

## 2014 European National Secretaries Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:40pm in Kamien Pomorski, Poland by Zbigniew Rakocy, European General Secretary.

Those in attendance Zbigniew Rakocy, General Secretary for Europe, Rafal Zakrzewski, East European Secretary, Jakub Kulesza – POL, Tobias Chroner- SWE, Christian S. Andersen-DEN, Andre Callot – BEL, Jerome Thomas- FRA, Juha Lehtinen- FIN, Jose Perez Morales-ESP, Birger Jansen-NOR, Antonio Bari – ITA, Pietro Fantoni –SCIRA Secretary, Observers: Natalie Zakrzewski-POL, Kai Saarhelo-FIN, Miguel Cid Montoya-ESP and Jerelyn Biehl SCIRA Executive Director

The minutes of the 2012 European National Secretaries meeting were approved as previously distributed.

### **Country Reports:**

**Poland:** In 2013 Polish fleet gained another yacht club - Yacht Club Kamień Pomorski, in which a new Snipe appeared – and that's the club where this European Championship is taking place. In 2014 Academic Yacht Club of Poznań also joined the fleet -. So at the moment there are 6 yacht clubs with active sailors in Poland. In 2012 there were altogether 16 regattas organized, in 2013 – 17 events, including Nord Cup in Gdańsk. In 2014 we had to date 8 regattas, but when compared to previous years, the average of events with more than 10 yachts on the starting line was higher. In 2014 our fleet increased with 3 second-hand boats purchased from Italy. In July 2014 we hosted Alexandre Tinoco at our Nationals and his visit was combined with a kind of training with the master, in form of a 3-days "Snipe Clinic". This was a great experience for all of us and I'm sure it helped us to improve our sailing skills. The next clinic which we would like to do is one on a sea. To sum up, as we reported in the questionnaire, the activity of the Polish Snipe sailors is stable. What shall arouse our concern is the growing number of non-active members, both seniors and juniors, so we have to find a method to mobilize and motivate them. So far there was a new web page build which is more attractive now and allows the visitors to exchange their ideas using Facebook or Twitter.

**Sweden:** the non-active sailors are not renewing, but we hope to increase after the Swedish Championship to be held in another few weeks. People seem to be sailing other classes. The Nordic Snipe may attract more sailors after this regatta next July.

**Denmark:** 7 boats at the Nationals with more boats sailing, but not coming to regattas. Espergaerde is the main center of Snipe sailing.

**Belgium:** Members are increasing but a challenge to get them more than just all to the Nationals. The Snipe is the only doublehanded boat to sail.

**France:** A strong fleet in Paris with smaller fleets spread across the country.

**Finland:** The Finn is our main competition. We have a strong fleet of restored boats. We may get new sailors with old boats for a mixed fleet of older & newer boats. The fleet annually attends the Helsinki boat show and usually we attract a few new members each year. We also have many female skippers and mixed teams.

**Spain:** We had 70 boats at the Nationals in 2013. The Europeans must be closed and open at the same time based upon the number of members for each country.

*Question from P. Fantoni* & other National Secretaires- Spain has chosen not to pay fees to SCIRA Int. as all countries must abide by the SCIRA constitution. Discussion to strike those sailors who have not paid their SCIRA dues at the Spanish Nationals from the results. A comment was made that foreign sailors had to have a SCIRA decal at the Spanish nationals. Suggestion to follow the proposal process for submission to change the SCIRA Constitution. The refusal to pay is a lack of respect to the other European countries. Birger Jansen asked what the reasons were Spain decided to withhold dues so the European countries can understand.

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*Answer:* In Spain we are run by our assembly. The last assembly decided not to pay SCIRA until the end of the year and depending on the meeting with the Commodore, we will decide if we will pay. All the boats who sailed nationals paid their fees, but have not paid to SCIRA depending upon the meeting with the Commodore in September. We wanted to force a meeting with the Commodore through with holding dues.

1 fundamental point that we would like to see: proportional representation by countries for voting. Pepe Perez declined to comment on other issues.

**Norway:** Membership is stable with more members to be expected. Norway exhibits at the Boat show. We have a new fleet on the west coast. We try to keep members in Oslo active.

**Italy:** The membership is quite good with over 125 boats paying the dues, although there has been a slight decrease in membership. Those not paying for those who sail few times a year. There is a difficulty of people to travel with a long distance in our country. 47 boats at the Nationals with 3 national regattas for the ranking list. The 3 big fleets each have more than 15 boats (55 total) with the remaining boats spread among the 16 remaining smaller fleets spread across the country. We are able to sail year round. Jr activity being promoted. There are 2-3 regattas per year with older boats, which is a big success.

**East European Secretary:** several international events have been organized in 2012-13 throughout Poland. We hope to attract Russian sailors back.

**South European Secretary:** Damir Vranic - no report

**North Europeans Secretary:** Jorn Haga - no report

### Future Bids:

**2015 Summer Circuit:** ESP, CRO or FRA can submit a bid for hosting 1 regatta of the S. European Summer Circuit (2 regattas) Possibly add an event in Slovenia to attract the Snipe.

**2015 European Masters Championship:** no bids have been received

**2015 S. Europeans:** no bids have been received

**2015 Nordics:** Motala, SWE, 2nd week of July (Piada/ITA Nationals July 6-13)

**2015 Ladies European Championship:** no bids have been received but discussion to possibly combine within the Europeans or with Norwegian Ladies Nationals

**2015 East European Championship:** Gdansk, POL; June or July during the North Cup.

**2016 Europeans:** Spain was selected for 2016

**2016:** Women's Worlds & World Masters: NOR to submit by Oct 1.

Spain asked to make a motion to present a mixed championship with the womens to the Board for consideration

**2019:** World & Jr World Championship: N. Europe rotation

### Granted bids:

**2015 European Cup:** GER - Lake Caldonazzo, ITA May 29-31

**2015 Jr & Sr Worlds:** Talamone, ITA, Sept 12-26

### Elections:

**General Secretary:** Zbigniew Rakocy, POL

**Vice Secretary:** Kai Saarhelo, FIN

Secretaries for:

**North:** Svend Andersen, DEN

**South:** Jerome Thomas, FRA

**East:** Rafal Zachowski POL

### Proposals:

## **2014 European National Secretaries Meeting**

Suggestion to have one person collect calendar and distribute for SCIRA Int. worldwide.  
March 31 deadline for 2 years prior (March 31, 2014 for 2016)

Discussion of wind limits was held.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56pm

DRAFT