



## National Secretaries Meeting September 19, 2015 Talamone, Italy

The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm at the Circolo della Vela Talamone. Italian National Secretary Francesco Fontana welcomed everyone to Italy and wished everyone a good regatta.

In attendance: Commodore Ricardo Lobato, Vice Commodore Gweneth Crook, Secretary Pietro Fantoni, WH&O General Sec Luis Soubie (ARG), European GS Zbigniew Rakocy (POL), European Vice Secretary Kai Saarhelo (FIN) Representatives from: ARG Luis Soubie, BEL - Andre Callot; CAN- Gweneth Crook; COL - Nicolas Hernandez; CRO - Milko Volaric; ECU - Edgar Diminich; ESP - Pepe Perez; FIN- Kai Saarhelo; FRA - Rene LeBour; ITA - Francesco Fontana; JPN - Masakazu Sasai; NOR - Jorn Haga; POL - Jakub Kulesza; SWE - Mats Gothlin; guests: Piotr Manczak POL, Dean Paulau CRO and Executive Director Jerelyn Biehl.

**Commodore Ricardo Lobato** thanked the Italians for hosting both big events. He commented that in the past, as a Snipe sailor he had been critical of the Class because change happened too slowly. He then got involved. Some feel change is too fast. Ricardo established a process to make proposals & discuss. Unfortunately there was not much input or participation from the World and he hopes people will give input in the coming years. Ricardo commented that we need to address how we see women sailing in international events; women and/or mixed events. Regional Games participation is very important to the Snipe. Brazil has now become involved in PASAF. S. America as the SA Games, SA Beach Games, ODESUR and Pan Am Games in which the Snipe is in all. Japan has the University Games. His final comment was that SCIRA is here to listen to issues and concerns and to exchange ideas.

**Vice Commodore Gweneth Crook:** please feel free to contact the Board to exchange ideas. The Board needs to pay more attention to the timing of the Junior Worlds. Sailors Forums should be held at all major regattas for sailor feedback. Fleet building: the strength of the fleet is at the fleet level.

Commodore Lobato asked for approval of the 2013 minutes, which were approved unanimously.

### **National Secretary Reports:**

**Argentina:** Luis Soubie was disappointed in the lack of participation & comments from the countries toward the proposals listed in the Bulletin and on the website. Sailors need to get involved and he encouraged NS to be involved and to encourage their members to participate and spread information. The Board needs to know what you want. In Argentina, there are 1-2 women crews and a few junior teams. The class is

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increasing in age; seemingly 6 months older every year. ARG's goals are to increase numbers for 50-55 boats.

**Colombia:** Currently there are 20 crews; 15 senior and 5 junior. In the past there has only been 1 fleet, but 2 more fleets have been established- Cartagena & Medellin. Bogota is the first. We have 3 ranking championships and increasing fleets. We are working with schools to attract juniors.

**Belgium:** Belgium is in good shape. 2015 we had 53 paying skippers which is our highest score increasing the last 30 years. The Belgian championship was attended by 22 boats. Our sailors travel a lot. We now have the possibility to trail 3 boat on our triple trailer. Getting everybody racing is difficult.

**Finland:** a new history book was presented. Over 100 people attended the book unveiling and a Snipe clinic followed covering the basics. 21 participated in the Helsinki clinic. The nationals has the most participants since 2000. Women's teams: 5-6 lady skipper and more crews. Junior: 9 at Nationals, but all are crews.

**Sweden:** We are struggling. Only 10 at the Nationals and we depend on our neighbors to keep our status. We are close to losing our status.

**Belgium:** We are at our highest with 53 skippers and 22 at the Nationals. Our sailors travel and we had 2 junior teams at the Junior worlds.

**Norway:** Oslo is very strong with strong weekly sailing, but difficult to get people out on the weekends. The quality of our Snipes is great. Recruiting: we provide boats for 30ish sailors with the Club paying the insurance to keep boats going. We use Opti sailors as helm to introduce them to the Snipe. We continue to have a National Women's championship which the women organize.

**Spain:** 160-170 boats; possibly more but the fleets are decreasing. Travel is not as much as before. Our solution is to create a raking to keep the travel to a minimum. We have active sailors with many regattas. We hope the new ranking will solve problems. Report: Juniors: 15 boats, 54 members; Senior: 77 boats, 143 members; Master: 51 boats, 67 members; Women: 9 boats, 25 members. 17 boats registered by entities. We have approximately 300 boats with 500 members, but not all join or fleets don't require payment to race in regattas. We will start a national circuit next year with 9 events across Spain and we hope to use this to encourage participation and to join SCIRA. We have countless regattas with more than 10 boats and 4-5 with participation between 40-80 boats. The Balearic Islands are active and will host our 2016 nationals while Ciudadela and the Canaries have been dormant and seem to be active again. Spanish fleet #2 (Int. 151) which produced the first Spanish World Champion, is once again active with great satisfaction.

**Ecuador:** The Snipe clinic was a huge success. We have only 2 clubs in the entire nation. 16 boats and 10 sailors. The club is private; only members can sail. The federation is now supporting non-members to sail. Juniors: we struggle with the Olympic feeders and the Federation. But the Snipe is free to use and we're creating a ranking and inviting sailors to attend. We have travel support for youth sailors.

**France:** we have been stable for 10 years, but it's mostly the same people. Other classes are similar and most races have 10 boats. People are not traveling and the Snipe is one of the strongest classes in France.

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**Japan:** The Snipe continues to increase and we had 420 sailors registered. We have 270 junior sailors – mostly University sailors. Okamura and Tsujido provide good boats for juniors. Women: we have 45 active teams, almost all juniors

**Italy:** our situation is strong with 130 boats active at least twice a month. We had 35-40 at the Nationals. Juniors: we assist junior to purchase a Snipe. The Federation pushes youth to Olympic and feeder classes. We had 14 juniors at the Nationals and 10 teams at the Junior Worlds.

**Croatia:** We just had a Snipe clinic after a 30 year hiatus and the class begins again. We began with 7 boats and are now at 11. No juniors, but possibly 1 woman. We hope to host a Europeans in the future.

**Poland:** We are stable with our members. 23 boats and 16 paid. Most are Senior or Master members with 1 junior team. We held a Snipe clinic this year. Sailors travel to represent Poland throughout the year. We have 16 or 17 regattas through the season. Open Europeans in 2014 was very successful. We have a new website and Facebook page.

**Brazil:** New fleets are being formed and our focus is on the 30 year old sailors. We invite people to sail and try the Snipe. We have a strong local builder who helps create & build fleets. We also donate used sails to junior sailors

**Canada:** 1 fleet exists and we are slowly increasing. The Club offers boats for use and we get 15-16 on a Wednesday night. Our sailors typically don't travel. We hosted the NAs with a successful event with many of the Pan Am sailors. A forum with the junior sailors was held – timing of regattas is the biggest issue.

**Denmark:** activity in Denmark is in steady state. 12 members and 7 boats. We have one bigger regatta, *Harboe Snipe Cup*, this year with 30 participants from five countries. One center in the western part of Denmark have acquired four snipes for leisure sailing, and we hope to see them become part of the SCIRA family in the coming year. We hope to maintain steady state and maybe slight growth in 2016.

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**Junior Summary:** Ricardo Lobato asked who at the table was involved with their National Federation as youth programs and explained why the Snipe is important for the youth path, other than ISAF Youth World classes. Most explained that there is lack of funding available for youth sailors, the timing of championships (conflict with school). Discussion of a smaller sail area (BAH had tried in previous years). Ricardo offered to speak with any NS or their Federations on the placement of the Snipe for the Olympic path. Many of the junior sailors lack funds to travel.

**Women's sailing:** Discussion of the Women's Worlds not able to meet ISAF minimum requirements (for an International Class) for the past 5 events. Discussion of conflicts of families, school, children – the timing of events is difficult. Many women sail in mixed teams and then team up to sail the Women's Worlds.

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**Mixed sailing:** This would be where there must be one of each gender in the boat. Many countries have found it to be very fun. Most of the countries attending, through a quick poll, were in favor of mixed events with 2 voting against.

**Smaller rigs/sails:** Discussion of providing smaller rigs & sail for junior, women and possibly Master sailors. It was pointed out that the Bahamas had experimented with a smaller sail several years back.

Noted:

- Countries with an active builder had more activity
- Discussion of lowering wind limits for juniors
- Charter fee must be respected, but it was pointed out with more wind, there tends to be more breakage on the boats.
- Discussion of a youth circuit: boats would be provided; sailors just need to show up to sail. Housing & boats would be provided.

## **European Report** – Zbigniew Rakocy

- The 2014 Open Europeans was a huge success, attracting sponsors, media & local authorities
- Zbigniew asked for mandatory tracking for events. There were over 20k views from the Europeans. Pedro Pires de Lima has offered a 2 year contract.
- The Facebook page for the Europeans had 1k likes and 80k views. They hired a professional press officer to post to SnipeToday
- Zbigniew recommended hiring a professional sports manager for big regattas. He would earn 20% of the sponsorship for his services
- The European Masters in Sweden had to be cancelled for lack of entries in 2015. Luckily Spain picked it up and a successful event just finished.
- Many Snipe clinics were held in European countries
- Jib: the jib cloth weight continues to be a discussion point. Many would like the Rules Committee to allow the existing light jibs to be used at National events.

## **N. European Secretary** – Svend Andersen

My duties as N. European Secretary have not resulted in a large assignment. I have only contributed a bit to the event with the European Masters and little coordination of the calendar. It is my opinion that the class success depends on that we are able to make good races with a maximum number of participants. Especially in Scandinavia where we have declining number of participants at almost all events and this is why it is important that SCIRA somehow control the position of the most important races. It is also extremely important that the calendar is ready very early and not later than December 1 of the year preceding. It is my understanding that this task is to be undertaken by the European Secretary with coordination of the secretaries of the North and South. This year I have noted that bids and arrangement of S. European Championship came into the calendar shortly before the date of the event. This is obviously not satisfactory and does not benefit the Class. It was in my opinion very unfortunate that the European Masters in Sweden was canceled and it was a bad signal

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to the Class. My analysis of the situation: 1) there was a part of the Nordic crew who had forgotten or postponed their registration. 2) that no or only a few S & E European crews wanted to take the long trip to Sweden. 3) the organizer in Motala were too quick to cancel the event. 4) the SCIRA was not close enough to the organizers and could have exposed the cancellation. 5) that the statutes in the Bid form should include a provision on the cancellation that should be made in consultation with SCIRA.

## **E. European Secretary** – Rafal Zakrzewski

East European Championship 2015 turned out to be a great success both for the sailors and organizers. This year AZS Poznan Club was the organizing club. The weather was favorable and we sailed 8 races. During 3 days of hard competition the classification changed many times. Finally, the East European Championship was won by the best Polish team of Piotr Manczak and Przemyslaw Blaszk. The next East European event will be held in 2017- probably outside Poland in another country from our region. This year we managed to establish contact with Snipe sailors in Belarus. We continue to have problems contacting our friends in Russia. The political situation in our part of Europe has also an impact on that. In relation to numerous questions and in order to popularize the Snipe class and wider possibility to buy cheap Snipes, I decided to establish an Internet forum with cheap, secondhand Snipes. As a consequence, I kindly ask you to send to my email, full offers of Snipe for sail with a maximum amount of 4,000€ and with photos. I also ask you to post this information on your national websites. I hope this will help develop the Snipe in such countries like Ukraine, Belarus or the Baltic countries.

## **Western Hemisphere & Orient** – Luis Soubie

- The WH&O is broken into 3 groups
  1. JPN, USA, BRA
  2. ARG
  3. Remainder of countries; under 20 members
- It is difficult to organize big regattas due to the large travel distance and lack of charter boats. We need to grow smaller countries.

**Regatta Rotation:** The NS agreed that if a bid deadline is missed by a region/continent, they forfeit the regatta. The rotation will remain.

**Communication:** Pietro Fantoni requested that all NS send results from their events to SnipeToday.

A request was made to put the video links on the website. Discussion was held on the budgets for the recent major events:

Rio Worlds: approx.. 70k

Italy Worlds: approx. 200k

Europeans: approx. 150k

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Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm