

WH&O
National Secretaries Meeting
Monday, November 19, 2012
Yacht Club Olivos, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Gweneth Crook, General Secretary of the WH&O opened the meeting at 2:10pm and welcomed all NS and representatives.

In attendance were General Secretary Gweneth Crook, CAN; Luis Soubie, ARG; Yoshinori Kurihara, JPN; Chris Hains represented, CAN; Kathleen Tocke representing USA; Roberto Malsch, CHI; Dante Bianchi, BRA; Mariana Foglia representing Uruguay; Alex Juk, Vice General Secretary and Jerelyn Biehl SCIRA Executive Director.

Minutes from the 2012 WH&O were approved as distributed by unanimous decision.

Gweneth Crook, General Secretary:

Membership and boat numbers were distributed to all. Overall the numbers look good but a few countries have lost memberships which can be expected in the current economic climate. Gweneth was able to visit the US Nationals which were open for the first time and the World Masters where she has been talking to the various sailors about Snipe sailors. Topics for the WH&O open forum may include communication and a possible Deed of Gift change.

Alex Juk, Vice General Secretary:

The South American Championship was held in Ecuador and there are more boats in South America with Peru, Ecuador and Brazil all getting more boats. Many countries have 100% tax on new boats imported.

A discussion of charter boats and difficulty of price was held. Kathleen Tocke suggested writing an article for the Snipe Bulletin to educate those who don't travel internationally to understand the complications. Dante Bianchi discussed the championship bid form that is accepted by SCIRA that includes charter fees. Luis Soubie discussed an international exchange program whereby sailors who own several boats would be part of the database to offer a boat & accommodation to entice people to travel. Insurance does not exist in many South American countries so it is also difficult to get people to charter their boats. Jerelyn will investigate with an insurance company.

Country Reports

Argentina

In the past 2 years we have tried to keep the junior program going with 8 jr. teams who are interested in going to the Rio Jr Worlds. Our biggest concern is there are too many classes in Argentina. We almost lost the Snipe in Argentina 10 years ago. We started the Grand Prix which has increased membership and we need to figure out how to get the juniors on the circuit. We had a 2 day event with 16 races; w-l courses only where premium was on start and first leg.

Canada

We held the North American's in September. It was a very successful event from the racing standpoint. The Pan Am Games in Toronto will be held in 2015 and they are

looking to make an annual event. The US traveling Snipe fleet was used at the NAs and now we have people looking to purchase Snipes.

Brazil

Brazil is building boats and parts in Brazil. Lemao will be a registered company and will give them the option to export. The NE of Brazil is growing. We had a slight decrease in the numbers but the junior numbers are increasing. We expect a large numbers of Brazilians at the Worlds. There is much interest from the juniors for the 2013 nationals. Dante presented a calendar of events leading up to the Rio Worlds.

United States

Fleets are becoming smaller but our numbers are growing in the number of people traveling to regattas. The junior members are growing. An invitational regatta has been started aimed at the junior, college & post college age sailor where a clinic was held first. The entry & charter were very low to entice the new sailors. Awards were given to the new teams. The South Florida Snipe sailors organize & run the event with Augie Diaz and Ernesto Rodriguez on the race committee. The women's teams are increasing as well. The biggest problem in the US is that we have many young sailors who want to join the class but cannot afford a boat. The older Persson's are not being sold, so the used boat market is not as strong. The US Nationals were open for the first time this year with many international sailors. Many of our members are becoming accustomed to chartering their boats. The US will provide free babysitting (sponsored) at this year's Nationals to competitors from 9-4 during racing.

Japan

East Japan had the large earthquake and tsunami and SCIRA and sailors around the world have assisted in rebuilding our fleets. The members are decreasing due to economic conditions and young people are not sailing. The Japanese Snipe builders (Tsujido and Okamura) are building new boats and some are here - please take a look. Japanese SCIRA would like to host the 2014 Master World Championship in west area of Japan. Masters age limitation was increased from 45 to 50. Many sailors are not happy with the age increase.

Chile

We only have 1 fleet in the country. The fleet was about 25-30 boats in the late 90's, early 00's then the earthquake in 2010 the pier was lost and we had to rearrange the South Americans and the pier was lost again after the Japanese Tsunami. Activity is increasing now with 15-20 boats regularly and our Nationals are in January (open). The key to increase the class is to keep the boats in the SA, Pan Am Championships. Regional games classes attract sailors.

Uruguay

We have 2 fleets, 1 in Montevideo and 1 in Punta del Este. We have a decreasing number in both fleets from 2008 with many sailors leaving the class. We did not leave a legacy of members, but we now see more activity in the junior fleets going to Snipes. A regatta was held with trophies for the newer Snipe sailors. Nationals always show more activity and we need to hold another large event to keep it going. Uruguay will host the 2013 South Americans to promote more sailors to attend.

Future Bids for WH&O

- 2013 North Americans - anticipate a bid from Houston, Texas in April 18-21.
- 2013 South Americans - Montevideo, Uruguay March 24-30
- 2014 WH&O: US - San Diego Yacht Club - approved
- 2014 World Masters - Japan interested in hosting
- 2014 Women's Worlds - open (Uruguay possibly interested)

Unfinished Business -none

New Business

a. Elections

General Secretary - Gweneth Crook

Vice Secretary - Alex Juk

- b. Pan Am and other Regional Games update: thanks to all NS for working with Federations. 2014 ODESUR Games in Algarobbo, Chile during easter week.
- c. WH&O Open Championship discussion: discussion of splitting of a large fleet. A draft of the DoG will be circulated for discussion.
- d. Mixed Championship: interest in having a mixed event to promote additional sailors.
- e. Schedule for regattas: suggestion to have racing at 40-55 minutes with only 2 races per day. Documentation of the fleet changes was presented showing that the change in leaders is negligent on the last leg. Suggestion that wind limit determine the number of races held (eg: over 15, 2 races; under 15, 3 races)
- f. Rule changes & communication: Gweneth showed the suggested flow chart from Ricardo Lobato on making decisions. Suggestion to have a top sailor on the Board or Technical Committee or create an Athlete's Advisory Board.
- g. Centerboard height; many sailors are not following the rules. Suggestion to insist on flap or ring. No shock cord allowed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm