (active from February 2012) has registered more than 80,000 visits.

The team racing has been strongly promoted with the championship in Ledro sailed in mid July with 6 teams.

The Master championship (open also to non-masters) has been sailed amongst the Dolomites in the wonderful lake of Molveno, northern Italy with 34 teams from all over Italy.

The European Championship is scheduled at the beginning of August in Cervia (Adriatic sea) with the European Juniors 4 days before.

The National Championship is scheduled at the end of August in Arco di Trento, northern Garda, with the national junior and ladies championships 2 days before.

The junior activity is registering an increase, despite the numbers are not so big, with **12** teams in 2011 and one team ending 4th at the world championship. The EU junior championship in Italy is a good promotion for kids and we expect **10** teams from Italy. Since January 2012 Clubs are invited to set entry fee at 50% for junior teams.

In Italy we have many sailmakers involved in the snipe class, as well as the DB Marine. Their desire to renovate and introduce news in the marked has brought to the testing of the full batten main sail by Ullmann Sails and the new boat (will be presented at the EU championship in Cervia) by DB Marine.

We are trying to bring some sponsors in the class. By now we have the little support of a Bank and some technical sponsors helping the class with technical equipment, sails and other stuff.

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Spain:

Finland: International:

6 boats in nordics, Motala 2012, great event, and we will try to get even more boats next year there!

One boat in Croatian Masters 2012, Kai and Jussi won it!

1 boat in Midwinters USA/BAH 2012, and 2 boats 2011.

Masters Europeans 2011 2 boats

Worlds 2011 Rungsted 2 boats + one boat at Junior worlds (Riku ja Niko)

National:

6 regattas Ranking series, average 12 boats per event, except Finnish Nationals, 21 boats.

Fleet activity:

Helsinki about 15 boats having weekly tuesday practice race, average 6-7 boats every time.

Lappeenranta 2 boats

Pori 3-4 boats

Uusikaarlepyy 7 boats

Turku 1 active boat

Oulu / Haukipudas 4 boats but not very active

Tampere 2 boats not active

Junior teams are not easy to attract in Snipe family.

Finnish speciality: 3 active female skippers, with male crew! (Hannis, Anni, Mirris)

Also we have old farts sailing with old Snipes, they have invitation regatta every year in Hämeenlinna

36 paid members

21 paid boats

but as the nationals will be after 3 weeks, we will get few boats more in SCIRA register..

NEXT YEAR 2013 Finnish nationals will be held in Hämeenlinna, beginning of August

At that happening we will get several, maybe TEN Vintage Snipes, FIN 5625 is probably the oldest one!!

In this happening we invite ALL of you, even with more modern snipe.

Belgium: The Snipe is doing quite well compared to other classes in Belgium. Traveling less as the fleet has children now. All regattas are held on the lake. More sailors come out on the summer week nights but seldom see them on the weekends or for bigger regattas. Nationals are held in Holland typically with 25-30 boats.

Poland: Although Snipe in other countries is not developing rapidly, Poland is successful in this area.

In 2010 we had altogether 19 boats - old and new – which took part in regattas. In the year 2010 and 2011 3 new boats were purchased.

This represents an increase in the period between the European (2010-2012) by about 28%.

I consider it a big success and I hope that the snipe class will continue to grow in Poland as dynamically as it has so far or even better.

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Our representatives took part in many international events – they participated in the World Championships in Rungsted in 2011, European Championship 2010 in Norway, 2012 here in Cervia.

In addition, every year we take part in numerous regattas in Italy (Lake Calldonazo) Championships Germany (very well organized by Herbert Hearerich), Piada Trophy 2011, III Nationale Open de Snipe in Santiago De La Ribera - Spain.

Please note that Poland is located in Eastern Europe so to get anywhere the minimum distance is 1200 km which also involves high cost of transport.

In Poland, we annually organize the Polish Championships with Zywiec Zdroj Polish Cup regatta. A combination of both events can provide support from well-known beverage manufacturer Zywiec Zdroj. During the year we organize a series of regattas for the Cup Polish. This is usually 10 regattas at various open waters. Our best crew is two young guys - Piotr Mańczak and Tomek Waszak.

In 2011 we organized also European Cup 2011 sponsored by Zywiec Zdroj brand owned by Danone Group. That event was a success. 20 crews of 2 countries participated. This year we organized East European Cup in Gdansk (thanks to Rafał Zakrzewski East European Secretary). It was really windy and we had a great time. The marina also intends to organize European 2014.

I would like to bring up the issues of sponsorship in the public of Snipe class because my previous activities with sponsors led to development of the class in Poland and attracted a very broad interest in sailors from other classes.

Croatia:

The Class is progressing according to the expectations, and that means slow but continuous increase of the fleet.

Since 2005 we have continuous increase in boats, clubs and regattas. This year we will probably finish with eleven boats, and four clubs organizing the same number of regattas.

The interest for the Class is also increasing so I expect further increase in boats & members in the next two years when we hope to arrive to the number of about twenty boats as per our internal program.

Within this increase we hope to have a certain number of youth sailors, as we started to implement some programs to encourage clubs to offer Snipe to youth sailors.

The problem we have at the moment is the lack of interest to participate at the international level, but since two years ago we had only five boats and the real interest for the Class has practically just begun I hope that we will see many Croatian boats competing at international level very soon.

France:

East European Secretary: Polish SNIPE Class Association, as leading in this part of Europe, has organized a few international events in 2011/2012. In 2011 European Cup has taken place in Poznań, with the participation of 20 SNIPE boats and the winners were Jan Peeters and Nathalie Jenssen from Belgium. In 2011 International Polish SNIPE Masters and Juniors was also organized in Poznań.

Our activities to make SNIPE Class popular in this region was multi directional. We kept correspondence with our SNIPE friends from Russia and other East European countries like Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. We hope that this will lead to their participation in SNIPE regattas in coming years.

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However, the most important event in our SNIPE calendar in 2012 was SNIPE East European Cup organized in beautiful historical city of Gdańsk on a waters of Baltic Sea. The regatta was part of the huge sailing event – Baltic Sails with the participation of many big historical yachts, that was additional attraction for SNIPE sailors. This was exciting regattas that result was unknown till the end of the races. Once again the winners was the crew Piotr Mańczak and Przemysław Blaszk.

We also conduct activities to organized SNIPE regattas in Russia or other East European country.

We hope that our SNIPE friends from all over the world will visit us in this and next year as well.

South European Secretary

Discussion of current economic crisis and how to maintain the numbers to keep the Snipe Class strong during theses times. Especially the junior teams; trying to take advantage of the cheap airlines (Ryan Air, etc.) and fly into the venue and have a charter boat. Pietro Fantoni pointed out that the younger sailors sail other boats but as they age, they gravitate to the Snipe to sail with girlfriends and wives. Spain does an excellent job

Future Bids open for Europe

- a. 2013 Summer Circuit: Italy will schedule
- b. 2013 European Master Championship: Italy is interested in organizing possibly in Orta Lake.
- c. 2013 European Cup: Spain is hosting in Malaga
- d. 2013 South Europeans: Sergio Michel Trophy - Caldonazzo Lake, German Open
- e. 2013 Nordics: Possibly in Sweden again
- f. 2013 Ladies European Championship: open
- g. 2013 East European Championship: possibly Russia
- h. 2014 European Championship (North Europe); Poland is interested; 2016 would like to host in France.
- i. 2015 World and Junior Championship (South Europe): Italy & Malaga, Spain interested
- j. Long Range: 2016: Women's Worlds (S Europe), World Masters (N. Europe): Norway interested

Elections

Zbi is looking for proposals by the end of October. Zbi and Rafael would like to continue as East European.

Proposals

Change to European Championship Deed of Gift: Proposal to be submitted by Italy and voted by Europeans and submitted to Board for consideration. Discussion to open the European Championship to all sailors.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51pm